

Group Sponsorship in Uganda

March 2026 Program Update

Thanks to your continued support, group sponsorship is transforming the lives of vulnerable children and youth in Uganda. Through a holistic approach that includes education support, health care, nutrition, mentorship, and community engagement, children who once faced serious barriers are now able to stay in school and grow in safe, supportive environments.

Over the past six months, 200 vulnerable children in Busedde and Buwenge received school support, nutritious meals, medical care, and life-skills training. Families and community leaders have also been engaged through outreach and child protection initiatives that help create safer environments for children. Here's a look at the difference your support has been making.





Education Support Opening Doors: Education remains one of the most powerful ways to break cycles of poverty. Through group sponsorship, all 200 supported children were able to attend school because their school fees were covered.

Many families in this community rely on seasonal farming or casual labour in sugarcane plantations and cannot afford school expenses. Before joining the program, some children spent their days working instead of attending school. Today, these same children are back in the classroom, learning, building friendships, and developing confidence for the future.

In addition to school fees, students received essential scholastic materials such as exercise books, pens, and pencils. These supplies remove practical barriers to learning while also easing financial pressure on families.

Ruth, who cares for her two grandchildren, Henry and Rashida, shared her gratitude. After their parents separated, the children came to live with her. To survive, Ruth sells vegetables, but her earnings were not enough to cover school uniforms and basic supplies. Sometimes the head teacher would help with a few items so the children could begin school, but many needs still went unmet. “Since they received sponsorship, the burden has been lifted and the children attend school happily with everything they need.”

Health Care and Nutrition Supporting Student Wellbeing: Over the past six months, 85 children received medical treatment and health support through local health services. Common illnesses such as malaria, coughs, and headaches were identified and treated, helping children remain healthy and able to attend school consistently.

Harriet, a mother of six whose son Paul is part of the program, explained how this support has changed their situation: “I lost my husband seven years ago and had no means of caring for my children. One time Paul suffered severe malaria and I could not afford treatment.

Since he joined the sponsorship program, he receives medical care and treatment. I am very thankful for the support towards the wellbeing of my child.”

Alongside healthcare support, all 200 children in the program receive nutritious meals during school days. Students are provided with porridge and milk during break time and meals consisting of posho (maize meal), beans, and greens at lunch. These meals help address hunger, one of the greatest barriers to education, and support children’s physical health and ability to focus in class.



Spiritual Growth and Character Development: Spiritual nurture remains an important part of the program’s holistic approach. All 200 supported children have participated in spiritual development activities designed to help them grow in faith and character.

During weekly fellowship gatherings, students take part in Bible reading, scripture memorization, singing, prayer, and discussions that encourage values such as kindness, respect, honesty, and compassion.

Discipleship sessions were also organized to help children grow deeper in their faith. Around 200 supported children and 150 non-supported children participated in these sessions, where they learned about loving God, loving their neighbours, and loving themselves.





Christmas Celebration: To close the year, 187 of the 200 supported children attended a Christmas celebration organized by the program. In the surrounding community, many children have limited understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Through Bible stories about the birth of Jesus, Christmas carols, and fellowship activities, the children learned that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the hope He brings. The event also included time for singing, food, and celebration together, and children were encouraged to share what they learned with their families and communities.

Counselling and Life Skills for Personal Growth: Many children in the community face difficult home circumstances, including poverty, family separation, and trauma. To support their emotional wellbeing, the program provides counselling and life-skills training.

Group counselling sessions reached over 600 children (both supported and non-supported), while 35 children received one-on-one counselling support. These sessions provide a safe space for children to share their experiences, rebuild confidence, and learn healthy ways to cope with challenges.



One student who benefitted greatly from counselling was **Yusuf**. Due to negative peer influence, Yusuf began to struggle with discipline and left school for two months to work in a sugarcane plantation. Concerned for his future, teachers and project staff stepped in to provide counselling. Through conversations and home visits, Yusuf was reminded that while working in the sugarcane plantation might bring short-term income, continuing his education would open the door to a better future. With continued encouragement, Yusuf chose to return to school. Today, he is back in class, showing improved behaviour and renewed focus on his studies.

Life-skills sessions were also organized to help children build practical abilities such as goal setting, self-discipline, and problem-solving, helping students remain focused on their education and recognize their unique abilities.



Peace is one example of how children are growing in confidence and using their gifts. After being enrolled in the sponsorship program, she was able to attend school full time without the burden of school fees. Alongside strong academic performance, Peace has discovered a gift for public speaking and debating. She has been invited to represent her school in debates and speeches at school functions and competitions, where her confidence and ability to communicate have contributed to her school's success.

Peace now dreams of becoming a surgeon in the future. She shared her gratitude for the support she has received, explaining that it has helped her build the confidence to pursue her goals and use her voice to encourage others.

Supporting Girls Through Menstrual Hygiene

Care: Girls often miss school during their menstrual cycle because they lack access to sanitary products. To address this challenge, 56 girls received sanitary pads and menstrual hygiene education. Providing these essential supplies allows girls to attend school with confidence and without fear of embarrassment.



Community Engagement and Child Protection: Creating lasting change requires strong partnerships with families, schools, and community leaders. During this reporting period, the program organized 10 community outreach meetings focused on issues affecting children and families, including child protection, domestic violence, poverty, HIV/AIDS awareness, and the shared responsibility of communities to safeguard vulnerable children.

Local leaders also participated in these meetings, including police officers from the Child and Family Protection Unit. One of the officers leading these sessions was **Evelyne**, a powerful example of a woman serving in a profession that is largely dominated by men in Uganda.



Her leadership encouraged both parents and children and demonstrated that women can play a vital role in protecting and strengthening their communities.

Child protection training was also provided to community-based child protection committees made up of teachers, community leaders, and local authorities. These committees are equipped to identify, report, and respond to cases of child abuse or neglect, helping ensure that children are protected both at school and within their communities.

One child whose life has been deeply impacted through this support is **Sowedi**, a 10-year-old boy who was abandoned by his parents at the age of six. His aunt took him in, but after she passed away he was left without stable care. To survive, Sowedi began selling bananas by the roadside and attended school only occasionally.



Recognizing his vulnerability, the school stepped in to support him, providing care and accommodation so he could continue his education. After being enrolled in the sponsorship program, Sowedi's situation began to change. Through the support of teachers, project staff, and the wider community, he is now attending school regularly and regaining hope for the future. Sowedi now dreams of becoming an engineer one day.

Thank You!

Because of your support, vulnerable children in Uganda are staying in school, receiving nutritious meals, accessing health care, and growing in confidence and character. Your generosity is helping children discover new opportunities for their future.