



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



OUR MISSION

Vijana Heavens Foundation's mission is to empower underprivileged children and orphans to reach their full potential, improve their living and take advantage of economic opportunity through education.



LETTER FROM THE TEAM LEADER



It's hard to believe it has been 5 years since we started Vijana Heavens Foundation in 2018. At the time, we really only wanted to feed children in our neighborhood who went to bed daily without any food in their stomach. We had no idea then how God would expand our work from providing only food to hungry children in our neighborhood to providing education support, holistic care and protection last year to more than 2,531 underprivileged children and youth in the slum communities of Kampala, Uganda.

I cannot thank enough our team with lived experience in Uganda. They have worked tirelessly to discover innovative ways to ensure every child in the slum communities where we work, have countless opportunities to escape generational poverty and a chance to reach their full potential.

We are so grateful to complete year 2023 with 14 projects running and this progress wouldn't be possible without the financial support of kindhearted and generous friends like you. Please know we

are grateful for your continued commitment to bring hope to countless children and young people in Uganda, the pearl of Africa. THANK YOU!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nabatte". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N".

Sarah Nabatte
TEAM LEADER

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR OF INDIVIDUAL GIVING.



As I reflect on all that you and I have accomplished together in the past year, I am incredibly thankful for your partnership with us and reminded that when we do things in the present that we can see, we are shaping the future which we are yet to see.

In this report, we are celebrating real supporters, real donations, and real impact – but under the cloak of anonymity. Because no matter who you are, how much you give, or how you give, your selfless

matters to us and to the children and young people in the slum communities we serve. Your continued commitment to generosity and compassion pushes us to uphold our core values every single day. With every action, every campaign, we strive to be deserving of the faith you have in us.

With your continuous contributions in 2023, we witnessed children like Kenneth who lost his mother at a young age complete his primary level, Jonan, a special need kid receiving physical therapy treatments

and many more lives transformed.

On behalf of all those we have had the privilege to serve, and all those who will be served in the coming year – thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ibrah Ssekandi'. The signature is stylized and written over a faint circular watermark or logo.

Ibrah Ssekandi
INDIVIDUAL GIVING DIRECTOR



WHY UGANDA?

Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world. With 70% of the population plunged into poverty and 14% of children of official primary school ages are out of school (fhi360).

The increase in fuel prices and the outbreak of Ebola in Uganda brought a raise in consumer goods in the last months of 2022, this was a significant challenge for us and many families who participate in our programs. This economic context continued to affect the food security even more in 2023.

30.1%

of the population lives on less than \$1.77 a day¹.

44%

of the citizens are under 14 years of age².

89%

of slum children aged 10 years cannot read and understand a sentence³.



WHERE WE WORK

Nansana is one of Uganda's largest slums. This area is a home to more than 500,000 children. With many families unemployed, thousands of children are growing up in extreme poverty with no funds to go to school.

With our education, holistic care and child protection programs, we are bringing hope to children and young people in this underserved community to help them escape generational poverty.



OUR PROGRAMS



EDUCATION

At Vijana Heavens Foundation, we believe in the power of education to enable children and young people to break the cycle of poverty. In all that we do, we strive to create meaningful opportunities for every child born in poverty to have access to quality education right from the early years of development.



HOLISTIC CARE

At Vijana Heavens Foundation, we firmly believe that every child needs someone who is on their side – someone who cares deeply about their well-being and works tirelessly to ensure they achieve their highest good, and that's why we exist. Through our holistic approaches, we aim at nurturing the whole child by addressing his or her physical, mental, spiritual, and social needs.



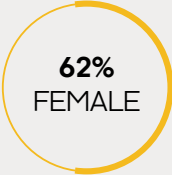
CHILD PROTECTION

Our goal as Vijana Heavens Foundation is to ensure every child in slum communities experience a happy childhood that sets them up for a positive future. We partner with teachers, parents and local leaders to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children.

OUR REACH

BENEFICIARIES

2,531



VIJANA HEAVENS FOUNDATION CORE PROGRAMS



50%

Education



35%

Holistic
Care



15%

Child
Protection

“Thank for investing in the children of Uganda.”

EDUCATION

When we open the door to an education, we unlock the future for children. With your support, we broke educational barriers and boosted academic outcomes in 2023 through children sponsorship where we built relationships between a child in need and an adult willing to support their well-being, we organized back to school drives to provide school resources to children living in

extreme poverty, we provided tuition to unsponsored vulnerable children to help them stay longer in school. We also worked with professional teachers to provide early literacy development to children aged 3-10 years of age who haven't got a chance to go to school before it's too late for them.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

With over 70% of children where we work living in extreme poverty. Our child sponsorship program serves as a beacon of hope to children and families in need. In 2023, our sponsored children had access to education, healthcare, medical care as well as protection from abuse and exploitation chance to escape poverty. This support not only addressed these children's immediate needs but also created a strong relationship between them and their sponsors.

50

CHILDREN
REGISTERED
FOR
SPONSORSHIP

05

CHILDREN
SPONSORED



BACK TO SCHOOL

95% of teachers agree students with school supplies have increased self-esteem, performance and confidence. But imagine arriving on the first day of school without the basic resources needed to learn in the classroom. To bridge this education gap, we held 3 successful back to school drives per term and we provided scholastic materials to children in need which made a world of difference in their education.

65,000

SCHOLASTIC
ITEMS PURCHASED

1000+

CHILDREN
RECEIVED
SCHOLASTIC
MATERIALS



LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

With more than 1 out of 5 children in Uganda missing out on early childhood education, Vjana Heavens Foundation created a safe learning environment to help children from poverty-stricken families gain and improve their literacy and numeracy skills while they are still young. These children were supported by teachers and literacy champions to help to instill a love for learning in them.

300

READING BOOKS
PURCHASED

347

CHILDREN
PARTICIPATED
IN READ ALOUD
SESSIONS



SCHOLARSHIPS

70% of the children where we work live in extreme poverty and the outbreak of COVID 19 made this situation worse, leaving many parents unemployed and without funds to send their children to school. Through our scholarship program, we helped unsponsored children in our care gain access to quality education in a school setting, by paying for their school tuition and providing school meals.

\$3900

TUITION RAISED

20

PRIMARY STUDENTS
RECEIVED TUITION
ACADEMIC YEAR
2023

RESTORING HOPE FOR KENNETH





As long as he can remember, Kenneth wanted to go to school to pursue his dream of becoming a lawyer and defend the rights of poor innocent citizens like his elderly grandfather whose land was grabbed by the officials in power. In the midst of it all, Kenneth lost his mother, a special person in his life who was struggling to support his education.

Without any immediate relative intervening, Kenneth lost all hope for the future but God never abandoned him. Through our network of

community volunteers, we learnt about Kenneth's plight and we decided to step in to help. Kenneth was brought to Vijana Heavens Foundation's residential home in Kampala, where he was welcomed with a lovely group of children. The home provided him with a safe and nurturing environment, something he desperately needed after the loss of his mother. For the first time in months, Kenneth felt a sense of stability and security.

With the support of kindhearted and generous friends, we were able to enroll

Kenneth in a good primary school. Our dedicated young team worked tirelessly to ensure Kenneth receive the emotional and psychological support he needed to cope with his loss and focus on his studies. Kenneth thrived in his new school environment. He was always eager to participate in class and absorb as much knowledge as he could. His teachers often praised his dedication and love for education.

In 2023, Kenneth sat the national primary leaving

exams which increased his chances of graduating from primary level with flying colors and join secondary level. Now Kenneth is thriving in his education. He likes to help his little friends with home and he does not miss any opportunity to help our team serve the community.

We are grateful for all the support you give to Vijana Heavens Foundation. We continue to pray for Kenneth's life and the future ahead.

HOLISTIC CARE

An educated mind and a healthy body and soul are all necessary to truly empower a child, that's why we offer socioemotional support as part of our Holistic Care program. In 2023, we not only met children and young people's physical needs, but we also worked tirelessly to ensure their overall well-being by providing them with medical check-ups and treatment whenever necessary.

With your support, we partnered with experienced psychiatrists and pastors to provide trauma counseling to children and young people who had adopted harmful ways of coping with distressing thoughts and feelings. We helped children to build their relationship with God through prayer, Bible storytelling, and watching faith-based and inspirational movies.



NUTRITION

It's a simple fact: A child's chance to a bright tomorrow starts with getting enough food to eat today. Since our establishment in 2018, providing daily meals to hungry children has been our order of the day. In 2023, we didn't only provide nutritional support and energy to vulnerable children, we provided hope for a healthy and brighter tomorrow.

900

DAILY MEALS
PREPARED

1200+

HUNGRY
CHILDREN
SERVED



MEDICAL CARE

Medical care interventions are crucial in improving child development, and healthy growth for children. In 2023, we partnered with doctors, nurses, clinics, and renowned hospitals in the capital to ensure all children in our care received necessary medical interventions crucial for their development, healthy growth, and overall well-being.

05

HEALTH CENTERS
PARTNERED WITH

35

CHILDREN
TREATED



SOCIOEMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Emotional well-being is a critical component of a healthy, fulfilling life. In 2023, Vijana Heavens Foundation provided effective tools and information to children and young people to help them manage psychological adversity, achieve emotional well-being and become positive agents of change in the communities we serve.

25

GROUP COUNSELING
SESSIONS HELD

87

CHILDREN
RECEIVED
COUNSELING



DISCIPLESHIP

If our goal truly is to see children from difficult backgrounds thrive, all the food and education in the world will still leave them wanting. That's why as Vijana Heavens Foundation, we introduce children to the Most High God who created the heavens and the earth, places dreams in their hearts, and has good plans for them to prosper.

54

DISCIPLESHIP
ACTIVITIES
ORGANISED

650

CHILDREN
PARTICIPATED

**REWRITING
JONAN'S FUTURE**





Jonan is a 6-year-old boy who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth. Despite his desire to be like other children, Jonan's journey has been marked with hardship.

He was born via suds following a prolonged labor during a twin pregnancy, where he was the first twin. After 24 hours of birth, Jonan was placed on an oxygen therapy due to complications arising from the delivery.

When Jonan's father received the news about the birth his tiny baby, he furiously abandoned them calling this little boy a devil. Without any support, Jonan's mother had to spend days and nights looking for a job to do leaving her little boy helpless alone in the house with no food.

The neighbors informed the local leaders about this situation who reached out to us to help save Jonan's life. At first, our team thought it

was malnutrition until we took Jonan to a renowned hospital in the capital for medical check-up and we found out that this handsome boy had experienced failed growth, low muscle tone and delayed milestones and he needed behavioral and training therapy to improve his overall development and functioning.

With support from compassionate and generous friends, Jonan started receiving special nutrition and

physical therapy treatment twice a week which helped to enhance his cognitive, social and emotional skills and improved his communication abilities, sensory integration and adaptive behaviors.

CHILD PROTECTION

At Vijana Heavens Foundation, we prioritize protecting every child's rights and helping them thrive despite the toughest challenges in our community. With your support, we provided shelter to young children who were socially excluded and abandoned by their relatives, we also organized educational sports in 2023 to help children heal from trauma while learning through play, we created

a safe peer learning environment where girls discussed challenges they face and came up with informed ideas to solve them with the guidance of community leaders. We also supported families in dire need of food supplies and other basic necessities. Thanks to your love and support, together we made a significant difference.



SAFE SHELTER

We believe children truly are the future, and they deserve the right to be protected in order to reach their God-given potential. Our residential home in the slum community of Nansana was at the forefront of providing temporary shelter and accommodation to orphans, homeless and abandoned children as we strive to relocate them to responsible relatives or family who could take care of them in a family setting.

01

COMMUNITY
CENTER

22

CHILDREN
PROVIDED
WITH SHELTER



SPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Growing up in a congested area without a safe place to play limits many children from discovering and improving their hidden potential. In 2023, we created intentional opportunities for children in slums to interact, play and learn, in a safe environment. Through our educative games, children gained skills that could help them thrive and lay the foundations for a happier and healthier tomorrow.

10

GAMES IMPLEMENTED

232

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED



GIRLS EMPOWERMENT

We believe if a girl attains the knowledge, skills and ability to change her reality, and uses these tools to make informed choices about her future, she can change her family and entire community. Vijana Heavens Foundation invited local community role models to offer mentorship and guidance to adolescent girls and young women, helping them make informed choices about their future.

05

ROLE MODELS ENGAGED

124

GIRLS ADOLESCENT IMPACTED



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The family is the most essential source of love, belonging emotional support, physical sustenance, and spiritual guidance in the lives of children and young people. We believe the best way to meet the needs of vulnerable children in our community is to strengthen the capacity of their families so that they can care for their well-being. In 2023, we continued to provide in-kind support to families in dire need.

24

HOUSEHOLDS REACHED

72

FOOD PACKAGES GIVEN OUT

**EMPOWERING PRECIOUS TO
MAKE INFORMED CHOICES.**





Meet Precious, a bright and curious 13-year-old girl who lives in a vibrant but marginalized slum community of Nansana in Kampala, Uganda the pearl of Africa. Like many girls in her community, Precious was not prioritized as her male counterparts. By participating in our girls' empowerment program last year, Precious was able to discuss challenges her and her peers face in the community which included topics ranging from sexual and reproductive

health, access to education, to leadership and life skills, to self-defense and sessions about the harmful effects of traditional practices including child marriage.

By learning about her body changes, health, and rights in these important trainings guided by professional community role models, Precious is now able to face day-to-day challenges in her life and make informed decisions about her health, education and future.

While the problems facing girls across the world are expansive, at Vijana Heavens Foundation, we believe that if we invest in girls through education and life skills, help them avoid child marriage and teen pregnancy and build their confidence and sense of value, we can give them a chance to succeed, unlock their economic change that lasts for generations.

And in order to reach these adolescent girls especially adolescent girls, we design

our programs with them as the target audience to clearly understand their needs and come up with solutions that serve every girl.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout 2023, Vijana Heavens Foundation contributed to the strengthening of the slum communities of Kampala, where we work. We achieved this by providing education, nutrition and access to programs that support every person's well-being. We celebrate this significant contribution to the advancement of our community.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas holidays are really a time of the year for families to unite. It is a time to share all the laughter and cheers, but for orphans and abandoned children, it can easily be a reminder of abuse, abandonment and a depressing time where they feel forgotten. To ensure these children feel loved and not forgotten, we organize an annual party every year. We bring orphans and underprivileged children together to interact, play, sing, dance, make friends and learn about the reason for Christmas. At end of the party, we make sure they go back home with a Christmas gift.

656

CHILDREN ATTENDED OUR PARTY

278

CHILDREN RECEIVED CLOTHES AND SHOES



HEALTH LITERACY

With over 70% of the families in the community where we work living on less than \$1.77 a day, it's always very difficult for these people to receive even annually medical check-ups and hospital visits unless they are seriously ill. This puts them in a worrying position of not having clear information about their health statuses. In 2023, with the help of volunteers, we conducted our first health literacy campaign and we taught adolescent boys and girls about personal hygiene and the importance of maintaining good hygiene.

01

HEALTH LITERACY CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED

98

YOUNG PEOPLE WERE TRAINED



SHEILA: A LIMITLESS PEER EDUCATOR.

Sheila, a health volunteer at Vijana Heavens Foundation grew up in a slum community where basic necessities were a daily struggle. With over 70% of families living in extreme poverty, access to clean water, nutritious food, and healthcare was limited. Personal hygiene was often neglected due to a lack of resources and awareness. As a teenager, Sheila faced cruel jokes from her peers about her body

odor, highlighting the gaps in her upbringing. This shame and embarrassment became a turning point for her.

Determined to prevent other children from experiencing similar humiliation, Sheila joined Vijana Heavens Foundation. to launch its first health literacy campaign which was focused on educating adolescents about personal hygiene. Sheila, fueled by her personal

experiences, played a key role in this training. She and other volunteers taught young boys and girls about hygiene and its importance in maintaining health and preventing infections.

Reflecting on the impact of the campaign. Sheila's efforts have not only equipped adolescents with essential knowledge but also instilled a sense of confidence and self-worth. The

shame and embarrassment that once overshadowed her own teenage years have now been replaced with pride and hope for a healthier community.

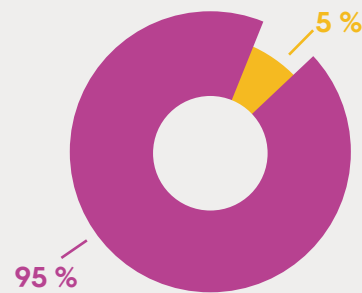
Shout out to volunteers like Sheila who devote their time and experience to create a world where every child experiences a happy adolescent life that sets them up for a positive future.

FINANCIALS REPORTS

2023 TOTAL REVENUE

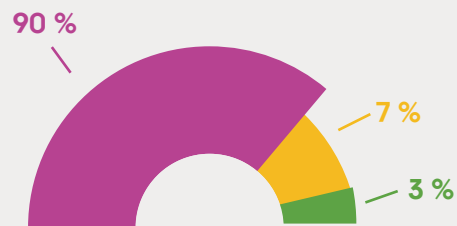
\$31,456

- Individual giving
- In-kind



INVESTMENT

- Programs
- Administration
- Fundraising





We are deeply grateful for your ongoing [support](#) of our work to empower children and young people in slum communities to thrive.



P.O. Box 117945, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 (0) 707 279385
info@heavensministry.org
www.heavensministry.org