ChildFund
Uganda



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

www.childfund.org



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ABBREVIATIONS

CAMEL	Comprehensive Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation
CBCP	Community-Based Child Protection
CPR	Child Progressive Report
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CFS	Child-Friendly Spaces
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EGMA	Early Grade Mathematics and Reading Assessments (EGRA)
EPW	Education for Protection and Wellbeing
FAAB	Farming as a business
FFS	Farmer Field School
FY24	Fiscal Year 24
HRIS	Human Resource Information System
IDEA	Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility
MFIs	Micro Finance Institutions
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
PTA	Parents and Teachers Association
PDM	Parish Development Model
PSEA	Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SMC	School Management Committees
SEL	Social Emotional Learning
SBS	Street Business School
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YDoS	Youth Day of Service

From THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

The past year has been a period of significant strategic consolidation of ChildFund Uganda's program portfolio with expanded reach and scope of the interventions delivered to children and their families. Our program reached an estimated 5,095,617 children at their families in 34 districts As we look to the future, we prioritize strengthening our resource base and acquisition efforts, quality interventions to enable more children and there families participate and benefit in our programs for lasting positive change.

Under the FY24, we secured additional **$877,350** in funding from esteemed partners such as Nutrition International, ChildFund Korea and DOW Chemicals. This funding supports our mission to deliver life-changing programs and services to vulnerable children and communities. in partnership with Longhorn Publishers Limited, the Country Program launched an early-grade literacy project across 72 primary schools, printing and distributing 14,400 readers at a joint cost of sh500m (approximately **$ 135,000**). This initiative plays a critical role in equipping children with foundational reading skills. This initiative is intended to continue and expand in scope to ensure more children's learning achievement.
Our collaboration with Davis and Shirtliff and Partners for Children Worldwide facilitated the installation of a solar-powered water project in Kapelebyong district. Launched in June 2024, this project, valued at sh130 million ($ 35,000), supplies clean water to over 5,000 children and community members across Kapelebyong and Amuria districts in Eastern Uganda, addressing an essential community need and supporting improved health outcomes.

We also invested in capacity-strengthening efforts of our local implementing partners. Throughout the year, we organized workshops focusing on governance, administration and management. Legal experts facilitated sessions for Board members on corporate governance, compliance with evolving laws such as the Anti-Money Laundering and Data Protection Acts, ensuring that our governance structures are robust for long-term sustainability.



This year, we celebrate the progress of sponsored children like Paul, Heron and Erisi, whose stories exemplify resilience and determination. With the support of our sponsors, these children have overcome significant challenges and their journey towards brighter futures is just beginning. As of FY24, 32,541 children were enrolled in our sponsorship program, with 76% (24,722) having individual sponsors.

ChildFund's advocacy efforts this year included key engagements with policy makers and influencers including with 34 Members of Parliament, key partners in the Joining Forces Coalition and leaders and technical advisors of different collaborative institutions, enabling the country office to continue to raise the needed increments of budgets to the child protection sector. In our community development efforts, we promoted savings and financial literacy through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). This year, 150 new groups were formed across three program areas, bringing the total to 661 groups with 17,621 members. The pooled savings of these groups amounted to sh2.16 billion ($ 576,550), enabling members to access affordable credit, with interest rates significantly lower than those offered by banks or microfinance institutions.

The achievements within FY24 would not have been possible without the dedication and resilience of our country office staff and local partners. Together, we are advancing our mission to provide a safe, supportive environment for every child in Uganda. As we reflect on our progress in 2023-24, we are determined to further deepen our impact, laying a solid foundation for sustainable development in the communities we serve.



MOSES OTAI

About ChildFund

ChildFund is an international child-focused development organization, a member of ChildFund Alliance; a global network of **11** organizations that assists over 36 million children in **70** countries.

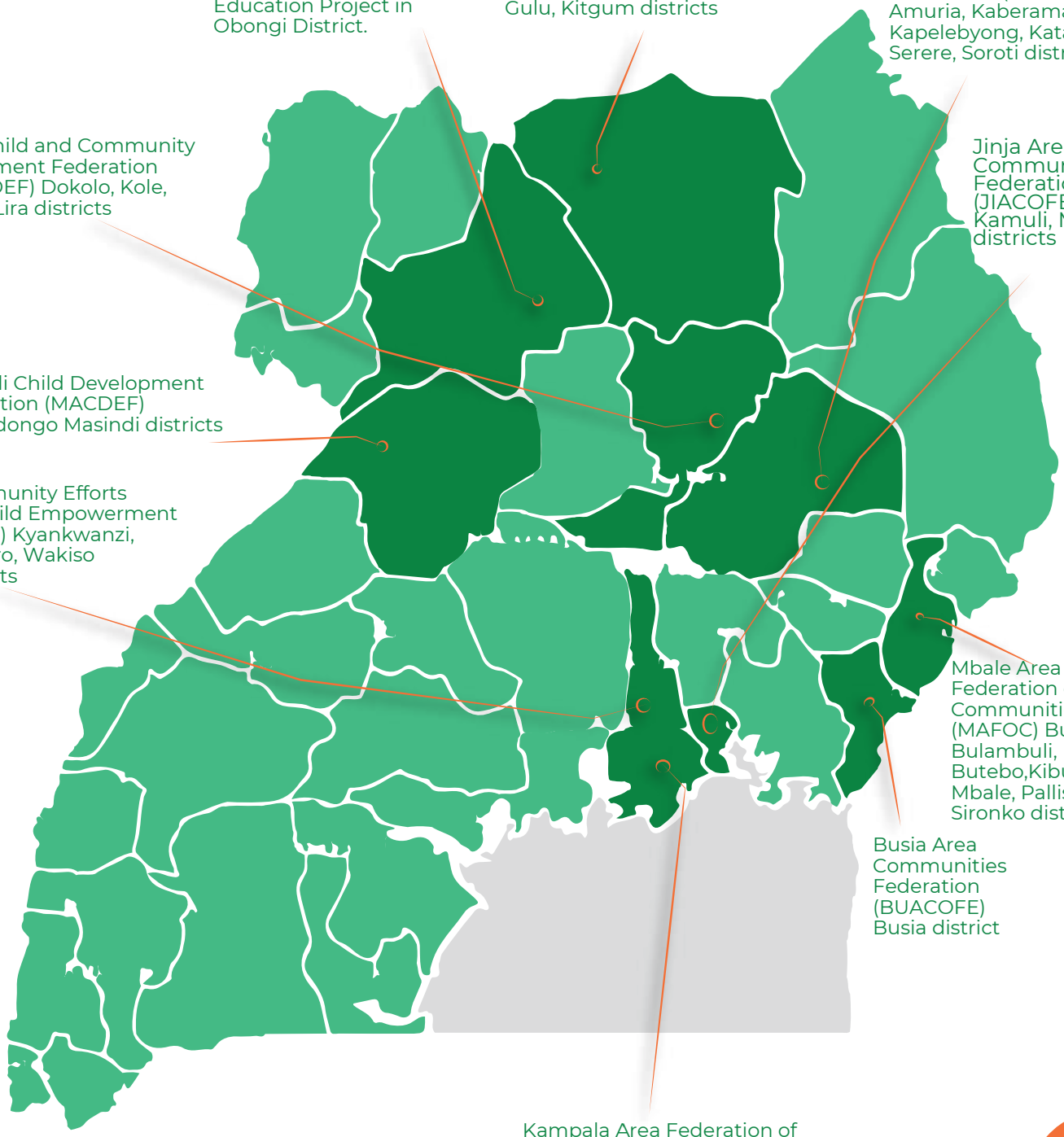
ChildFund has a presence in **9** countries in Africa: – Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Guinea and Mozambique.
In its program countries, ChildFund provides capacity strengthening support and sub-grants to local NGOs partners (Local Partners) so they can implement widespread, quality and sustainable child protection, health, education, early childhood development, emergency, economic strengthening and social development programs. These programs are consistent with the country's priorities and strategies.

In Uganda, ChildFund works through **9** implementing partners and with over **10** technical partner organizations to implement programs in over **34** districts, addressing underlying conditions that prevent children and youth from achieving their full potential. Our programs reached an estimated 5,095,617 children and their families in 34 districts.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Early Childhood Development
- Education
- Health and Nutrition
- Child Protection
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- Food Security
- Household Economic Strengthening
- Youth Engagement and Participation
- Emergency Response
- Climate Action
- Advocacy

AREAS OF OPERATION



FY24 HIGHLIGHTS

5 Million Children and Adults reached with various Interventions.

- **5,095,617** reached with various interventions remotely through several media channels.
- **21,413** Children and youth accessed different health services.
- **113,600** Children accessed basic education.
- **17,112** Children reached with ECD services.
- **21,351** Community members reached through child protection and advocacy interventions.
- **9,856** Youth accessed SRH, life skills, civic engagement and vocational skills.
- **17,621** Community members reached with economic empowerment initiatives.
- **32,541** children enrolled in the sponsorship program.
- **11,589** Children and adults reached with refugee response interventions.
- **5,262** caregivers participated in parenting initiatives.
- Areas of Operation: **34** Districts.
- Working with **9** local partners and 10 technical partner organizations.
- Financial Investment: **$5,991,302**
- Number of Country Office Staff: **44**

1 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD MILESTONES

The saying, “the early bird catches the worm” appropriately captures the essence of Early Childhood Development. Just as a bird that rises early reaps the benefits of its timely efforts, investing in a child’s development during their formative years lays the foundation for lifelong success. Our Early Childhood Development (ECD) program has provided a nurturing environment for children through a multifaceted approach that includes home-based care, center-based care and support for a smooth transition to primary schools. This initiative, implemented across Acholi, Lango, Masindi, Kiboga, Kampala, Jinja, Busia, Soroti and Mbale districts and sub regions, prioritizes health and nutrition services, caregiver empowerment, and early learning opportunities, ensuring that children are not only ready for school but also well-prepared for life.



1.1 CARE AND STIMULATION AT HOME

- 12 caregivers trained in Masodde (Kiboga district)
- 1,100 parents sensitized on child health, nutrition and cognitive stimulation
- 597 parents sensitized in Ibakara and Punena (Gulu district)

Achievement: Increased parental involvement in ECD activities and improved nutrition outcomes for children)

- 92 (12M, 80F) caregivers trained in financial literacy in Busiu-Mbale, Kadenge-Budaka & Nampanga-Sironko districts
- 330 caregivers trained on the same in Tecwaa and Masindi

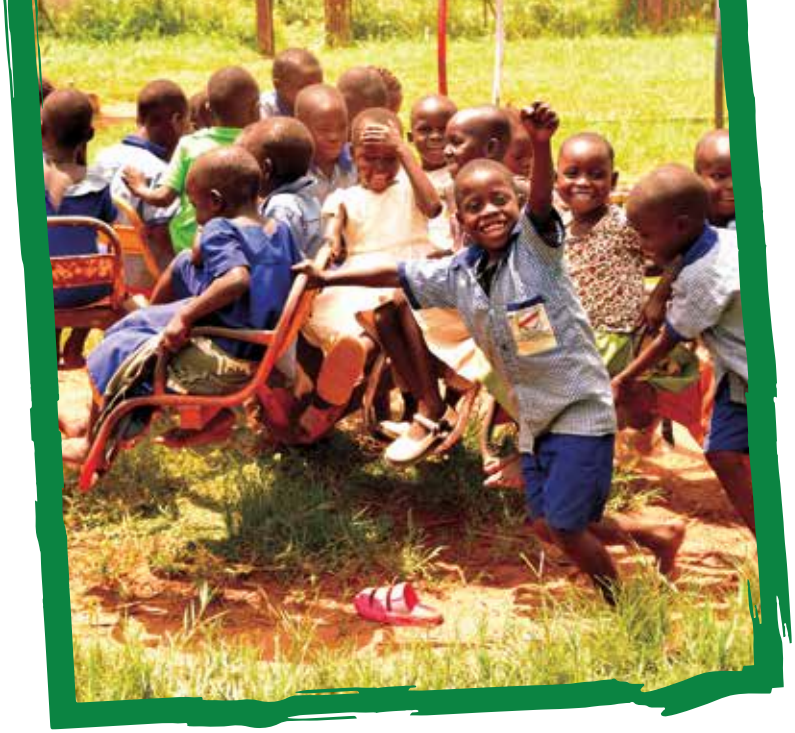
Achievement: Equipped with skills to manage household income, increased saving culture, income management for health and education needs.

- 198 households received unconditional cash transfers)

Achievement: Met essential family needs thus improving the financial resilience of caregivers.

- 2,406 (886M, 1,520F) participants in 8 communities screened for a range of health matters including malaria testing, deworming, and routine physical check-ups.

Achievement: Timely referrals for children with severe health conditions. In Acenlworo, Kwania District, for instance, a child with a disability received a wheelchair, greatly improving their quality of life.





In ECD Centres

The transition of children from ECD Centres to primary schools underscores our commitment to equip them with tools and the mindset to thrive in the next phase of their educational and personal lives. Over and above, access to early learning opportunities for children under 5 improved from 90% to 95% in 2023 , 2024 respectively.

Target: Children of 3-6 years 250 children (134 boys, 126 girls) registered in ECD centres in Masodde, Kiyuuni, and Butemba in Kyangwanzi and Wakiso districts.

Achievement: Improved learning outcomes for both children and teachers

Sh21.3m($ 5,732) worth of food items contributed to Punena and Ibakara communities

Achievement: Supported feeding programs resulting in better nutrition.

2,572 children (1,448 girls, 1,205 boys), participated in six integrated health outreaches that provided medical screening and deworming services in the communities of Buwaaya, Buwenge and Kamuli and in the districts of Mayuge, Kamuli and Jinja.

Achievement: Increased enrolment from 75 to 203 children

Classroom renovations across 17 ECD centers in Mazimasa, Simu, Bugusege communities located in Butaleja and Sironko districts respectively.Classroom renovations at Apwori ECD in Kwania district

Achievement: 567 children successfully transitioned to primary schools. Training of 54 caregivers (40F, 14M) on ECD learning framework.

1.2 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Improvement Project

ChildFund continued to implement an Early Childhood Development (ECD) project in Busia District, funded by ChildFund Korea, focusing on children aged 0-8 years. This transformative project targeted 6 lower Local Governments and aimed to achieve two primary outcomes: equipping caregivers with the skills and resources for responsive, protective parenting, and increasing access to quality ECD services.

The project directly benefited 2,995 children by improving infrastructure, resources, and the overall quality of learning in ECD centers. At the conclusion of the 3-year project, an evaluation revealed key results:

- Strengthened engagements between communities and government reflected in increased caregiver participation in early stimulation activities and enhanced knowledge of nurturing care among government officials.
- Integration of responsive parenting with economic strengthening initiatives thus advancing early childhood development.
- Strengthened family support systems thus significantly contributing to educational and emotional growth of young children in Busia District.
- Increased positive parenting practices which rose from 54.6% to 94.8%.
- Rise in household monthly incomes nearly tripling from $14.7 to $38.3 thus empowering families to support their children's education.
- Increased access to quality home-based ECD services among children aged 0-3 from 15% to 86.8%.
- Increased access to Centre-based ECD services among 3-5 years from 43.2% to 96.3%
- Increased transition among children from ECD Centres/Pre-school to Primary One from 23.4% to 98.6%.

2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The goal of Uganda's health sector strategic plan 2021/2022-2024/2025 is to strengthen the health system and its support mechanisms with a focus on Primary Health Care to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030. 75% of Uganda's disease burden can be prevented through health promotion and disease prevention.

In FY24, ChildFund Uganda provided medical screening services to over 21,413 children and young people, resulting in 198 children receiving specialized care at various health institutions, including CORSU Entebbe, Cure Children's Hospital, and Mengo Hospital, among others.

To combat malaria and malnutrition, particularly among children under 5, ChildFund implemented targeted community-based health interventions in areas such as Kampala-Biina and Lango Sub Region (Amuda, Acenlworo, Telela, Ikwera, and Apyen-nyang).



Achievements

10 acutely malnourished children identified and given therapeutic feeding supplements

240 children were rehabilitated through appropriate feeding practices

2,579 mosquito nets distributed during health teams outreach activities in close collaboration with the district health

Access to essential health and nutrition improved from ***84%*** to ***93%*** among children under five in 2023 and 2024 respectively.



3 ADVANCING LITERACY AND NUMERACY SKILLS

Through a holistic approach, ChildFund worked to improve both the academic outcomes and overall well-being of children aged 6 to 14 years, targeting a 15% increase in literacy and numeracy skills.

3,678 learners in Mbale, Masindi, Lango and Busia communities reached with literacy and numeracy remedial lessons.

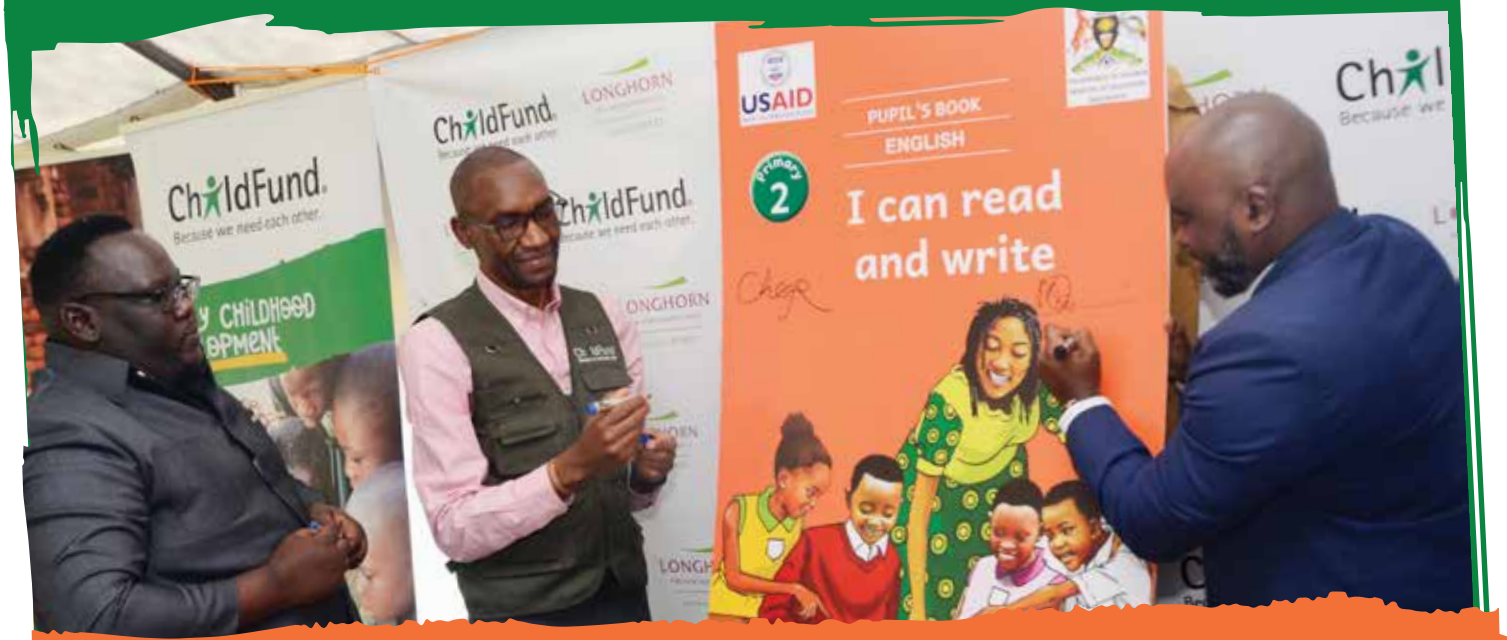
8,304 learners across 52 schools in Acholi, Busia, Kiboga, Soroti, Lango, and Jinja districts engaged in competence based activities.

8,425 learners in 45 schools in Kampala, Kiboga, Lango, Masindi, and Mbale districts, reached with learning materials.

Project spotlight

Enhancing Early-Grade Literacy: ChildFund Uganda's Partnership with Longhorn Publishers

ChildFund partnered with Longhorn Publishers in a strategic initiative to enhance literacy among early-grade learners in Uganda. The collaboration involved printing and distributing children's books and supplementary readers to 76 supported primary schools. This initiative aimed to improve reading skills, foster comprehension, and ultimately enhance learning capabilities. A total of 15,400 children's books were produced and delivered, primarily benefiting schools in rural areas.



From left to right Otai, Chege Ngugi the ChildFund Africa Regional Director and Maxwell Wahome, the Group Director of Longhorn Publishers, during the launch of the partnership in Kampala

2.2 Education Stakeholder Capacity Development

Teacher capacity development: Teacher training is essential in improving classroom instruction. A total of 717 teachers from the districts of Acholi, Busia, Kiboga, Kampala, Masindi, Mbale, and Soroti were trained in Early Grade Mathematics and Reading Assessments (EGMA and EGRA), equipping them to deliver more effective lessons. Additionally, academic competitions and literacy events involving over 1,770 pupils encouraged critical thinking and academic achievement. Together, these initiatives have significantly boosted learners' foundational literacy and numeracy skills, positioning the program to achieve a 15% improvement in these crucial areas.

Strengthening School Governance and Safe Learning Enviroment : School governance has improved through 2,667 PTA and School Management Committee (SMC) meetings held in Soroti, Masindi, Lango, and Acholi districts, where stakeholders tackled key issues such as school attendance, resource mobilization, and safety protocols. These efforts were reinforced by teacher training programs that equipped 1,588 educators in Kiboga, Jinja, Kampala, Lango, Soroti, and Mbale districts with skills in psychosocial support, social-emotional learning (SEL), and non-violent disciplinary approaches. Together, these initiatives ensure that children learn in safe, supportive environments while gaining essential life skills for their overall development.

2.3 Conducive learning environments

Creating safer and more supportive learning environments has been a central focus, emphasizing improvements in school infrastructure, hygiene, health and teacher-student interaction



Distribution of 40 and 120 iron sheets to Karasaliya Primary School in Masindi and Aderolongo Primary School in Lango respectively.



Renovation of the Pageya Primary School library in Acholi, directly benefiting 650 students.



Construction of a 3-stance pit latrine at Musunga Primary School in Mbale, significantly enhancing sanitation and health conditions.



Incorporating health services into the education framework thus providing critical interventions to 6,469 children in Jinja, Masindi, Mbale, Kiboga, and Acholi.



Violence prevention and school safety dialogues engaged 5,304 participants across Mbale, Masindi, Jinja, and Kiboga, promoting safer schools through active community involvement.



Proportion of children who considered schools being a safe place improved from 93% to 98% in 2023 and 2024 respectively.



Proportion of children in Primary Seven who stayed in school up to examination improved from 91% to 97% in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

Collectively, in 2023, a total of 721 children sat for Primary Leaving Examinations. Out of these, 77% of them scored Aggregate 28 and below, which is the threshold for entry into Senior One on Government sponsorship under the Universal Secondary Education Program. This was an improvement from 60% in 2022.

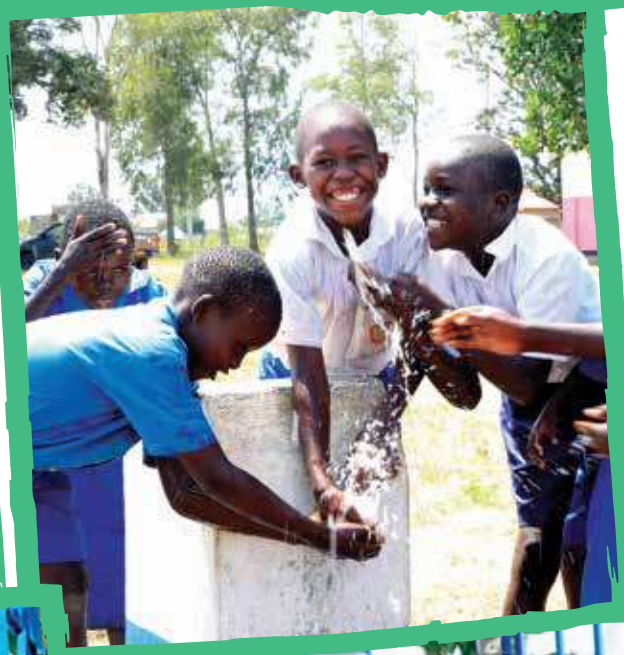
4 WASH for All: Enhancing Water and Sanitation Systems

Teso sub-region, one of Uganda's drought-prone areas, faces significant water scarcity risks for most of its population. It is against this background that in FY24, ChildFund Uganda, in partnership with Davis & Shirtliff, implemented a solar-powered Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project in Amuria District.

Achievements

- Clean water for drinking to 1,200 pupils at Akore Primary School
- Clean water for drinking to 1,200 pupils at Akore Primary School









In a similar initiative, ChildFund drilled and installed a deep-water borehole in Kasomoro village, Pakanyi sub-county, Masindi district. This facility directly serves a total of 120 households. This translates to a total of 720 individuals, 423 of whom are females and 297 males

Project spotlight

Education for Protection and Wellbeing Program

The Education for Protection and Wellbeing (EPW) program, implemented in Bishop Hannington and Luubu primary schools in Mayuge District, has significantly contributed to creating safer and more supportive environments for 410 children, 30 teachers and 410 caregivers. This initiative focuses on improving learning outcomes and protecting children aged 6-12 through a comprehensive approach that engages students, educators, caregivers and the broader school community.

Central to the EPW program is its emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), self-protection lessons and community involvement to prevent violence both within and beyond the classroom.

Over 13 SEL sessions, 439 pupils (254 girls and 185 boys) in grades 4 and 5 engaged in activities that reduced violence, fostered empathy and enhanced communication skills. Teachers reported marked improvements in student behaviour, reflecting the program's positive impact. In tandem with student-focused activities, the program enhanced educators' skills in positive discipline and violence prevention. Four training sessions on classroom management techniques were conducted with 29 teachers, equipping them with strategies to promote harmonious learning environments. These sessions encouraged teachers to set clear expectations while using constructive feedback to address behavioral issues without resorting to corporal punishment.

The EPW program also recognized the crucial role of caregivers in violence prevention and child well-being. Six caregiver sessions with 410 caregivers focused on positive parenting and reducing risky behaviours in both school and home settings. Caregivers reported feeling more empowered and engaged in their children's education, with one parent remarking



"This program has been transformative for both me as a teacher and the children I work with. Shy children are now more comfortable sharing their feelings with me, and they have learned to recognize safe and unsafe situations. We involve them in various activities, both in and out of the classroom, such as storytelling and stress-relief games. They have also developed the ability to resolve conflicts with their peers and they now play and share with one another harmoniously."

Martha Eronda,
Teacher Luubu Primary School



"The EPW program has greatly improved my social interaction with my learners. They now feel comfortable sharing their personal challenges, including issues at home, which has strengthened our connection. Through social-emotional learning techniques, I have enhanced my teaching approach. For instance, before starting a lesson, I hold a "circle time" session—a practice that helps learners improve their mood and readiness to learn effectively

Doreen Akoth, Teacher
Bishop Hannington Primary School

Participants Speak Out



"This program has taught me to manage my temper. I used to be harsh, but now I've learned to stay calm and truly listen to my child. Our conversations are more open and respectful. I've also realized that, as a parent, I play a vital role in my child's life both at home and at school. As a result, my child is now more at peace and feels comfortable sharing anything with me, which brings me great joy.

Harriet Nakayiwa, Parent



"I want to talk about a safe environment for children. When I leave school back home and meet strangers on the way offering me gifts to eat, I completely reject them.

Susan, 10 years, Primary Three



"I want to talk about a safe space. If someone meets you and deceives you with something to eat or if they offer you a lift. Never accept. This is because they may have ill motives. If it is a girl, they may want to rape you and if it is a boy, he may kidnap you or offer you as a sacrifice. You have to say no and share this with an adult and tell them you rejected their advances.

Innocent, 10 years, Primary Three



"The Education for Protection and Wellbeing program has been incredibly beneficial, offering us alternative methods of discipline. For instance, if a learner misbehaves in class, we might ask them to stand for a few minutes, solve extra problems if they are idle, or help clean the school compound. We no longer resort to caning. We are deeply grateful to those who introduced this program to our school.

Elukan Wetonyi, Teacher, Bishop Hannington

5 UNLOCKING YOUTH POTENTIAL

We deliver tailored programs for adolescents and youth aged 15-24 years aiming at improving access to employment opportunities, active participation/engagement and health.

5.1 Skills for Life Achievements

2,448 (1,160M 1,288F) youth both in and out of school, trained in career guidance and life planning lessons by teachers, tutors and private sector counsellors in schools and community spaces.

Gained knowledge in professional career and business development paths, financial literacy, Sexual Reproductive Health, decision-making and resilient living.

Practical skills gained in making: Liquid soap, bar soap, wax candles, reusable sanitary pads, jewelry and chalk.

601 youth (210M, 391F) developed business plans for self-help initiatives and were supported with micro grants of sh500,000-sh1,000,000 ($135-$270) to start group enterprises. They will be monitored in FY25 to ensure they earn income from the acquired skills.

5.2 Honouring Skilled Graduates

As a way of responding to the country's unemployment problem, we supported technical and vocational skilling for a total of 495 (195M, 300F) youth. These were in various trades including agronomy, motor vehicle mechanics, beauty salon and cosmetology, tailoring and design, metal fabrication, brick-laying and concrete practice, electrical installation, carpentry and joinery, crafts making, among others.



A section of youth from BUACOFE jubilate after attaining certificates in a range of vocational skills

Achievement:

A follow up analysis indicates that 410 (83%) out of the 495 youth who completed their vocational skills training are already employed and making money to cater for their families.

The table below shows a gender representation of youth trained in various skill sets

SN	Vocation	Male	Female	Total
1	Crop & Animal Husbandry	68	45	113
2	Motor Vehicle Mechanics	17	0	17
3	Motorcycle Mechanics	26	0	26
4	Tailoring and Design	16	137	153
5	Metal Fabrication	9	0	9
6	Carpentry and Joinery	7	0	7
7	Electrical Installation	7	3	10
8	Beauty Salon and cosmetology	6	73	79
9	Brick Laying & Concrete Practice	14	2	16
10	Crafts Making & Garment Cutting	8	13	21
11	Catering and Hotel Management	12	18	30
12	Baking and Confectionery	5	9	14
	Total	**195**	**300**	**495**

5.3 Active Civic Participation

We believe in meaningful involvement of children and youth in all stages of program development. Through our nine implementing partners, a total of 9,856 young people actively participated in civic life. Key initiatives included the Youth Day of Service (YDoS), promoting responsible citizenship; sports galas, which combined leisure with life skills messaging shared among peers before and during events; the Voice Now initiative, empowering youth to advocate for their development; Youth-Adult Partnerships, fostering positive relationships between generations and peer education, where young people encouraged each other to embrace responsible living.

See table below

Gender	Youth Day of Service	Games and sports	Voice Now	Youth-Adult partnership	Peer Education	Total
Male	470	784	669	66	2,952	4,941
Female	334	683	810	110	2,978	4,915
Total	804	1,467	1,479	176	5,930	9,856

5.4 Sexual Reproductive Health

ChildFund used a range of mobilisation channels including radio talk shows and community volunteers, to provide young people with information on adolescents sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. This empowered them to adopt healthier behaviours and make informed sexual choices. These platforms allowed young people to ask questions, dispelling myths and misconceptions they previously held.

6,223 adolescents and youth (2,897M, 3,326F) accessed comprehensive SRH services across communities, schools, and health facilities.

Obtained knowledge on growth and development, STD/STI prevention and management, drug abuse,peer pressure, teenage pregnancy, and contraception methodsand health facilities.

Testing and treatment on HIV, STI/STD, HCG, Family planning, and cancer prevention agement, drug abuse,

823 adolescent girls trained to make reusable sanitary pads in Busia and Jinja Districts.

Additionally, 4,451 parents and caregivers participated in dialogues aimed at enhancing community-based interventions to improve SRH outcomes for youth, particularly in Masindi and Kiryandongo districts. These intergenerational dialogues were instrumental in fostering role modelling and encouraging the adoption of appropriate SRH behaviours.



A new maternity block at Apwori Health Center III in Kwania District was constructed by ChildFund under its local partner organization, LACCODEF. The stand-alone maternity block was installed with operating equipment and beds to enable mothers deliver safely.

6 BUILDING SECURE LIVELIHOODS

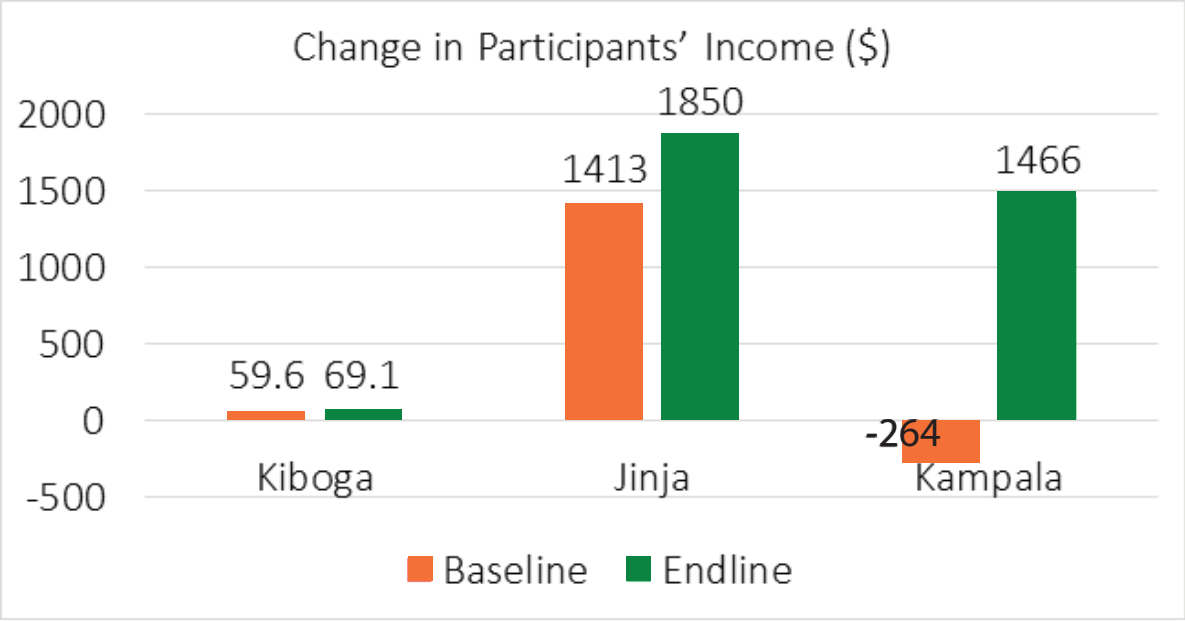
As part of efforts to contribute to poverty eradication and zero hunger in Uganda, we aligned several interventions as pathways to achieving this goal as follows:

6.1 Entrepreneurship and business development.

A pilot coaching model dubbed, "Street Business School (SBS)" was conducted, achieving promising outcomes for women and youth entrepreneurs in the program areas of Kampala, Jinja and Kiboga. Participants were selected and trained with SBS-certified coaches for 4 to 6 months, depending on session frequency. The training covered mindset transformation, business planning, customer care, market research, value addition, and financial literacy.

The participants experienced a rapid and positive return on investment, with those in Kampala recovering from losses and turning profits within three months of graduation. Additionally, 84% of participants had successfully established businesses within three months of completing the coaching program. In the rural Kiboga program area, where the approach was newly introduced, participants achieved a 16% increase in their monthly income over three months (December to February). The groups were predominantly female, as women are more receptive to development initiatives and often bear the primary economic responsibilities for their families.

The graph below indicates how business performance improved from baseline before the SBS approach was introduced.





"Before joining the SBS training, I was selling my crafts at a give-away price, and I heavily depended on middlemen for market, but they cheated me. I did not even know whether I was making losses because I never kept records. I felt the pinch when the cost of raw materials increased and I realized I could no longer afford stock.With the support of ChildFund, I now keep business records and can predict whether I will make losses or profits. I have access to on-line markets through our WhatsApp business group. I sell both baskets and mats at the same cost, ranging from Sh100,000-Sh150,000 ($27-40). The only challenge is that the sales are seasonal. There are three sales seasons and a good season earns me profit of over Sh1,000,000 ($ 267), which I use to meet the basic needs of my eight orphaned grandchildren. I also save up to Sh500,000 ($133.33) per season. I am forever grateful to ChildFund."

Rafa Ahmed



ChildFund Uganda's Programs and Sponsorship Director, Dr Charlse Luwaga and KAFOC's Program Manager Prossie Maraka Inspect some of the exibits made by SBS participants

6.2 Harvesting Money

Food security and income is one of the sustainable community resilience mechanisms. To this effect, a total of 2,271 households (929M:1342F) were supported with skills in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Farming as a business (FAAB). The training was conducted by agricultural extension workers, commercial workers and identified private sector actors at community level for 3 weeks. Key topics included integrated disease and pest control, making organic fertilizers, crop nursing, post-harvest management, market search and value addition. Thereafter, a monthly on-the-farm-mentorship was done using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach.

Participants in 6 program areas of Kiboga, Mbale, Busia, Masindi, Lango and Soroti were given seed capital for both crop and animal inputs, such as maize, sim-sim, soybean, ground nuts, green vegetables, piglets, heifers, goats, sheep and poultry.

An evaluation of the 3 year "Resilient Livelihoods" project implemented in four Districts of Katakwi, Serere, Amuria/Kapelebyong and Dokolo with funding from BMZ Germany achieved the following results:

- 37% increase in participant household income by sh42,600.
- Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture practices increased. from 2% in 2021 to 61% in 2023
- A 21% and 32% increase in and crop yield per acre of soyabeans and groundnuts respectively.

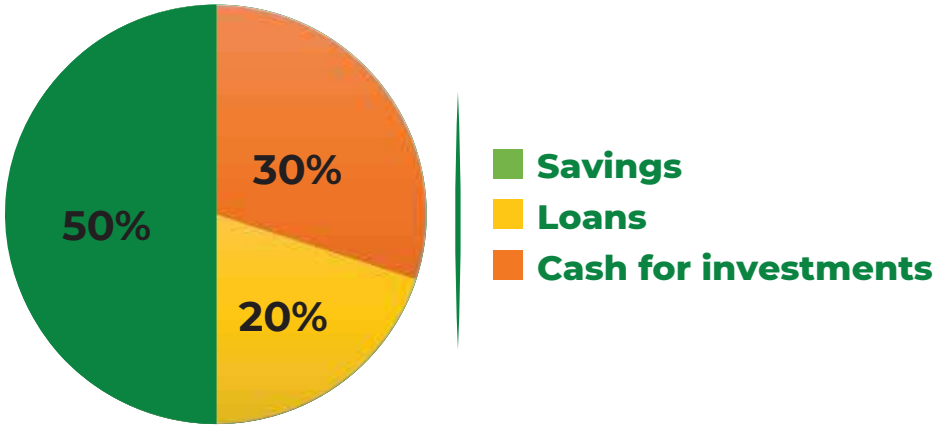
"

I received one goat that subsequently multiplied to ten. I want to exchange the goats for a heifer to secure funds to further my daughter's education.

Florence Aima, Participant

We envision a community where caregivers and young people build assets through savings, financial literacy and access to affordable credit. This year, efforts focused on promoting VSLAs and financial literacy. As a result, 150 new groups were established in the Kiboga, Busia and Masindi program areas, bringing the total to 661 groups across the nine program areas. These groups collectively involved 17,621 members (4,756 men and 12,865 women).

VSLA performance across the 9 program areas



Consequently, the groups' pooled savings amounted to sh2,162,063,500 (equivalent to $576,550). Loan cash outs amounted to sh1,081,031,650 (equivalent to $288,275), cash shared out was sh432,413,660 (equivalent to $115,310) and pooled investment cash amounted to sh648,618,990 (equivalent to $172,965).

The VSL intervention has sustained access to affordable credit, with interest rates as low as 5% per cycle, compared to 15%-28% from commercial banks and microfinance institutions for the same duration, thus enabling members to meet the basic needs of their households. ChildFund and her implementing partners will be supporting the VSLA groups to invest their surplus, so that they grow into registered cooperatives/SACCOs. Currently, only 15 groups in Busia District are successfully linked to MFIs and PDM for affordable finance



Group combined savings ***sh2,162,063,500 ($576,550)***
Loan disbursements ***sh1,081,031,650 ($288,275)***
Cash shared among members ***sh432,413,660 ($115,310)***
Pooled investment funds ***sh648,618,990 ($172,965)***

The VSLA initiative has provided sustained access to affordable credit, offering interest rates as low as 5% per cycle, compared to the 15%-28% charged by commercial banks and microfinance institutions for similar durations. This affordability has enabled members to meet essential household needs. We are working to support VSLA groups in investing their surplus funds to transition into registered cooperatives or SACCOs. Currently, only 15 groups in the Busia program area have successfully linked with MFIs and PDM for affordable financing options.

Partner	Groups	Male	Female	Total	Savings (UGX)
JIACOFE	126	250	2875	3,125	504,000,000
KAFOC	19	88	491	579	171,343,000
PfCW	101	823	1,758	2,581	299,750,500
BUACOFE	138	692	2,530	3,222	805,000,000
MAFOC	47	397	883	1,280	162,166,500
LACCODEF	33	495	797	1,292	118,589,000
ACFP	72	835	1,455	2,290	120,000,000
CECE	75	863	925	1,788	187,279,000
MACDEF	50	313	1151	1,464	93,686,000
Total	**661**	**4756**	**12,865**	**1,7621**	**2,162,063,500**

7

CHILD PROTECTION & ADVOCACY

Children constitute 50% of Uganda's population, according to the 2024 National Population Census. However, they continue to face various vulnerabilities that hinder their development. To address this, we have implemented initiatives aimed at preventing and protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Our efforts focused on strengthening community-based child protection systems, fostering connections between child protection actors and local communities, promoting children's participation, encouraging positive child protection behaviors and engaging in advocacy.

Highlights

Local Partners involved: PFCW, MAFOC, LACCODEF and BUACOFE

56 Number of Child Protection meetings conducted

Location of meetings: district and subcounty levels.

418 (286 M, 132 W) stakeholders engaged

Participants Targeted: Local Council representatives, district officers, police, political and religious leaders and parish chiefs.

Topic of discussions: Drug abuse, child marriage, and prostitution in urban areas.

Commitments made: Improving case management, referral systems, safeguarding, and raising awareness about children's laws and the national toll-free helpline.

100 (52M, 48F) Staff, volunteers, teachers and board members trained on child protection concerns

92 (40M, 52F) Pupils, teachers and parent committee members trained on good school approach to create a conducive environment for children within school

1,667 (714M, 953F) Violence Against Children cases reported and supported

Major cases reported: Abandonment, defilement, teenage pregnancies, denial of the right to education, child neglect, physical abuse, children in conflict with the law, child labour, drug abuse, incest, domestic violence among others.

Solution: Support to children and families including psychosocial support, immediate needs including basic needs, referred to health facilities for treatment, enrolled for skills training and their cases effectively followed up

Achievements:

Children were reunited with the families thus promoting harmony within families.

The proportion of children and caregivers who know where to report child abuse cases increased from 91% to 98%

The proportion of children and caregivers who feel the community is often safe for children improved from 55% to 94% in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

7.2 Child Participation through Child Friendly Accountability

We engage children in Child-Friendly Accountability mechanisms to support them to actively participate in monitoring and improving child protection systems, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are upheld in decisions that affect their lives.



Ritah from KAFOC presenting the children's position paper on child participation to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa and the State Minister for children and youth affairs Hon. Balaam Barugahara

Participants Trained & Supported	1,125 children (531M, 594F) 68 teachers (27M, 41F) 17 staff (6M, 11F) 83 duty-bearers (41M, 42F)
Stakeholders Involved	Duty bearers Probation Officers Community Development Officers Teachers Parents Local Council Chairpersons Religious and Opinion leaders
Community impact	Reached 301 children (110M, 191F) Reached 1,237 community members (597M, 640F) Duty-bearers committed to addressing child protection issues. Stakeholders pledged to champion efforts against harmful practices. Children vowed to follow up with duty-bearers for sustainable solutions.

7.3 Child Protection Financing

Engagements with duty bearers

We convened a meeting with 34 Members of Parliament, 12 Joining Forces Coalition members (Save the Children, Terre Des Hommes, World Vision, SOS Children's Villages), MGLSD officials and the media to advocate for increased investment in child well-being and protection.

Commitment: MPs reviewed evidence and committed to ensuring children's priorities are included in the budget and to challenging the framework if it fails to address child protection needs.



We supported the dissemination of the National Strategy to End Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancy in Kamuli and Mbale. This was in partnership with MGLSD. The strategy, the first of its kind in Uganda, aims to eliminate child marriage and teenage pregnancy by strengthening child protection, enforcing laws, and promoting social and cultural norm change, providing a unified framework for the national response.

ChildFund supported Government in reviewing the National Child Participation Strategy, which expired in 2022. The review evaluated the strategy's achievements, challenges and impact, including factors influencing its implementation, the relevance of its priorities and the effectiveness of partnerships and monitoring systems. It also identified good practices and provided strategic recommendations to enhance child participation at national and sub-national levels.

Engagements with Partners and CSOs

Working in partnership with the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), we strengthened the capacity of our implementing partners and Local Governments to advocate for child protection financing. This was held in 5 districts of Kiryandongo, Kyankwanzi, Dokolo, Mbale and Busia.

Output: ChildFund developed a training manual used in 10 budget advocacy sessions for 115 stakeholders (64M, 51F) from local governments and civil society. The trainings focused on planning, budgeting and advocacy for increased child protection funding, leading to action plans emphasizing documentation, budget analysis, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and the development of monitoring tools.

7.4 Commemoration of the Day of the African Child

ChildFund participated in the 2024 Day of the African Child commemoration in Kiryandongo, themed “Education for children in Africa: the time is now.” Pre-event dialogues engaged 803 community members (286M, 517F) to address barriers to education, including classroom congestion, lack of supplies, teacher shortages, school violence and drug abuse. Children voiced their concerns, while government representatives pledged solutions such as recruiting teachers, implementing the new curriculum, providing grants and promoting psychosocial support. The event emphasized collaboration to improve education access and quality. Stakeholders, including the African Committee of Experts, shared progress and challenges in ensuring every child’s right to education. Two children presented a statement to the AU delegation on behalf of their peers.





7.5 Building Resilience and Protection Mechanisms in Palorinya Refugee Settlement

This was a two-year project which ended in December 2023. The project also sustained three Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) within Zone 3 reaching 788 (351M:337) children

Achievements:

291 CBCPM members (185M, 63F) trained on child abuse prevention and response

11,589 community members (6,620M, 4,969F) reached in Zone 3, Palorinya Refugee Settlement.

250 children (150M, 100F) given material support to improve their living conditions.

512(313M, 199F) parents reached with six parenting sessions across all three CFSs.

563–788 children participated in group activities daily.

Community capacity to prevent and respond to child protection risks increased from ***46% to 78%.***

Psychosocial stability improved from ***16.3% to 38.3%*** by project end.

3800 fruit trees and 50 flowers planted by CBCP, CFS members, parents and children.

8 SYNERGIES FOR SUCCESS

8.1 Ongoing Partnerships

We doubled efforts to increase resource acquisition during the year. Key achievements included securing funding from Nutrition International, ChildFund Korea and Dow Chemical, resulting in a total of $ 877,350. The goal is to strengthen pipeline development, positioning the organization strategically by engaging with potential donors, enhancing business intelligence and improving donor retention strategies to secure long-term, multi-year support for our programs

Our partnership with Longhorn Publishers Limited focuses on improving early grade reading in 72 primary schools, mostly in rural settings. The project is worth sh500million ($135,000) with both parties covering 50% of the expenses.

We also partnered with Davis & Shirtliff in a project worth sh130million ($35,000), that saw the installation of a solar powered water facility in Akore Town Council, Kapelebyong district. The facility serves over 5,000 residents in both Kapelebyong and neighbouring Amuria district.

In partnership with Street Business School (SBS), ChildFund piloted an entrepreneurship curriculum with three local partners: KAFOC, CECE and JIACOFE. This innovative program challenges stereotypes, builds confidence, teaches practical business skills, and provides coaching, supporting vulnerable communities to start and grow small businesses for sustainable livelihoods.

8.2 Local Partner Capacity Strengthening

Throughout the year, ChildFund organized training sessions for its partners, focusing on Governance, Administration and Management.

Notably, legal and corporate governance experts were engaged to orient Board members on the governance of indigenous nonprofits and evolving legal requirements. Topics covered included board roles in governance, the anti-money laundering act and the data protection act, enhancing board members' understanding of legal dynamics for business continuity and growth.



We supported our nine local partners with technical and financial resources to implement programs aligned with the strategy of reaching 100 million children and families. The performance-based funding model promoted accountability, competition and innovation. We also introduced the new Comprehensive Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation (CAMEL) system, providing real-time data and eliminating the need for physical report submissions.
An annual partnership review with all 9 local partner boards and management was held to assess partnership efficiency and effectiveness. A mid-year program quality reflection session was also conducted, where progress, challenges, lessons and best practices were discussed, before necessary realignments were made.



9

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CHILD SPONSORSHIP

The power of sponsorship cannot be underestimated. A single hand that gives has the potential to completely transform a life, creating opportunities and opening doors that might otherwise have remained closed. Through sponsorship, children in need can reach their full potential, overcome challenges and pursue brighter futures. It is against this background that we shine light on three sponsored children who have hit personal milestones within this financial year. Whereas their dreams are far from over, they are certainly not where they used to be and are aiming to reach for the stars with the support gained thus far.

Highlights

32,541 Children are enrolled in the Sponsorship Program. 76% (24,722) have individual sponsors.

Child File Digitalization: Microsoft OneDrive implemented in 31 communities, up from 16, across 9 Local Partners	**Benefits** Reduced storage costs. Lower risk of data loss or damage. Secure access for authorized users.
Magic Adventure Application 91,442 Correspondences sent by children to sponsors. Average response time: 16.07 hours	**Benefits** Increased correspondence frequency. Stronger child-sponsor connections. Improved sponsor retention
Digitalized child monitoring Improving child wellbeing with Kobo Collect	**Benefits** Real-time data enhances program planning. Improved accountability for child presence. 25,000 enrolled children visited at least once per quarter.
Digital Child Progress Report Share annual updates from children to sponsors about significant life changes	**Benefits** Savings on printing and postage costs. Increased efficiency in CPR processing.



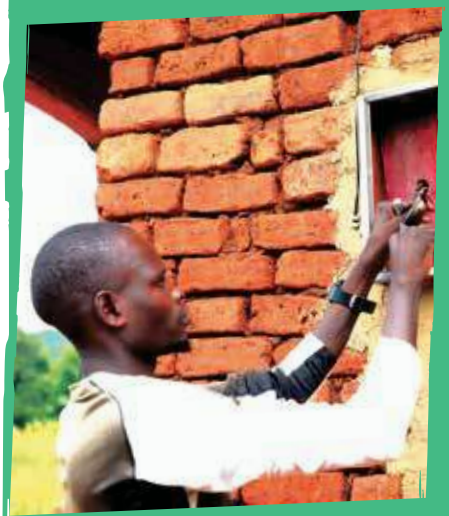
SPARKING CHANGE THROUGH ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Paul,24, joined the ChildFund family as a sponsored child, 18 years ago. His parents, though alive and supportive, struggled to make ends meet through subsistence farming, with an annual income of less than $100 (approximately sh370,000). This was barely enough to sustain the family. However, life took a better turn when he was enrolled into the organization's sponsorship program in the Imanyiro Community, Mayuge District in 2006. The support from his sponsor enabled him to complete his Senior Four education in 2015. Having completed Ordinary Level, Paul, through our Local Partner JIACOFE, enrolled in youth training programs where he gained essential life skills, career guidance, financial literacy and vocational training.
Determined to build a career, Paul enrolled in a six-months electrical installation course at Nile Vocational Technical Institute and upon graduation, he received a set of startup tools that became the foundation of his current trade.









In 2020, he joined UMEME, Uganda's main electricity distribution company, as an apprentice under the Government's rural electrification program in Mayuge. Through hard work and discipline, he saved part of his earnings and built a modest house. Paul's skills and dedication soon gained him the trust of his community, where he now offers domestic wiring and installation services. On average, he earns $107 (approximately sh400,000 monthly), which he uses to support his parents and siblings while saving $2.67 (approximately sh10,000) weekly in a local youth savings and loan association. He has also expanded his income base by investing in a popcorn machine to supplement his earnings.Today, Paul serves as a community-based trainer under the Nile Vocational Technical Institute outreach program, mentoring seven youth in electrical installation over a four-month period. Each trainee pays $40.38 (sh150,000) for his guidance. "Securing a qualification in electrical installation, thanks to my sponsor, has changed my life," he says. His work with various companies has honed his problem-solving and customer care skills. When not busy with work, he enjoys traveling to explore new places.With his savings, Paul plans to establish a retail electronics shop to cater to the increasing demand in his community.



ERISI'S JOURNEY TO A CAREER IN HEALTH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Enrolled in the ChildFund sponsorship program in 2003, Erisi's family was initially vulnerable and struggling to make ends meet. Through the program, her parents were introduced to Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), received agricultural training and were provided with maize seedlings. This kickstarted extensive farming activities for them. The family invested wisely, purchasing goats that multiplied over time and eventually allowed them to acquire a Friesian cow. These resources, combined with their growing income, enabled them to expand their small retail shop into a wholesale business. Throughout her education, Erisi now 25, benefited directly from her sponsor's support, which covered her school fees and eased her family's financial burden. In 2013, ChildFund provided financial assistance for income-generating activities, further boosting her family's business and significantly improving their livelihood. After completing Senior Six, Erisi faced the daunting challenge of financing her dream of becoming a healthcare professional. Her parents, rice farmers in Namayira, Kamuli District, stepped up by selling part of their harvest and using profits from their wholesale shop to enrol her at St. Francis School of Nursing and Midwifery. In 2023, she completed her studies in medical records and health informatics and graduated in January 2024. Erisi has now enrolled at Mildmay School of Health Sciences in Entebbe to pursue a diploma in public health. She sees this as a crucial step towards realizing her dream of creating a footprint in the medical world. Additionally, Erisi is passionate about entrepreneurship. She plans to establish a pharmacy alongside a boutique to create additional streams of income. Her long-term dreams include purchasing land and building her own home. "I can't imagine what life would have been like without your help," she says, commending ChildFund for the role it played in shaping her future.









NURSING PATIENTS WITH A SMILE

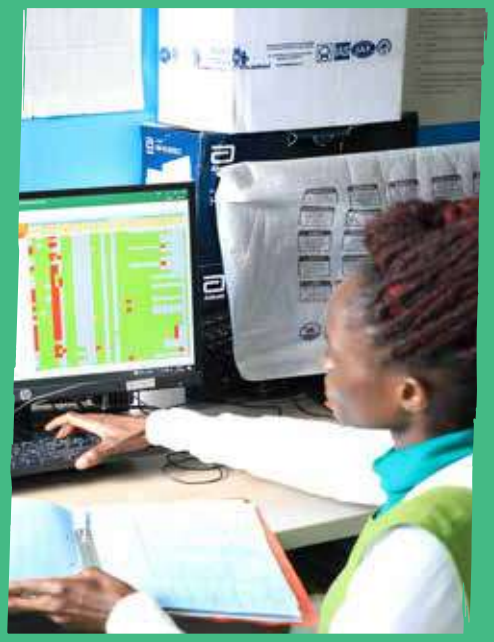
Heron is no ordinary young woman. From the moment you meet her, her warmth and energy shine through. She exudes a strong and hard-working spirt. This was confirmed when we visited her during one of our routine monitoring sessions at her workplace in Kamuli General Hospital, located in Eastern Uganda. Her story began in Buwuda village, Kamuli District, where she grew up in a humble home with several siblings. Life was far from easy. Her parents, subsistence farmers, relied on a small piece of land for their livelihood. However, their meager harvests barely covered the basics, let alone the cost of education. With an annual family income of less than $100 (approximately sh370,000), they lived in a modest mud-and-wattle house, struggling to make ends meet. However, her life changed in 2001 when her mother sought support from ChildFund. Upon enrolment, she was supported to access quality healthcare, improving her health subsequently. She was also supported with scholastic materials, and she enrolled in school. In 2013 her family was supported with 2 goats, which multiplied and in 2015, the family sold them off, topped up to purchase an exotic heifer. The heifer gave birth after one year and the family started to receive milk daily. The family used some milk as food while the surplus was sold off for income to cater for family needs.

On average, they received $68 (sh250,000) monthly out of the milk sales. This enabled her mother joins a village savings group where she remitted $2.7 (sh10,000) per week. The savings were used to facilitate the school requirements for Heron and her siblings. In addition, Heron attended several training sessions organized by ChildFund on the value of education and this not only kept her in school but also improved her grades.









Today, Heron works as a certified nurse at Kamuli General Hospital, having graduated with a certificate and Diploma in midwifery. She particularly works with Makerere Joint Aids Program, an organization supporting children and families that are affected with HIV/AIDs. Clad in her green apron, Heron moves swiftly through the antenatal ward and the ART (antiretroviral therapy) clinic, attending to patients with undivided attention. “As a professional nurse, I’ve gained a wealth of experience counselling teenage mothers, particularly those grappling with their HIV status,” she says, adding that, “My role is to inspire them to remain hopeful, adhere to their medication and live a better life.” In addition, she established a drug shop where she works in the evening and during weekends. This venture supports her daily needs and fuels her dream of advancing her education. With a monthly gross income of shs 1,900,000 ($522), Heron aspires to become a doctor. “It is my way of ensuring I can provide even more comprehensive care to patients who need it the most,” Heron credits ChildFund for not only elevating her status in the community but also enabling her do what she loves the most.

“I am an important person in the community because of ChildFund. I’m also giving back to the community by inspiring many young people that are hopeless to study and work hard so that they can fend for themselves and their families,” she concludes.

SPONSOR VISITS

We welcomed two sponsors from the USA and Sweden, accompanied by their families, to meet their sponsored children. The visits created a joyful and memorable experience for both the sponsors and the children.









10

BUILDING A STRONGER TEAM

We continue to implement strategies that enhance and design an experience that creates an innovative culture where staff are passionate about observing and protecting children.

Hybrid Work

The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped work dynamics, prompting organizations to adopt flexible and hybrid work arrangements to support work-life balance, with the Country Office implementing a hybrid model to offer staff the flexibility to work remotely, onsite, or both, in response to evolving needs and opportunities

Roll out of the new Safeguarding Policy

ChildFund Uganda introduced a new Safeguarding Policy that updates the previous Child Safeguarding procedures and integrates Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The policy now extends protection to all program participants, including children, youth and vulnerable adults. This update aligns with the highest safeguarding standards in the sector and donor requirements.

HRIS Deployment

In 2024, the Human Resources department streamlined processes by eliminating forms and automating tasks with HRIS, allowing staff to submit timesheets and leave forms online. The system efficiently tracks leave days, manages time and attendance and enables supervisors to review and approve requests digitally.

Staff Capacity Building

During this period, the joint staff-management Respectful Workplace Initiative promoted IDEA, trust, accountability and open communication. “Values in Action” training was provided to support decision-making and transparent communication. Staff received training in First Aid, Grants Management, Security, Health & Safety, Safe Driving, Financial Management, and online learning. The organization also enhanced staff engagement with an action plan focused on improvements, including the implementation of the MAGIC experience.

ChildFund International 85th Anniversary

We joined the global celebrations to commemorate ChildFund International’s 85th anniversary, honoring its impact on children's lives. The event, held at the Uganda Country Office, was attended by former and current staff, IP Board members, managers and invited guests. During the celebration, the Country Director presented certificates to staff recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication.


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Cheers to
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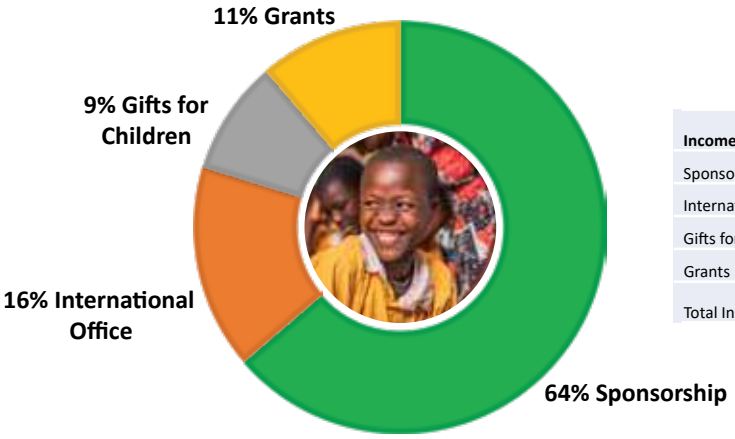

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11 FINANCIALS

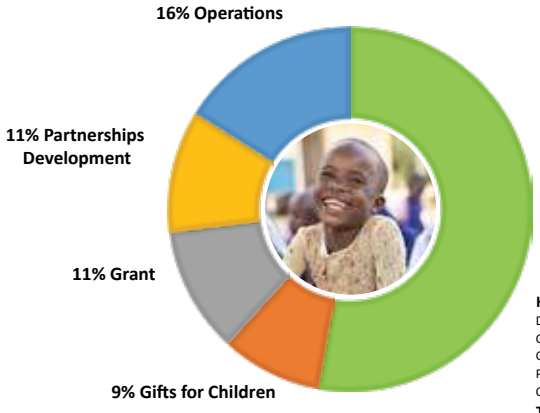
FY24 Income Sources



Income by Source	FY24 (USD)	FY23 (USD)	Variance
Sponsorship	3,815,665	3,850,947	-0.9%
International Office	963,441	901,192	7%
Gifts for Children	537,740	576,052	-7%
Grants	674,457	2,129,887	-68%
Total Income	5,991,302	7,458,078	-20%

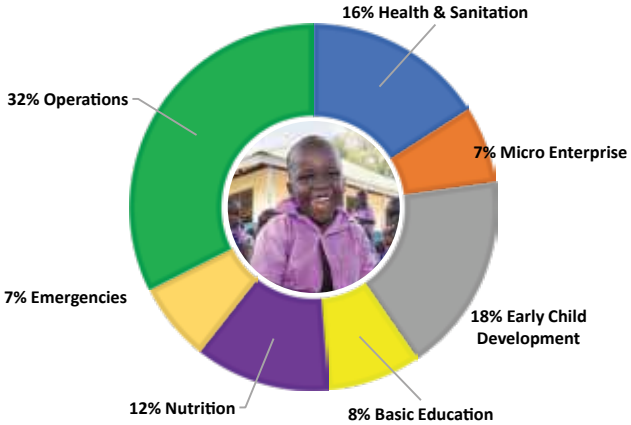
How the Funds were Spent





How the funds were spent (US$)	FY24	FY23	%
Disbursed to Local Entities	3,163,509	3,180,060	-1%
Gifts for Children	537,740	576,052	-7%
Grants	674,457	2,129,887	-68%
Partners Development	652,156	670,888	-3%
Operations	963,441	901,192	7%
Total Expenses (US$)	**5,991,302**	**7,458,078**	**-20%**

Locally Led Partners' Projects by Sector



12 OUR PARTNERS

DONORS

BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency

ChildFund Alliance

NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL 1992 30 YEARS 2022 Nourish Life

THE Coca-Cola FOUNDATION

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CECE COMMUNITY EFFORTS FOR CHILD EMPOWERMENT

BUACOFE

ACHOLI CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAMME

LACCODEF

JIACOFE

K.A.F.O.C

MAKINDI CHILD DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION Delivering On Child Development

MBALE AREA FEDERATION OF COMMUNITIES

BRIGHT FUTURES Improving Chances for Children

Partners For Children Worldwide "with the children for the children against child poverty"

CORPORATE PARTNERS

LONGHORN PUBLISHERS (UGANDA) LIMITED expanding minds

DOW Seek Together

D&S DAVIS & SHIRTLIFF know HOw through experience

LEAP AFRICA Raising Leaders, Transforming Africa

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

UCRNN 25 Years

AfriChild Research. Policy. Impact. The Centre for the study of the African Child

street BUSINESS SCHOOL

CSBAG

Makerere University College of Health Sciences SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JOINING FORCES For All Children

12

OUR LEADERSHIP

Senior Management

1. Moses Otai- **Country Director**
2. Wanguhu Githiomi- **Finance Director**
3. Charles Luwaga- **Programs & Sponsorship Director**
4. Sarah Okot- **Senior Human Resource Manager**
5. Martin Sijje Odipo- **Partnership Portfolio Specialist**
6. Alvin Katende- **Sponsorship Manager**

National Advisory Council

1. Dr. Ekiria Kikule- **Chairperson**
2. Mr. Julius Kamya- **Member**
3. Mr. John Boniface Kulu Idambi- **Member**
4. Mr. Vincent. K. Musubire- **Member**
5. Mrs. Stella Ayo Odongo- **Member**
6. Mr. James Kagodo Kalebbo- **Member**
7. Dr. John Omagino Ogund Odiri- **Member**
8. Ms. Jennifer Kiiza - **Member**

PRESS REVIEW

BY DAMALIE MUKHAYE & EUNICE NANGOBI

KAMPALA. At least 72 government-aided primary schools in 32 districts across the country have been selected to receive 43,503 textbooks, with the aim of improving literacy competence among learners.

The textbooks, slated to benefit 90,000 pupils in the aforementioned UPE schools, include English pupil books, early grade reading teacher's guides, and supplementary readers.

Addressing journalists at their offices in Kampala yesterday, Mr Moses Otai, the country director of ChildFund International, emphasised that whereas mastering the basics of reading in lower primary is crucial, many children are still struggling to achieve this, hindering their overall learning experience.

This issue was highlighted by the last UWEZO survey conducted in 2021, which revealed that 55 percent of grade 3 learners and 35 percent of grade 4 learners could not read.

"The biggest challenge this country is facing as far as education is concerned is the quality of education, facilities, overcrowding of learners in some schools, and lack of enough reading and instructional materials," Mr Otai said.

It is against this background that ChildFund International, in partnership with Longhorn Publishers, has moved to provide 43,504 textbooks, worth Shs553m, to 90,000 learners.

According to Mr Otai, they will focus on public schools in 32 districts categorised as hard-to-reach, such as Kwania, Dokolo, Kole, Lira, Agago, Obongi, Bulambuli, Amuria, and Kaberamaido.



Mr Chege Ngugi (left), the Africa regional director at ChildFund International and Mr Maxwell Wahome (right), the group director of Longhorn Publishers, during the launch of their partnership in Kampala on Tuesday. PHOTO/ SYLVIA KASHABE

UPE schools to share 43,000 textbooks

Other districts include Katakwi, Simonko, Butaleja, Kibuku, Budaka, Butebo, Pallisa, Busia, Serere, and Mayuge, amon g others.

As of May 31, 2024, Uganda has about 9.9 million learners in primary level. According to data uploaded on the Ministry of Education Management Information System, 8.4 million of these learners are in government-aided schools.

ChildFund International will provide government-approved materials for printing and use in early grade reading, facilitate the distribution of the books through local leaders, assess and train teachers in early grade instruction.

Longhorn Publishers, on the other hand, will facilitate the printing of the materials and participate in periodic project review meetings, among others.

Mr Charles Sserunwu, the country manager of Longhorn Publishers, said all the textbooks they are slated to distribute to pupils are approved and accredited by the National Curriculum Development Centre.

"We strive to promote literacy and bring the joy of reading to learners. Every book we distribute is a step towards a more literate, informed, and empowered community process," he added.

Mr Otai said each school will receive at least four teachers' guides and 20 learners' books for English per class.

Mr Chege Ngugi, the Africa regional director at ChildFund International, said the books would be given to pupils from Primary One to Primary Four, where foundational skills are developed.

SUB EDITOR: JOAN AKELLO



Education for lasting peace: Nurturing a harmonious future in Uganda and beyond

Wednesday January 24, 2024



Stanley Opus

By Guest Columnists

What you need to know:

The Sustainable Development Goal 4.7 stands as a beacon, guiding

















90,000 UPE learners get free books

By Juliet Nadrya

In a move aimed at complementing government efforts to increase literacy rates in Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools, ChildFund Uganda, in partnership with Longhorn Publishers, has donated 43,504 books to 90,000 learners in 72 schools.

One of the biggest challenges the education ministry is grappling with is low literacy levels among early grade learners (Primary One to Four).

However, Moses Otai, the country director of ChildFund Uganda, said the partnership seeks to enhance literacy competencies among learners in lower classes for the next five years, beginning in June this year. Otai said the consignment includes early grade reading books for teachers to deliver lessons better.

"Each school will receive at least four teachers' guides and 20 learners' books for English language per class. Other books to be donated are early-grade reading teachers' books and supplementary readers books," Otai said while launching the consignment of books ahead of their distribution at the ChildFund head offices in Namirembe, Kampala, on Tuesday.

While mastering the basics of reading in the early grades is crucial, reports say many children are struggling to achieve this, impacting their overall learning experiences.

The situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted schooling.

According to a 2021 UWEZO survey, 55% of grade three learners and 35% of grade four learners could not read. UWEZO is a non-governmental organisation that has been promoting equitable quality education in Uganda since October 2019.

ChildFund Uganda works to connect children with people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated and safe.

Otai explained the background that Otai disclosed that their partnership with Longhorn will not only build teacher competencies in child-centred instructional learning, but also grow teachers' capacity.

Given the large numbers that UPE schools gather, Michael Sserunwu, the country director of partner NGO dubbed Maxwell Child Development Federation, said three children will share one book in a classroom setting.

Charles Sserunwu, the country manager of Longhorn Publishers, said the project aligns with their mission to enrich lives through knowledge, adding that books are the gateway to better lives, thus contributing to the transformative process.

"We endeavour to make books available, transcending geographical, socio-economic status and language barriers. Through various initiatives, such as this partnership with ChildFund, we strive to promote literacy and bring the joy of reading to learners," Sserunwu said.

Beneficiary districts

The districts to receive the books include Agago, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Dokolo, Amolatar, Kwania, Kole, Kalaki, Amuria, Serere, Kaberamaido, Kapelebyong, Mbale and Sironko.

Others are Bulambuli, Butaleja, Budaka, Kibuku, Pallisa, Butebo, Masindi, Kiryandongo, Kyankwanzi, Busia, Obongi, Nakisio, Luwero, Jinja, Kamuli, Mayuge, Nakisio and Kampala.



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