

# Mama Kemigisha's Home

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Uganda



# IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

December | 2023



# Overview of this Children's Home

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## Background & Mission

Mama Kemigisha is passionate about children. Her desire is to see children thrive regardless of the community they come from and she wishes to see them become beacons of hope and transformation. She's a professional, qualified, well-trained caretaker and has taken care of a huge number of children from the community as well as many in her previous home. She adores and loves everyone under her care and always seeks to raise them as God fearing children. Mama Kemigisha's mission is to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of every child by providing them with love, care, guidance, and education in the home. She envisions providing them with a safe and secure environment with their rights and freedom intact. Additionally, Mama Kemigisha has completed several trainings and teachings about childcare and child protection.

Mama Kemigisha has six children, with the youngest being 3 years old and the eldest 11 years old. Her home is found in the Katanga province and the children stay in a three-bedroom house in a small town called Kitunzi. Some of Mama Kemigisha's goals include ensuring children are in school and fully equipped with educational materials and tuition. She also wants to help the children be free from trauma or PTSD and assist them in adapting to the new life ahead of them. Ultimately, her vision is to raise children to become successful responsible citizens within their country so that they can raise their own children in the same way and ultimately reduce the level of child neglect.

## Recent Accomplishments

- The caregiver has been able to join in training sessions for the betterment of the home.
- The home was relocated to a better community that is safe for the children and away from any form of abuse.

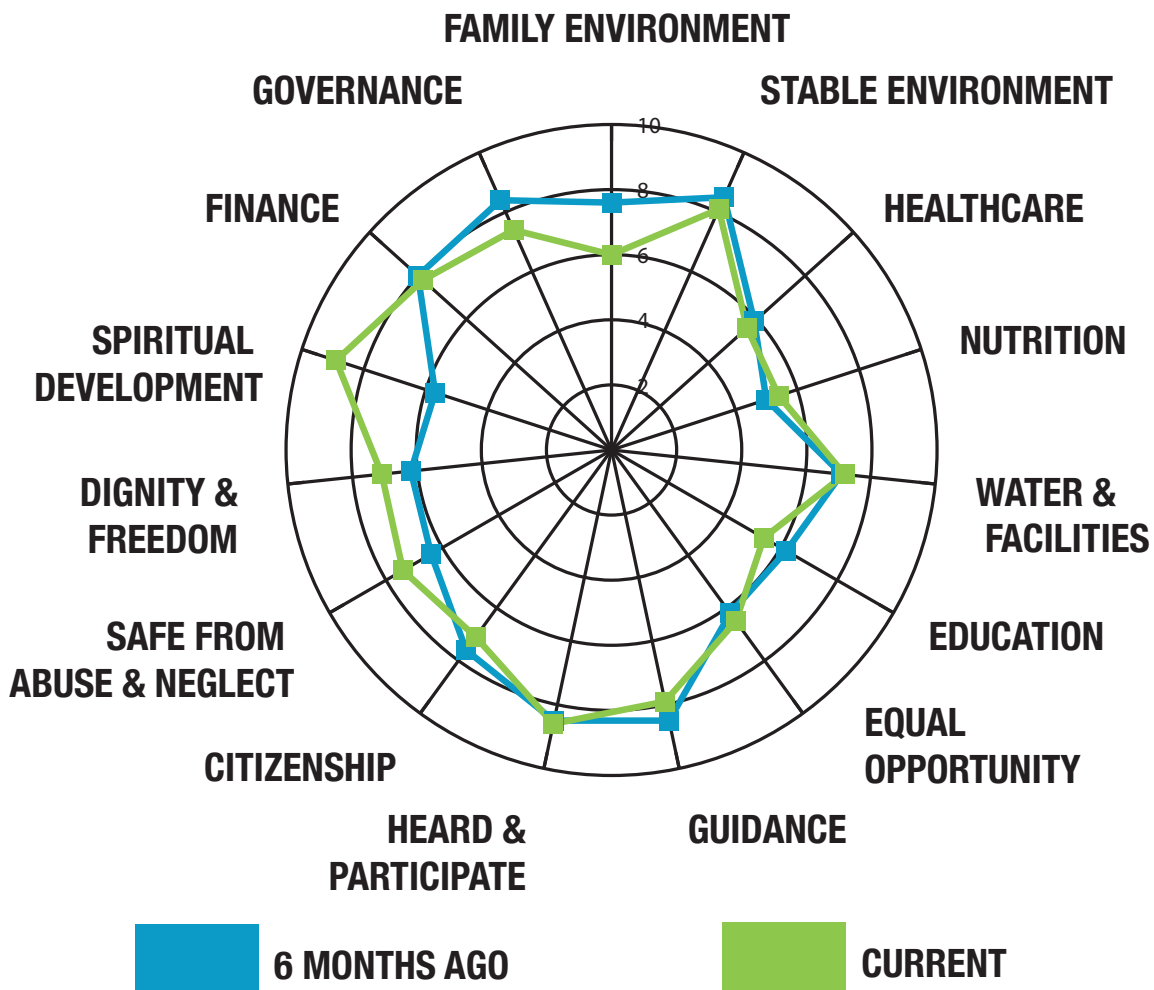


# The Thrive Assessment

## What is the Thrive Assessment?

In 1959, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which defines children's rights to protection, education, healthcare, shelter, nutrition and more. We have codified all 13 Rights, as well as a Finance Standard and a Governance and Human Resource Standard, resulting in a total of 15 standards. These standards ensure that children receive care that truly helps them to thrive, now and in the future. The Thrive Assessment will be administered every 6 months with each partner home to chart the progress of each standard. Our team works with caregivers to outline next steps which are compiled into an Improvement Roadmap.

## Current Thrive Scale



# Strategic Initiatives

## RENOVATE THE HOME

<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	Renovation of the home & surrounding area is needed. They need to purchase bunk beds to create ample space for the children and privacy. Poor disposal of waste and the exposed trench outside the home make the area unsafe for children to play and require modifications. This will cost \$1,500 USD.
<b>INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST</b>	\$ 1,500 USD 5,550,000 UGX

## EDUCATION SUPPORT

<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	Educational sponsorship costs \$36 USD in tuition per month per child. The home needs sponsorships for 4 children. This would allow all the kids to attend school (\$1,728 USD every year).
<b>INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST</b>	\$ 144 USD / month for 4 children 666,000 UGX

## ADDITIONAL THERAPY SESSIONS

<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	The home has access to a psychological therapist. They would like more frequent therapy sessions for the kids and the caregiver (\$420 USD per session). This would cost \$840 USD for a month and \$10,080 USD for a year.
<b>INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST</b>	\$840 USD/month - \$10,080 USD/year 3,166,513 UGX/month - 37,998,163 UGX/year



## Right to Live with Family

**SURVIVING**

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Kemigisha is the caregiver and mother of 6 children in this home. They live in Nabweru after relocating from Katanga due to high crime rates and it being unsafe for the children's well being. Mam Kemigisha is also known as Mama Patience, a very loving and caring lady who committed to take in these children from diverse I situations and look after them. Currently there's a visitors policy and time scheduled for visitors to come and see the children. Before any caregiver is placed with children, they are trained and certified in terms of child development, protection and more. Meals and other activities are encouraged to be done together to create unity as a family. Mama Kemigisha and 92 hands together with the community leaders in the different areas these children came from are working to build up the children's database and collect background information on their families.

- Create more training sessions for caregivers.
- Update the visitor's policy and child protection policy.
- Locate the families of children and their backgrounds for future use.



## Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

**SUSTAINING**

THRIVING

Mama Kemigisha's home has home rules that are clearly stated by the caregiver which are age appropriate and followed by everyone. There are positive discipline strategies put in place in case of disobedience. Children are called by their names/preferred names and demeaning names are always discouraged. Eating, playing and working together to create family bonds is always encouraged by the caregivers among the children. Mama Kemigisha is a full time mother where her resting hours are during the weekends with the children as their relaxing time.

- Encourage children to better obey the home rules.



## Right to Healthcare

**SURVIVING**

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Wellness checks are mostly carried out in the event of an emergency or illness, but the children never have scheduled check-ups throughout the year. There is a need to carry out annual checkups for each child in the home, which costs \$150 per child each visit. A few children have their medical documentation or history known to the mother. At the moment there aren't any identified medical personnel for this home, but in the case of a medical emergency, the children are rushed to the nearby clinic for treatment. Girls are provided with hygienic menstrual care products and also educational information. Currently there are no children with disabilities at this home. A medical emergency fund is needed to be put in place.

- Increase availability of hygienic menstrual cycle products.
- Visit the doctor for a checkup twice a year- \$150 per child, per visit.
- Follow up on vaccinations of children to obtain proper documentation.



## Right to Nutrition

**SURVIVING**

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children are provided with food, but calories aren't enough to support their healthy growth. Food is prepared in a clean environment away from germs and is kept free from toxic substances and pests. Protein is not given to children on a daily basis. To purchase more requires an increase for the monthly food budget by \$300 per month. Fruits and vegetables are served once or twice a week. There's no nutritionist at the moment to help train the caretvier on food preparation and proper nutrient intake.

- Increase caloric intake to boost the children's immunity. \$300 to increase the monthly food budget for the home.
- Hire a nutritionist to help out the caregiver in meal planning and preparation.



## Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Kemigisha's home has safe drinking water free from chemicals or any kind of contamination that's available for the entire family. Dustbins are provided and emptied by the Kampala City Council Authority on a weekly basis to keep homes and communities clean. No emergency fund has been established for this home, but in case of any concerns, the caregiver reaches out to the support staff from 92 hands for help. The 92 hands support staff visit the home on a weekly basis for monitoring, maintenance and evaluation. Drinking water is available 24/7 and in reach for the children anytime needed. Water is also available in the bathrooms, toilets and for hand-washing hands at all times. Candles are the alternative power source for this home, but there's a need for a different alternative like solar power to help create a safer environment for the children. The 92hands support staff is working on the annual written property maintenance plan for this home.

- Create an emergency fund for the home.
- Provide an alternative power source for safety.
- Complete the annual written property maintenance plan.



## Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In this home, 2 of the 6 children have access to school with fully paid school tuition. This means 4 children still need to join school, which costs \$36 per child and \$144 per month. Children are currently learning the alphabet and how to articulate words and sounds with the help of their school going siblings. Other age appropriate reading techniques using charts and books, including some in their native language for easy translation are also being carried out. Individual and group tutoring is not available for the children, but it is needed to help with extra homework revisions. Computer literacy is also needed for all the children which calls for the purchasing a computer and internet access.

- Provide internet and purchase a computer in this home- \$400 USD.
- Get sponsorship packages for four children to enroll in school- \$36 per child for a total of \$144 USD/month.
- Obtain extra lessons with a tutor- \$137 per month.

## Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All children share one bedroom which has allocated areas for their own personal items. Currently no one has access to a tutor in this home, but 2 of the 6 children attend school. Children are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities like netball, soccer, and clubs both at home and at school. The transition plans for children in this home are in progress, which will help them transform into a better independent person when the time comes. Beyond their caregiver, there are mentors from the 92hands team who also act as role models for children and are available on a weekly basis for counsel and guidance. Children with existing health conditions (like glasses) and medications are provided as needed.

- Create more time for sessions with their mentors.
- Create transition plans for the teenagers.



## Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Job descriptions are given to caregivers before they accept their position. Mama Kemigisha does a great job of counseling and guiding the children. She always comes through to advise the children on ethics, manners and respect regularly, which has also helped to raise them in an upright manner. The 92 hands staff has well detailed documents with roles and duties of caregivers which are provided at the start of recruiting period. Children are scheduled to meet therapists from Makerere University twice a week. This practice has helped children to share and open up, but more therapeutic sessions are needed each month. Currently the 92 hands staff has been working on addressing with older children the changes associated with adolescence and puberty. They are also planning a partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda Organisation to provide life skills education and advice for the teenagers.

- Create a documented life skills program for the children.
- Partner with Reproductive Health Uganda to educate the girls more about hygienic menstrual care.





## Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All children are always given ample time to do what they want in their free time. The needs of the children are always prioritized and acknowledged when identified. Menu planning is highly participated in by the children with the caregiver in this home and this allows them to share their preferences. Children can also decide what they want to wear. Mama Kemigisha, with the help of 92 hands support staff, always shares medical information and health procedures with the children and if questions are asked, they are always answered. Leadership roles are distributed amongst the children according to their capabilities.

- Implement an individual development plan for each child- in progress with the 92hands team.
- Involve the children in decision making and also give them more leadership roles.



## Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Some children have birth certificates while others do not. However, missing documentation is being processed by the 92hands support staff and caregiver. Each child is given roles and responsibilities to take care of in the home, which helps improve their leadership skills. Both national and local holidays are celebrated and explained to the children in order to give them a better understanding of their purpose. Children's areas are free from litter and broken or damaged objects within the home, unlike some outside areas which are also accessed by them. All children in this home have access to a personal mentor who meets them on a weekly basis and teaches them life skills. This practice enables the children to be open minded and share freely with their leaders.

- Collaborate with government authorities to obtain or create children's birth certificates.
- Engage children in activities to patronize their country and become better citizens.



## Right to Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

There is one bedroom allocated to the children, but sometimes the teenagers feel out of place and more privacy is needed for them. Children are free from human traffickers and educated about trafficking which creates more safety and awareness for the children. A child protection program is implemented and followed that discourages child abuse. No child is allowed to work in a way that would violate the law or harm their health or education. The home has a well documented visitor's policy regarding time, safety and who is allowed to visit.

- Create more caregiver trainings like child protection and identifying child abuse.
- Put the visitors' policy in action whenever visitors are around, for the safety of the children.



## Right to Dignity and Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children are showered properly with the help of the caregiver, most especially the infants. but the teenagers always bathe themselves. Values of respect, kindness and compassion are highly encouraged amongst the members of the home and help promote good traits. Bedding, beds and bedrooms are shared amongst the children. However, there is a need to purchase more bunk beds for the children to provide sufficient space and privacy. Children are advised to brush their teeth daily and to clean their undergarments, which helps promote good hygiene. Some age appropriate toys and art materials are available for the children, but more are needed. Children are not permitted to work for earnings or do any child labour, but they are assigned work in the home which is age-appropriate like washing utensils for a prize.

- Create more personal time for the children.
- Provide a bed and bedding for every child- \$216 USD for beds, and \$100 USD for bedding.



## Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All the children in this home are allowed to participate in church, most especially during the children's service. Church participation helps them engage with one another and also make new friends away from home. Every day there are prayer devotions as a family and each child is given an item to pray for like praying for the sick, other children, etc. This practice also helps keep them active throughout the prayer session. Religious holidays are highly celebrated and children are taught the purpose for the holiday. There are a few religious books or materials in the home for the children, but new ones are needed.

- Encourage the children to engage more into Sunday school activities.
- Provide more spiritual books for devotions for- \$70 USD.



## Financial Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

An accountant is allocated to track the use of the funds and file expenses for the home on a monthly basis. This practice helps with record keeping and ensures records are available for review. Most of the basic needs of the home are met, but not all of them. There are a few needs that should be reassessed like nutrition and health. Receipts are recorded and kept safely for accountability, which helps with the monthly bank reconciliation. Every year a budget is issued for Mama Kemigisha's home and broken down by necessity. An external auditor is hired on a quarterly basis to review the finances of the home as well.

- Find an affordable auditor to review the home's finances- \$542 USD twice a year.
- Review budgets before implementation.



## Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Kemigisha's home is a rented house. No new caregivers have been hired for this home, but in scenarios if one is needed, there are measures put in place to address this need. The 92hands support staff usually holds monthly meetings with the mothers to address issues, discuss challenges, and provide solutions. Caregivers like Mama Kemigisha are given contracts that can be renewed according to one's interest. The home complies with government requirements and is fully licensed. Monthly and weekly meetings are held to offer support and guidance to the team. All caregivers have attended medical and hygiene training sessions in order to provide better services to the children. There is proper documentation of the staff and the team.

- Plan training sessions for caregivers on attachment and child development.
- Create more time for caregivers and support staff for discussions, monitoring and evaluation.



# Current Improvement Partners



## 92hands

92hands is a Ugandan nonprofit that focuses on supporting single mothers in the slums of Kampala to care for street kids. They prioritize education, skill building, and healing for both the mothers and the kids. Learn more at [www.92hands.org](http://www.92hands.org).



## Makerere University

The College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Makerere University has provided 3 student interns to help provide therapy sessions for various homes within the 92hands network.

For a list of projects and opportunities to coordinate on go to [www.ACHF.org/Projects](http://www.ACHF.org/Projects)



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