

Present Realities:

Uganda faces its worst humanitarian crisis in 18 years. Constant and brutal rebel attacks in the Northern part of the country have caused massive displacement of people, poverty, and destruction of physical and social infrastructures. Children are especially vulnerable to these attacks. Over 32,000 of children have been abducted, to be either child soldiers or sex slaves. More than 13 million children have lost one or both parents due to AIDS, with about 3 million children living with AIDS.

Community support systems are overwhelmed and are not able to cope with the increasing numbers of vulnerable children such as orphans, homeless and street children, and other children in need. They have no one to turn to and no one takes care of them. Children without parents or children that are ill are of nobody's interest. They are treated as worthless things and merely thrown out with the garbage, left on the streets, sold to witchcraft or killed otherwise.

Findings indicate that Mukono District has a population of 923,800, with an expectation of one million by the year 2012. The level of education in Mukono District is still low, only 44% aged 6-24 were enrolled in school in the year 2008. This poses a very big threat to the skilled labour force in the community. In Uganda, 80% of secondary education is purely theoretical rather than practical, a phenomenon that creates job seekers rather than job creators. Although Uganda is still a developing country, the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders seem unable to change the direction of the education system.

Country Information:

Area:

- > 236,040 sq km (slightly smaller than Oregon)

Location:

- > Eastern Africa, west of Kenya
- > Border countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo 765 km, Kenya 933 km, Rwanda 169 km, Sudan 435 km, Tanzania 396 km

Cities:

- > Capital: Kampala
- > Other major cities: Entebbe

Climate:

- > tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (Dec-Feb, June-Aug); semiarid in northeast

Terrain:

- > mostly plateau with rim of mountains

Natural Resources:

- > copper
- > cobalt
- > hydropower
- > limestone salt
- > arable land

Land use:

- > arable land: 21.57%; permanent crops: 8.92%; other: 69.51% (2005)

Environmental issues:

- > draining of wetlands for agricultural use; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; poaching is widespread



Local Partner:

Piet and Pita Butendijk are a Dutch missionary couple who have a vision for the orphaned children of Uganda, and as a response to the need and plight of the children they opened Noah's Ark Children's Ministry (NACMU). NACMU is located 20 km from Kampala in Mukono, Uganda. The 48-acre property was donated by GAIN (Global Aid Network), a ministry under the larger umbrella of Power to Change (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ).

NACMU was established in order to reduce human suffering by responding to physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the suffering children. They are currently caring for abandoned, orphaned, destitute, street children, and school children. NACMU has been involved in relief activities in Northern Uganda such as home tracing, resettlement and rehabilitation of street and abandoned children. Other activities include the distribution of food and non-food items to the most vulnerable communities, especially to internally displaced people and other disaster areas.



Opportunities for Transformation:

There are numerous opportunities for the transformation of orphaned children lives in the community of Mukono. The following are the initial and long-term stages of bringing about community transformation while working alongside the people. Many of the items will need to follow each other in successive order, while other may occur simultaneously.

- > Primary School
- > Children's Medical Hospital
- > HIV/AIDS Training
- > Orphan Care Homes
- > Vocational Secondary School

Plan of Action and Tentative Timeline:

YEAR	POTENTIAL ACTIVITY	COST	NOTES
2009 - 2012	Vocational Secondary School Construction	\$18,370 CAD	Single Classroom - The school will transform the community as it produces skilled, educated workers who will contribute to the local community, providing relief from poverty. (Need 20 classrooms)
		\$25,050 CAD	Toilet Facilities Construction - Healthy children need to have access to clean water and clean facilities in order to curb the spread of disease from unwashed hands. (Need 4 Toilet Facilities)
		\$16,700 CAD	Kitchen Construction - Fulfills the obvious need of feeding hungry children who need a good meal in order to excel at their studies. For many of the children this could be the one meal a day they eat.
		\$83,500 CAD	Administration Buildings Construction- These will house clerical staff involved with daily coordination of curriculum, meals, reporting, etc.
		\$83,500 CAD	Dining/Mess Hall Construction - A large hall that provides an area for children to eat together; it will also be used for community events.
Ongoing	Family Unit Home	\$48,013 CAD	This will house 8-10 children, creating a sense of family and community. The family will be run by mothers from the community consisting of widows, single or abused mothers.
Phase 1	Children's Medical Hospital	\$50,100 CAD	Hospital Construction - This will be the first hospital in Uganda that will be solely dedicated to children.
Phase 2		\$33,400 CAD	Medical Equipment - This equipment will be vital in providing the best healthcare to the children. Equipment such as: warming beds, incubators, etc.
Phase 3		\$14,195 CAD	Inventory - The hospital needs to be stocked with bandages, antibiotics, records of illness, sanitary items, etc.

Annual Activities:

In addition to the proposed plan of activities, it would be also beneficial to provide smaller initiatives to help battle malnutrition, deal with HIV and AIDS, and inject small amounts of capital into the local economy.

- › Orphan Feeding Programme
Set up a feeding programme of (daily hot meal) for the orphans in the community. This would be done through the local church or through one of the public schools.
- › Food Distribution
While it is not beneficial to create dependency, it would be good to have a food distribution, where those in the most need within the community would receive a few bags of maize in exchange for attending a gospel service, health or information clinic.
- › Health & Sanitation Clinic
Train the community in simple, general practices to promote better health within their families. Could also hold clinic on AIDS/HIV safety and prevention (clinics are usually associated with a food distribution event).
- › Church Social Activities
Provide alternative social activities for youth in an effort to prevent HIV/AIDS (e.g., organize soccer, volleyball, bicycle races, athletics).
- › Micro-finance
Support the local women groups to establish small business enterprises such as tailoring, poultry keeping, horticultural farming, etc. This can be done by providing seeds, farming tools, sewing machines and materials, making chicken coops, providing chickens, medicine and feeds, etc.
- › Pastor Support and/or Training
Help the local pastor to be able to care for those in the community. The people in the area are so poor that they can barely bring in \$1 CAD to a service. Training is often inadequate or unavailable, and thus would be a wonderful resource to pastors and in turn their churches.

Teams:

In order to implement these projects, the project manager would work with the main church team leader to help organize team trips each year. It would be good have some specialized team members each year; those involved with community health would be especially helpful in order to see improvements through hygiene training and HIV awareness. In addition, it would be beneficial to try to send a doctor and a nurse in order to do a health assessment for the children in the community. And it would also be helpful to have some skilled builders on the teams to work alongside skilled contractors from the Mukono town centre.

Persons Responsible for the Project:

The staff of Hungry for Life, under the leadership of the Board of Directors, are responsible for the project.