



OUR LADY OF KIBEHO ORPHANAGE FOUNDATION— 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Lady Of Kibeho Orphanage Foundation empowers vulnerable orphans in Uganda — most of whose parents have died as a result of AIDS.

Incorporated as a society in Alberta, Canada and registered as a charity with the Canada Revenue Agency, we provide the necessities of life: access to education, medical supplies, shelter, food, water, and clothing.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Foundation is to provide basic necessities of life and advance education for orphans and other impoverished youth. These basic needs include but are not limited to basic social services, formal education, and culturally appropriate life skills that will create a safe and nurturing environment, provide literacy and numeracy, and develop social and leadership skills towards a self-reliant and empowered lifestyle.

OUR VISION

Educate and empower orphan-youths in Uganda.



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Message from the President OLOK -Uganda



Compassion, faith and acts of care can spark hope. Every day at the Orphanage our staff and volunteers are called to find those sparks of hope and fan the flames of compassion. This is core to the work we do at Our lady of Kibeho Orphanage Foundation—Kiwenda.

In the year 2023, we remained true to our calling, following Jesus' example to help bring life in all its fullness to the most vulnerable girls. And together, with the generosity of supporters in Canada, we saw 15 of the girls sitting for the primary living exams; 88 girls were promoted to the next class, accessing the best education and interacting with other children attending school at Springfield Junior School—Kiwenda.

The needs and realities of our ever-changing world have challenged us in 2023 to think critically, bringing new agility and creativity as our support staff and volunteers have embraced fresh approaches always with the goal to provide the best care and supports for them.

This report highlights the progress, real life achievements and impact that have been realized in 2023. May the strides we have made together—led by the children we serve, and guided by our Christian faith—spark your own imagination and commitment. You, our supporters, play an invaluable part in this work.

Regina Laboke (Mrs)
President—OLOK

What We Do

In every aspect of our work, OLOK is focused on a future where all the girls have what they need to live healthy lives that are full of promise: **clean water, nutritious food, healthcare, education, spiritual growth, life skills training and protection from harm.**



Why We Do It

We are inspired and motivated to do this work because of our Christian faith. We believe in upholding, restoring and honoring the dignity and value of every human being, and we work alongside the vulnerable girls as a demonstration of God's unconditional love. We find joy as we support the orphaned girls in all their talent, strength and spirit—and see great things result. Lives are changed, and whole life stories transformed.

OLOK serves all girls without distinction of any kind: language, religion, place of birth or family origins. We collaborate with those from other faiths within in the neighboring community who share our common values of compassion, love and mercy to offer spiritual support.

Introduction

There are well over 2.5 million orphans in Uganda primarily due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Our Lady of Kibeho Orphanage (OLOK) was established over ten years ago and has consistently offered care to 100 girls ages 3–16. OLOK provides food, shelter, medical care, education and people who love the girls and provide them with “a future full of hope”. At Our lady of Kibeho, we follow the example of Christ by serving these vulnerable girls regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background. Of the 96 girls we supported in 2023, 90% were on track in their physical development; 89% were on track in their socio-emotional development; 88% were on track in literacy and numeracy skills.

The girls are supported by matrons who guide them as role models, mentoring them in cultural values and also help them learn household chores such as starting a fire to cook food on locally made stoves , farming, arts and crafts, preparing vegetables, house cleaning. Matrons and volunteers teach the girls skits imparting values, songs and rhymes, dances and games. In the year 2023, our team of volunteers engaged the girls to create lasting change and elevate their voices in decisions that affect their lives.



1. Education

At OLOK, we believe that educating girls is not one of the world's problems; it's actually a solution. All we do at OLOK is to believe in the girls. At OLOK, we believe education creates opportunities and empowers children, especially girls.

We know that women can change the world. Uganda has produced some influential women such as Winifred Byanyima, an aeronautical engineer, politician, human rights activist, feminist and diplomat. She is the current executive director of UNAIDS, and an Under Secretary-General of the United Nations. Before assuming that role, she served as the Executive Director, Oxfam international. She has been recognized for the contribution made to bring about lasting change in the country; even at the risk of her family's lives. This is the hope we have for our girls.



Millions of people lack the most basic education, which includes literacy, numeracy and general life skills. Yet, basic education in all societies is critical to individual and economic development and political stability- and it also contributes to improved health, human rights, the dignity of the person and gender equity.

At OLOK we believe that ensuring a quality basic education is the best hope for long-term sustainable development. We do whatever it takes every day — to give our children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm and abuse. We strive to ensure the girls' unique needs are met and their voices are heard- transforming their lives and the future we share.

For any child, education can open doors to the future that would otherwise be locked tight. But it's not just about the future – children with healthy learning environments are better protected from exploitation here and now. Girls, especially, are safer from abuse and from being forced into a marriage that is not their choice.

Primary Education

The 96 girls were registered at Springfield Junior School (SJS) and continued to pursue their studies. Their performance was excellent and it has continued to improve in spite of COVID—19. They excelled in their year-end examinations and all were promoted to the next grade/class. 14 students completed their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE)

Educational Materials:

Children received school supplies and resources- books, backpacks, uniforms and bicycles

A variety of reading materials were provided

Children attended in-school or after-school literacy activities

No.	Class	Number of Girls
1.	P.1	13
2.	P.2	10
3.	P.3	8
4.	P.4	7
5.	P.5	19
6.	P.6	11
7.	P.7	13

Secondary Education

The 4 girls who joined Mountain of Olives College have continued to thrive, made new friends and one of them, who participated in an essay writing competition, emerged as the winner. At Mountain of Olives College, the girls have been introduced to computer classes, research in the library and other curricular activities. They have been promoted to the next level.

Building the girls' confidence in self-esteem, assertiveness, and communication skills is a core part of the education at Mountain of Olives College. Such empowerment strategies will help our girls to strengthen their bargaining power, confidence, decision-making autonomy and opportunities for the future.

It is worth mentioning that if the Orphaned girls continue to be supported to complete primary and secondary school, they are three times less likely to be sold into childhood labour, to be trafficked in the middle east and far beyond. Every year of secondary school that these girls complete, their income will increase by 25 percent, helping to lift them and those around them out of hunger and poverty.

If every girl received 12 years of quality education, child marriage would plunge by two-thirds and girls' higher lifetime earnings would grow.

2. Health

The health of the girls at the Orphanage was good. It has greatly improved since we were gifted with the safe water project. No more waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid and salmonellosis. Prior to getting the borehole, these diseases disrupted the schooling of the girls and medically are very expensive to treat. We want to thank our supporters in Canada who have enabled us to operate a fully stocked sick bay. The Resident nurse continues to give first aid and refers complex cases of sickness to the hospitals. The 3 girls who are living with HIV/AIDS continue to be monitored. Antiretroviral drugs were secured and any opportunistic diseases were treated immediately.



The presence of the nurse guarantees that the children receive deworming treatment and are up-to-date on their vaccines.

There is still need to procure new mosquito nets to prevent the mosquito bites while the girls are sleeping. The anopheles mosquitos are the main carriers of malaria parasites.



3. Kibeho Farms

When nutritious food is not consistently accessible, a community or a household is food-insecure. Uganda as a country is headed to becoming food insecure.



In 2023, hunger in Uganda went up due to a number of factors—most notably climate change, the leftover impact of COVID-19, the on-going political instability, corruption and the rising cost of living across the region.

The Orphanage farm, in the year 2023, experienced firsthand effects of climate change. This poses a significant threat to food security. Extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, devastate crops and disrupt the food chain; and fruits supplies which affected our diet.

Food items from the markets are much more expensive and when the food we grow is destroyed because of drought or flooding, our food budget sky-rockets.

New crops have been grown including maize, yellow and green bananas.



4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



In the year 2023, OLOK received a gift of a borehole and a 10,000-liter steel water tank. This has really improved the health of the girls and the community around.

Clean water means life. For our girls living at the Orphanage, it can also mean freedom – freedom from waterborne diseases and long daily treks to haul home water for basic use like washing clothes, bathing, cleaning dormitories, cooking etc... Our new borehole has given the girls back their health and their lives.

A special appreciation goes to all individual donors and The Rotary Club of Stampede Park, Calgary.

The girls can now drink the water straight from the borehole which means the girls are well hydrated and more able to pay attention and learn in school. “I am not worried about eating now because I always wash my hands with soap and clean water before eating. I wash the fruit before eating. Brushing my teeth every morning with germ-free water is my favorite thing to do.” (Nammazzi Precious—P.6 Pupil)

“Every child has the right to clean water. Having a new fresh water well means we can enjoy the gift that so many people take for granted!”



ORPHANAGE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



Since its inception, OLOK has been supported by friends in Canada. Unfortunately, the most faithful supporter of the Orphanage has been experiencing some health challenges which has resulted in a significant decrease in the funding the orphanage was receiving. This reality has incentivized the team in Uganda to come up with a sustainability plan to allow it operate and support the girls for many years hence.

With the financial support and technical guidance from the Orphanage friend, two spacious dormitories which can accommodate up to 200 girls, have been constructed. The funding has also allowed us to build a large dining hall. Considering the changing times, the board has done research and discussed how to use the available resources to multiply what has been gifted into something that can support the Orphanage in the coming years. Several options have been suggested and shared with our Canadian counterparts.

In 2022 the main dining hall was turned into a kindergarten which welcomed 20 students. We hope more children will register with the kindergarten and day care as research has shown that children who are registered in a solid kindergarten program, usually complete their education in the same school. This provides a solid base for growth. The Board together with the Springfield Junior School will continue to market the kindergarten section. The board believes the numbers will grow.

As one of the strategies and ways of sustaining the Orphanage, at the year-end OLOK board meeting, all members voted in favour of registering other young girls from the community to reside in the dormitories together with the Orphaned girls.

..... Sustainability plan

These girls must be attending school at Springfield Junior School. They will be admitted as boarding students and must be willing to stay within the Orphanage vicinity, in the boarding section doing the same activities with the Orphans. They will be expected to pay school boarding fees of an amount that will be determined after considering the rates charged by other boarding schools in the country.

All funds collected out of that arrangement will be a source of income for the Orphanage. All resources received by the Orphanage, will be used towards the foundation activities that benefit the girls directly including paying the subsidized fees that the Orphanage is expected to pay to Springfield Junior School and taking care of other necessities of life.



It's important to note that the Orphanage buildings are spacious enough and can accommodate another 100 girls from the community that might wish to stay with the Orphans. This is not only a sustainability plan but also part of the bigger plan of helping the girls to live a normal life where they can make friends outside their fellow orphans and eventually connect with the wider community.

Since the other girls from the community will be coming from families, we hope this could also be an opportunity for working out some adoption and foster care opportunities from the friendships and relationships built between the girls, and eventually, the boarding school girls and their families.

Moving forward, this plan will be implemented with a carefully monitored vetting of the family background of the girls hoping to register at the school.

SPECIAL PROJECTS IN 2023

For seven years, the Orphanage faced a problem of accessing safe, clean water. The Orphanage dug a well that has been used since its inception. During the dry season, the well was drying up and after a while the water was contaminated with waste from the septic tank that was in close proximity to the well. The water was exposed to water borne diseases and bacteria. Although the water was being boiled, it did not help to improve the quality of the water. The water problem necessitated buying water during the dry season for cooking and other uses.

With the support from another kind friend from Canada and a supporter of



OLOK through his membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary Stampede Park, Ted, tirelessly continued to highlight the need for safe, clean water for our 100 girls and the rest of the community surrounding the Orphanage.

Through his hard work and his sharp fundraising skills, Ted, was able to secure the initial funding for a well. But because the project needed more funds, Ted continued to look for more money from his personal family, friends and local foundations in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

...Special projects in 2023.....

Through his commitment, he was able to raise all the required financial resources, which saw the project, start in November 2022. On April, 14 2023, the project that was started in September 2022, was brought to a successful completion. A dual water electric pump system fully automated (Grandfos Type: I Phase) with the capacity of producing over 5m³ of water per hour of constant pumping.

The manual hand pump system, on the other hand serves a back-up role, and operates by

moving the handle up and down. The system was installed with a tank tower (8metres high) and a Stainless steel tank of 10m³ capacity. A 413m - pipeline was installed, with the main line originating from the pump-house to the main supply tank. The distribution line runs from the main supply tank to distribution centers including 16 installed taps.



The new, below ground well at the Orphanage was commissioned. Currently, it provides safe, clean water that is available for the girls at all times. The new water source has improved the health outcomes and the overall well-being of the girls and all the staff. Five (5) Staff at the Orphanage, were trained in the operation of the new well by the Contractor.



...Special projects in 2023.....



The success of the water project in 2023 was life-altering for the children and the staff at the orphanage. By November 2023, safe clean water was made readily available, the children are experiencing all the benefits of clean drinking water, enhanced hygiene and an overall sense of well-being and safety.

Because the installed pumping system contains sensitive equipment, as a precaution, a staff member from the orphanage has been educated and assigned to maintain and supervise the equipment on a daily basis.

In order to maintain the beautiful project that was donated, the orphanage will only allow technical personnel to maintain and replace the system

components. The pumping house security is closely monitored to ensure it is safe from any damage trespassing, theft and vandalism.

The pipelines are closely monitored to ensure there are no leakages or blockages. The water tap fittings are cleaned routinely. The orphanage has maintenance and support staff who are involved in overseeing the safe operation of the new well and pump system.

WHY SUPPORT OLOK

When you give to the girls we support at OLOK, you are helping to provide things like healthcare, safety, food, clean water and more. Supporting our work, is a powerful way to help fight poverty and hunger, and give hope to those vulnerable young girls and hope to the entire country.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by our volunteers and made possible through an extensive time commitment and input from colleagues at the Orphanage. We owe the utmost respect and gratitude to the support staff and volunteers who have continued to serve the girls in 2023. Without the financial support of our friends/donors in Canada, we would not be in a position to afford to pay the salaries of our support staff, health care, medications and other expenses.

Thanks for your ongoing generosity and the support of our friends and donors in Canada, your support helps us to offer brighter futures for the Orphaned children in our care.

Special thanks go to the following (Without their dedication, the water project would not have become a reality):

- ♦ The Rotary Club of Calgary Stampede Park, Calgary and all its current members of the world community service committee.
- ♦ The Rotary Club of Calgary downtown and all its current members of the world community service committee.
- ♦ Canadian Western Bank- Calgary.
- ♦ Calgary Community Foundation
- ♦ All the kind individuals who have asked to remain anonymous.

THANK YOU

COMPLIMENTS

Rotary



**Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park**

Rotary
Club of Calgary
Downtown



**CALGARY
FOUNDATION**
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