

BREAKING

the Grip of Poverty

Read about
Uganda's exciting
new group
empowerment
program inside

COVER STORY

New group empowerment program for vulnerable children in Jinja, Uganda

In the southeastern district of Jinja, Uganda, poverty is high and many parents are unable to afford the fees for their children to attend school. **The girls often work as household servants, while the boys do physical labour in sugarcane plantations.** The lack of education has led to high levels of illiteracy, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and unemployment.

Poverty loses its power when we stand together against it.

The new Uganda Group Program aims to **kickstart a cultural shift in Jinja**, working with families and community leaders to place more emphasis on the development of their orphans and vulnerable children. This holistic program **builds up the whole child** by focusing on education, health, social and life skills, as well as spiritual development.

Your monthly support will help provide 200 children ages 5-10 with tuition, learning materials, uniforms, meals, medical check-ups, mentorship, counselling, and recreational activities.

Your gift will have a lasting impact on the children:

- Higher attendance and lower dropout rates
- Better health and wellbeing
- Improved literacy and test scores
- Higher employability
- Economic empowerment
- Spiritual maturity and strong character

Thank you for your support!

Donate online at internationalneeds.ca or use the enclosed donation card.

100% of your gift goes directly to the program





The impact of sponsorship Kenya

Meet Daniel, one of 11 children from a very poor family in Kenya. In 2014, Donna from Canada started supporting Daniel so he could attend school. Over the years, she assisted him in ways that empowered him to not only stay in school, but also to start thinking about the future with confidence.

After nine years of loyal support and two home visits from Donna, Daniel has finished high school and graduated from a technical institute that trained him to become a mechanic. With his skilled trade, he'll now be able to earn an income and support his family and other siblings. What began as a hopeless situation has become a beautiful example of how sponsorship can be a blessing.

For just \$41 a month, you too can foster hope for a child to live a fruitful and abundant life, just as God intended.

Dear Madam Donna,

How are you? It's a great pleasure to see that you have been sacrificing your time and resources for me. You allowed me to continue my secondary education when my family income had almost reached a standstill, and gave me hope to finish.

I can't forget how you bought me a bicycle to save me time and energy so I could reach school on time. You were a bright light in my life again when you supported me to pursue the motor vehicle mechanic course here at Don Bosco Boys Technical Institute. There is so much you have done for me and I cannot mention it all.

Thanks to Almighty God for everything. Thank you so much, madam Donna. Yours always,

Daniel





Restoring dignity to child street workers

By McDonald Adhikary, Executive Director, IN Bangladesh

Many children in the Kamlapur area live, eat, and sleep on the streets. At Kamlapur train station, hundreds of **homeless children are involved in child labour, the sex industry, and the drug trade**, where they have no access to basic human rights such as education, housing, healthcare, healthy food, or protection. These children are sick, hungry, and tired.

The Lord our God gave us a clear vision to do something for the children working on the streets, so we rented a house, decorated it nicely, and opened the Kamlapur Drop-In Centre. When these children

"This centre is our new sweet home. I want to study and become a doctor or a policeman. If I am a policeman, I will not beat any person, and if I am a doctor, I will serve people without asking for money. This place is so good; no one loves us as much as sweet home do."

Rajon, child street worker

come to the centre they get a bath, nutritious food, and informal education. **These are good children who are made in God's image.** They respect people a lot, and they work hard even though they are very poor. There is a lot of potential in them, and they simply want to study and live in peace. **We are thankful that God has opened this centre so we can show His love.**

Your support keeps this program running – thank you!

Canadian medical team serves the Volta region

By Festus Addei, Director of Programs & Projects, IN Canada



Above: Canadian medical team with their partners at the medical clinic in Ghana

Last November I had the privilege of travelling to my home country of Ghana to lead a team of passionate volunteer doctors and health practitioners on a medical outreach. **Our primary goal was to provide health care to school children and their families** in communities that have limited access to health care. The clinics were held at four International Needs Ghana schools, and **every day we saw 100-200 people**.

The team also toured schools and community health centres to share cross-cultural health practices

and to get a better understanding of how trips like this support the Ghanaian government's public healthcare efforts. The outreach also allowed us to assess the health needs of the children and **explore a vision for a potential health project** partnering with the local community.

It was a very busy and rewarding week, and I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Rebecca, the entire volunteer team, and the people of Ghana.

Water will soon be flowing in Burkina Faso

By Corrie Mulder, Director of Operations, IN Canada

Great news: fundraising is complete for new water and sanitation facilities in Kokoro, Burkina Faso.

This project will install two boreholes, a water storage tank, and five public latrines. Planning is already well underway, and International Needs Burkina Faso expects construction to be done, with clean water flowing, by the summer.

This project will truly transform life in this rural community. Women and girls will no longer have to spend hours a day fetching water, and the entire community will benefit from clean drinking water, less disease, and more sanitary conditions.

This is the second water project in Burkina Faso - thank you to everyone who gave so generously! And stay tuned: **the third project is coming soon.**

"Kokoro is in a region that sees drought nine months a year. These water projects are bringing new life and opportunities to our people."

*Dieudonne Koné, Program Manager
International Needs Burkina Faso*



Clinique Papillon is growing

DR Congo

“Our waiting room is usually overcrowded, with pregnant mothers and the sick having to sit cramped together on benches or on the floor. This is uncomfortable for patients and unsafe when people come in for treatment for contagious diseases, like tuberculosis.”

Gilson, Clinic administrator



After working out of **extremely cramped facilities** for more than ten years, Clinique Papillon has recently been blessed with an **opportunity to expand**. With support from generous Canadian supporters, the clinic is buying the operating block they're currently renting, and acquiring the land and buildings next door.

The new property will more than double their current capacity! They'll have more space for exam rooms, offices, and a bigger waiting area. They plan to add eight beds and an isolation ward for infectious diseases.

The new space will bring many benefits:

- Better outcomes for high risk pregnancies
- A separate isolation area for patients with TB and other infectious diseases
- More funding for patient care, as there will be no more rental expenses
- More treatment rooms, which improve privacy and dignity for patients, especially those with HIV/AIDS
- New radiology service that will allow more patients to be treated onsite

This is an exciting development for the clinic and the community they serve. **Thank you for your generosity!**



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Praise & Prayer Corner

Praise

Thanks be to God for providing everything we and our partners needed in 2022.

Prayer

Pray that the children in Jinja, Uganda will be blessed by the new group empowerment program.