



# IMPROVED HOUSING FOR HIGHLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN

UGANDA

## GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT VIEW

Compassion's work in Uganda began in 1980. Currently, more than 92,000 children participate in 344 child development centres. Compassion partners with churches around the country to help them provide the children of Uganda with the opportunity to rise above their circumstances and achieve their full potential.

Compassion Uganda has identified several challenges that currently hinder the holistic Child Development Programme, including malnutrition, violence, child abuse, poor sanitation, lack of quality medical care, education and unemployment.

For the majority of communities where Compassion projects are located, infrastructure is minimal. Extreme poverty restricts development and many projects lack classrooms, kitchens, electricity and resource centres by which to serve the children who attend.

Services such as libraries, electricity and computer laboratories are not common even to schools in these areas. Providing access to these is an important way for the local church, with Compassion, to assist the wider community. In addition, many Compassion-assisted families live in unsafe, unsuitable shelters. Compassion Uganda has therefore prioritised investment in infrastructure.

Over 90 percent of the Compassion projects in Uganda are located in rural areas where levels of poverty are particularly high. UG-557: Mityana Joy Child Development Centre and UG-558: Kasaana Child Development Centre partner with Compassion in central Uganda. Many residents in these semi-urban communities struggle with poor housing, due to low incomes and poor employment opportunities. High birth rates also mean that families are larger, making it even more difficult to find safe and appropriate housing.

Through home visits, one child at UG-557 and twelve children at UG-558 have been identified by project staff as being highly vulnerable. The registered children live with single parents or grandparents who cannot afford to improve their living conditions.

The situation needs urgent attention. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals pictured, this RESPOND Initiative aims to provide 13 Compassion-registered children and their 65 family members with safe shelters in which to live.



## UGANDA

From 1894, Uganda was ruled by the British as a protectorate. Uganda gained independence on 9 October 1962, but maintained its Commonwealth status. The first election was held that same year. However in 1971 a military coup deposed the elected president Milton Obote and installed dictator Idi Amin to power.

For the next eight years Idi Amin brutally ruled Uganda, killing an estimated 300,000 people in order to secure his regime. His racial policies also forced thousands of Asians and other minority groups to flee the country, fearing for their lives. Amin's rule came to an end in 1979. However in-fighting and military coups followed for several years, leading finally to the establishment of current president Yoweri Museveni in 1986.

Although Museveni has maintained his grip on power for several decades, the country has not been free from conflict. Uganda's turbulent history has led to a normalisation of violence. The government continues to struggle against the terrorist group led by Joseph Kony, The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which continues to commit widespread human rights violations. International attention has been focussed on their recruitment of children as soldiers, through violence and enforced drug addiction. The group is also notorious for abduction, mutilation, child sex trafficking and murder.

Despite rich natural resources, the instability and corruption in Uganda has restricted its economic growth and the country is one of the world's poorest. The population of Uganda is over 37 million; 38 percent currently live in extreme poverty (less than \$1.25 a day) and almost 62 percent live on less than \$2 a day.<sup>i</sup>

As a result, many caregivers cannot afford to send their children to school. According to the International Labour Organisation, despite important steps to promote free primary and secondary education being taken, "Uganda has experienced some of the highest rates of school drop-out in Africa and many young children leave school to go into the labour market."<sup>ii</sup> Statistics show that over 25 percent of children aged 5 to 14 are engaged in child labour, contrasted with the meagre 28 percent gross



enrolment ratio of children at secondary school.<sup>i</sup> Even fewer students, just 9 percent, go on to enrol in tertiary education which has resulted in a shortage of skilled labour such as healthcare workers.<sup>i</sup>

Gender inequality is another factor which allows poverty to flourish in Uganda. Discrimination against women limits their involvement socially, educationally and economically. Gender discrimination has a high cost to society as it prevents individuals and certain groups from moving out of poverty.

It has also been well established that the level of maternal education, as well as the age at which a woman starts having children, are strong determinants in the education and eventual quality of life of her offspring. Many households in Uganda are headed by women, with an average of seven children per family.

In 2001, user fees at state health facilities were removed which has increased the accessibility of healthcare for the poor. The equatorial climate means that Ugandans face contracting tropical diseases like malaria and preventative health measures are essential.

Poor hygiene and sanitation, as well as the lack of access to safe drinking water, are responsible for many incidences of preventable disease in Uganda. Access to water in remote rural areas is particularly difficult and many inhabitants suffer from waterborne diseases after using unsafe sources. 28 percent of the population have no access to improved water sources, and 66 percent have no access to improved sanitation facilities.<sup>iii</sup>

## PLANNED INITIATIVE

PROJECT	UG-557: Mityana Joy Child Development Centre UG-558: Kasaana Child Development Centre
CHURCH	Mityana Full Gospel Church Kasaana Pentecostal Church
INITIATIVE	Homes for 13 highly vulnerable children and their families
RESPOND NUMBER	UG-018721
BENEFICIARIES	13 registered children and 65 family members
FUNDING	£47,986
START DATE	June 2016

UG-557: Mityana Joy Child Development Centre and UG-558: Kasaana Child Development Centre partner with Compassion in central Uganda. Many residents in these semi-urban communities struggle with poor housing, due to poor employment opportunities and low incomes. High birth rates also mean that families are larger, making it even more difficult to find safe and appropriate housing.

Many families live in small rooms that house between 6 and 10 people. The rooms are sometimes divided into two sections with a curtain, the only privacy afforded. Meals are cooked inside on a smoky fire but as the shelters often don't have windows, there is little ventilation or natural light. The smoke affects both the sight and the respiration of the residents, especially the children.

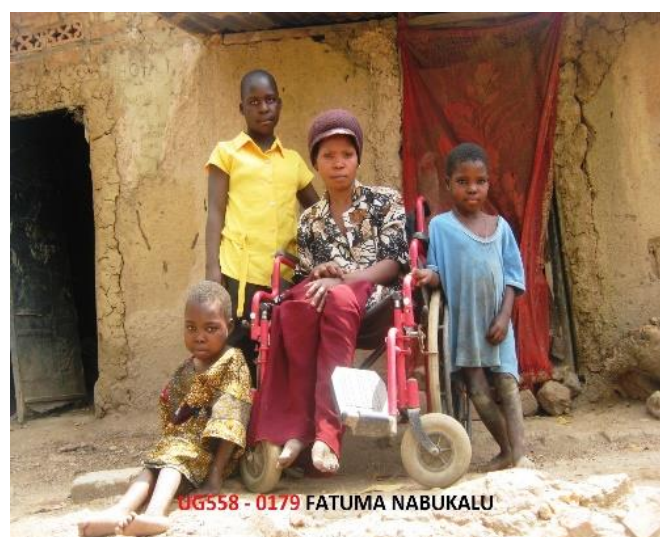
Because of its proximity to the equator, the weather in Uganda is warm throughout the year. There are two rainy seasons, from March to May and from September to January. During these periods, the housing situation becomes significantly worse. The makeshift, leaky houses are damp, allowing fungal infections and other conditions to flourish.

Through home visits, one child at UG-557 and twelve children at UG-558 have been identified by project staff as being highly vulnerable. The registered children live with single parents or grandparents who cannot afford to improve their living conditions. The families are therefore living in especially unsafe shelters, shown opposite.

The situation needs urgent attention. This RESPOND Initiative aims to provide 13 Compassion-registered children and their 65 family members with safe shelters in which to live.

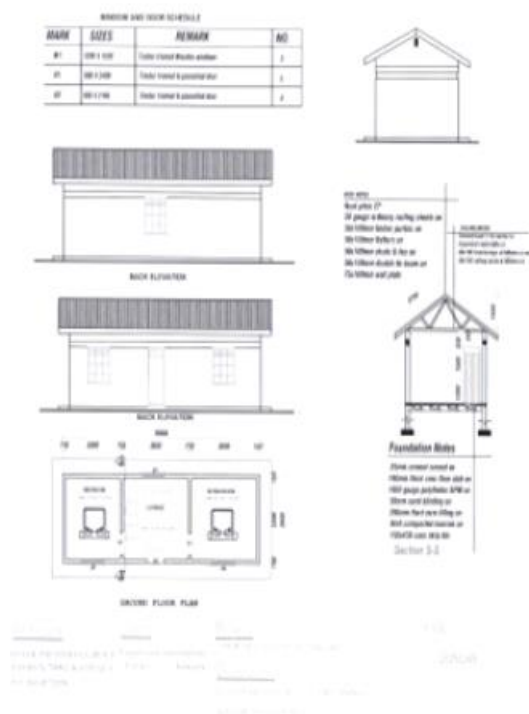


Compassion-assisted children David Mbaale and Ashiraf Mukisa



## IMPLEMENTATION

This initiative will provide 13 basic shelters using a standard Compassion blueprint for housing construction in Uganda which is shown below.



REGISTERED CHILDREN	
1. Kato Tony	7. Leontina Nabanzi
2. Andrew Byakatonda	8. Ronald Sande
3. Mana Nakalinya	9. Ruth Namale
4. Ambrose Habasa	10. Frank Natigo
5. David Mbaale	11. Bridget Nakato
6. Jekonia Lubinga	12. Fatuma Nabukalu
13. Nichodemus Tumusiime	

The staff at each project will identify local builders to carry out the construction work, through a competitive bidding process. The builders will work in close cooperation with each of the 13 families, to encourage ownership and future maintenance. The caregivers have agreed to contribute by providing what manual labour they can during the construction, in order to assist the builders. They will also provide the land where the homes will be built.

Project staff will be responsible for purchasing all building materials, and for overseeing the wall construction, roofing, shuttering, flooring, painting and finishing.

Once the construction is complete, the project staff will arrange a ceremony for the families, to give thanks for the new homes. Project staff will teach the beneficiaries how to keep their homes clean and how to ensure that the new structures are well-maintained.

The constructed houses will provide real shelter for each family, protecting them from the hot sun and heavy rains. It is expected that such improvements to their home environments will have a positive impact on the children's health and well-being, and allow them to spend more time at school and project activities. In addition, many caregivers who suffer from the emotional weight of seeing their families living in abject poverty will have some measure of relief, knowing that they are living in a more secure home where they are better equipped to care for their children or grandchildren.

## TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	2016							2017						
	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN		JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Procuring contractors														
Signing of contract														
Construction of 13 houses														
Monitoring and evaluation														
Interim reports														
Completion report														

## BUDGET

ITEM	FUNDS REQUIRED	LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	GRANT REQUESTED
Foundations	£12,173	-	£12,173
Walls	£8,173	-	£8,173
Roofing	£6,429	-	£6,429
Finishings, including paint and flooring	£6,566	-	£6,566
Windows, doors, hinges and locks	£5,645	£598	£5,047
Administration	£9,597	-	£9,597
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£48,584</b>	<b>£598</b>	<b>£47,986</b>

The cost for each home is **£3,691.23**. Although these projects do not have the resources to construct the shelters, local funds raised will make up £598 of the cost of this RESPOND Initiative. All Compassion RESPOND Initiatives include a local contribution, to encourage ownership in the local community.

## FINAL REMARKS

Thank you for taking the time to consider this opportunity to fund the construction of safe homes for 13 highly vulnerable families in central Uganda. Compassion works to ensure that every registered child is known, loved and protected. Safe homes will offer protection and security for these families.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01932 836490 or at [info@compassionuk.org](mailto:info@compassionuk.org).

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<sup>i</sup> UNDP, Human Development Reports, *Uganda*. Available from: [hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/UGA](http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/UGA)

<sup>ii</sup> ILO, 2015, *Combatting Child Labour Through Education in Uganda: A Policy Brief*. Available from: [www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/download.do?type=document&id=26437](http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/download.do?type=document&id=26437)

<sup>iii</sup> JMP for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2014, *Estimates on the use of water sources and sanitation facilities: Uganda*. Available from: [www.wssinfo.org/documents/?tx\\_displaycontroller%5Btype%5D=country\\_files](http://www.wssinfo.org/documents/?tx_displaycontroller%5Btype%5D=country_files)