

Mama Jael

Uganda

**IMPROVEMENT
ROADMAP**

January | 2024

Overview of this Children's Home

Background & Mission

Mama Jael is one of the caregivers assisted through the 92hands foster program that offers support and care for children within her home. There are 7 children in her home, the eldest 14 years old and the youngest 3 years old. Mama Jael was deserted by her husband during Covid-19, leaving her with 2 children. She took them to the village as she looked for means to provide for them. When the 92hands team approached her and asked if she could be a mother and care for additional children, she gladly took on the responsibility and was also able to bring her own children to join others in the foster home. Since then, she has devoted her life to serving and caring for the children God has entrusted her with. She is a skilled professional teacher and helps educate children in her home. Her dream is to see all her children thrive and become beacons of hope. She raises them to believe in themselves and take every opportunity to better their lives.

The mission of 92 hands is to help foster mothers meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of every child by providing them with love, care, guidance, and education so that they can grow and become beacons of change. They envision a loving home where children have freedom of speech and a right to be understood and loved equally, thereby raising responsible individuals that will be accountable for their actions in the future. Additionally, they seek to help provide a home free from chronic diseases and full immunization to fight illnesses and infections in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle for all the children. 92 hands envisions a literate generation where all children are enrolled in school, receive quality education, and are well equipped with scholastic materials. They believe every child has a right to quality education. Through these programs, 92 hands hopes to raise a responsible generation that knows their rights, stands up for the voiceless in their communities, and promotes values taught at a tender age. In the future, they hope to see these children transform the world, by helping change future politics in Uganda and govern the country under Godly principles.

Recent Accomplishments

- There are now 1:1 therapy sessions for each child during the weekends and there's great improvements and behavior amongst the children.
- 1:1 mentorship sessions have been taking place.
- Mama Jael reinvested in her chicken coop with earnings from the festive season and was able to provide new clothing for the children during the holidays.



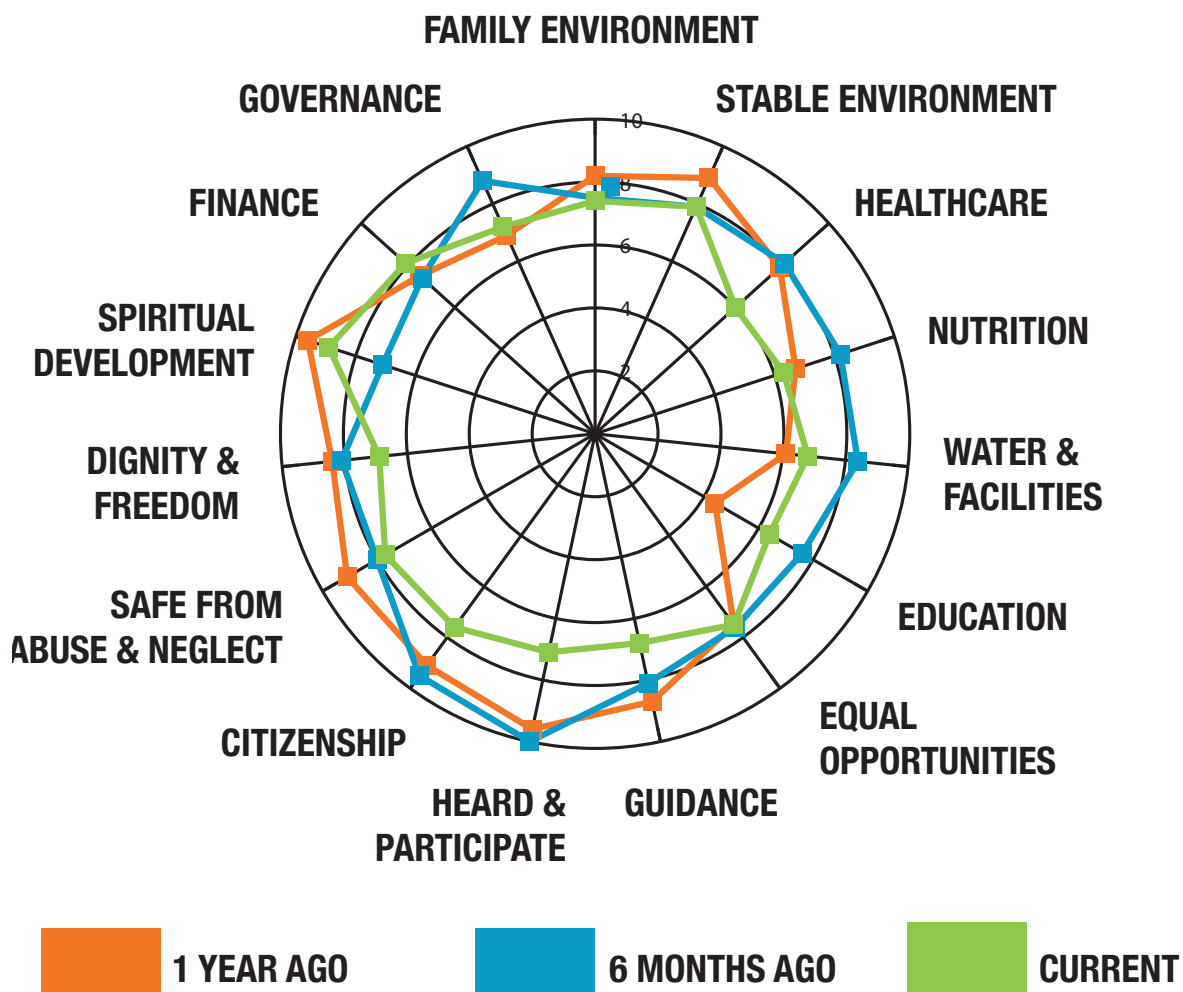


The Thrive Assessment

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

IMPROVE NUTRITION

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| PROJECT SUMMARY | Renovate the kitchen area to increase safety, which will cost \$600 USD. Increase the monthly food budget to ensure children receive sufficient nutrition, which will cost \$300 per month. |
| INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST | \$ 600 USD one time / UGX 2,220,000 \$ 300 USD per month / UGX 1,110,000 |

PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL BEDS & BEDDING

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| PROJECT SUMMARY | Provide a bed and beddings for every child. The beds will cost \$216, and the bedding around \$100 for 3 children for a total of \$1,000 USD. |
| INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST | \$ 1,000 USD UGX 3,700,000 |

PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| PROJECT SUMMARY | Children need to visit the doctor for a checkup twice a year. Per child, this would cost \$400 a year per child. |
| INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST | \$ 2,400 USD / year UGX 8,880,000 / year |



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Jael is the sole caregiver, diligently overseeing the well-being of seven children under her care. The home maintains records for most of the children, detailing their origins, the circumstances of their arrival, and the exact dates they were welcomed. However, the background information for some of the children remains incomplete, though efforts are underway to rectify this. Mama Jael has also successfully completed trauma training, joined the caregiver plan for onboarding, and initiated quarterly therapy sessions with the children. The home benefits from the support of a dedicated social worker, always on hand to assist with issues related to family reunification, including tracing the children's families and backgrounds for future reference. Additionally, Mama Jael has the opportunity to partake in therapy sessions where she can seek mental health advice, pose questions, and receive guidance.

- Create and spend more time for children to bond with their caregiver.
- Increase efforts with family tracing to help the children heal.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home has house rules that are read out loud for the entire family. In case of any disobedience, there are consequences in place. Children are not bullied nor called demeaning nicknames, which is stipulated in the house rules and highly discouraged by the caregiver. There is free time for the children to do what they want to, under the care of Mama Jael. Most of the activities in these homes are done as a family to create a bond between one another. There isn't much time-off allocated for the caregiver, but there are always rest days at home for both the caregiver and the children, especially on weekends and during holidays. Caregivers always sign a contract committing themselves to look after the children and serve for at least 2 years which is very beneficial to the home. Mama Jael joins the 92hands support staff to discuss how to create a safe environment for the children and also engages in certain activities to play with the children.

- Emphasize home rules and regulations to create a safe environment for the children.
- Allocate rest days for the caregiver.
- Create more play time for the children.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children at Mama Jael's home always receive medical care when needed. A few of the children have received their documentation for standard vaccinations, but they are also working on obtaining the rest. Water and soap are always readily available for the children to use after activities, as well as when reminded by the caregiver. The home has a nearby emergency clinic, which is referred to in case of any health emergencies. Feminine talks and hygiene are practiced, and menstrual products are provided for the girls. There are no planned vision or dental exams for the children, but in case of an illness or emergency, checkups are quickly done. No checkups are routinely scheduled throughout the year. Lice checks are not done on a monthly basis, but rather when the need arises. Currently Mama Jael's home is not in position to take in children with special needs.

- Visit the doctor for a checkup twice a year- \$400 per year, per child.
- Create counseling and guidance sessions for adolescents about hygiene and reproductive health.
- Work on obtaining the vaccinations and health documentations for each child.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children eat daily, but do not receive sufficient calories to effectively support their growth. However, food is always prepared in a clean and safe environment, free from any pests. Mama Jael makes sure she prepares something in the children's interest that is tasty and appetizing for them to eat. Proteins are difficult to procure and only available 2-3 times a week, which isn't enough. Purchasing more protein to improve their diet requires increasing the food budget by \$300 per month. This budget increase would also help them improve their fruit intake as well. There's a need for a nutritionist to help train on food preparation and safety with the caregiver. Additionally, renovating the home kitchen to create a more safe environment for the children is also necessary.

- Renovate the kitchen area, fix the leakages and close any open leakages.
- Increase the food budget for the children to consume more proteins and fruits.
- Hire a professional nutritionist to help with food preparation.



Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Inspections have been carried out by a qualified individual to evaluate safety and all rooms have enough lighting. Currently the home has no emergency fund, but they have a plan in case of any disasters like fire or flood. The home doesn't have smoke alarms for detecting fire, which puts the home in a risky situation if there was a fire. However, Mama Jael's home has access to water, including safe drinking water for the entire family.

- Create an emergency fund for the home.
- Install smoke alarms in case of fire and to increase safety.



Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All children 7 and above are able to identify each letter of the alphabet and articulate sounds, as well as do basic math including addition and subtraction, with the help of Mama Jael. Mama Jael is also a professional teacher and able to help them on a daily basis, which has greatly improved their studies. With the help of charts, books and other reading materials, some written in their native language, learning sessions are productive. Currently there isn't any internet or computer access in the home. Mama Jael takes care of tutoring the children in her free time, but extra help is needed by another tutor due to the caregiver's responsibilities and roles at home. More art supplies that are age-appropriate are also needed due to the lack of new content and some older books getting torn.

- Hire a tutor for additional educational support, especially for those performing poorly in subjects.
- Install internet and purchase a computer in the home for computer trainings and studies.
- Provide more art supplies that are age appropriate for the children.

Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All the children at Mama Jael's home share space, including the bedroom. However, each of them has an allocated space safe for them to store their personal items and belongings. All children in this home have the same rights and no one is discriminated against or placed above another. Some of the 92hands staff work as mentors and role models to the children in this home. Children with physical disabilities are taken care of and checkups are always done with medical personnel when any concerns arise.

- Create more space for the children to store their items.
- Create a transition plan for the children in the home.
- Create more time for children to engage during playtime as well as during house chores.



Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

There is a well detailed job description for use in recruiting and identifying the right caregiver for each home. Mama Jael is strict in enforcing respect as she always guides the children to demonstrate it amongst one another, which is also a part of the home's rules and regulations. There's a detailed timetable for the children to meet with a psychologist and a therapist, which sometimes includes one-on-one sessions. Time is allotted for the children starting at age 10 to study about and understand their body changes and sexual behavior. The 92hands support staff is planning on creating a more effective career guidance plan with educational opportunities to prepare children for the future.

- Create more 1:1 sessions for the children to meet with the therapists.
- Partner with an organization to provide career guidance.



Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children at Mama Jael's home are free to decide on what to do in their free time, which is done under the supervision and guidance of the caregiver. During most holidays and weekends, children are allowed to participate and practice in certain activities in the kitchen and other areas at home. They are permitted to act as decision makers and also given leadership roles within the home.

- Schedule more mentorship sessions with the 92hands mentors.
- Engage children in more decision-making activities.



Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All children have birth certificates in Mama Jael's home. Children are taught that every wrong committed has a consequence. When a child breaks a rule, they are disciplined and taught that what they did is wrong so that they don't repeat it. Each child helps with house chores like washing utensils, sweeping, and mopping. Children get to celebrate public holidays like Easter, Christmas, and Independence day together as a family. The home is free from litter and one rule that Mama Jael has taught them is that everything has a home, and whether toys or clothes, after use they should take it back to where it belongs. They get mentors that come in from time to time to do 1:1 sessions with the children. Older children usually participate in cleaning the community with the local church. The only current events shared in the home are the children's birthdays, but they also get an opportunity to attend field trips, for those in school.

- Engage children in more decision-making activities like choosing what to wear.
- Create a monthly updated development plan for each child.



Right to Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Jael's home is safe and secure for all the children. Currently rooms are shared amongst boys and girls, but they have separate beds and ample space for each of them. The 92hands support staff highly discourages any type of abuse towards the children by anyone, including caregivers. Children are always advised to report any form of harm or abuse to them. Children below age 6 are helped with everything and they are trained as well to prevent them from any form of child abuse. With the help of university psychology students, psychological needs are addressed by evaluating each child and working with him or her through trauma. This is done by carrying out daily counseling sessions, as needed.

- Educate the children regarding their rights and how to recognize and report any kind of abuse.
- Encourage the children to participate in non-routine activities more often.



Right to Dignity and Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The teenager in Mama Jael's home helps out with bathing the infants under the guidance of the caregiver. Caring for the little ones and showing love helps the children be kind to one another. Although children share beds, bedding and a bedroom, they have their own clothing. Infants are immediately cleaned every time they soil themselves and the same is done if beddings are soiled. No alarms or any safety protocols are installed in Mama Jael's home at the moment. Every child has a clean towel and toothbrush, and brush regularly. Mama Jael awards children who do more chores with simple gifts in order to motivate the rest.

- Engage the children more in community service to help teach them generosity.
- Work on obtaining every child's identification card as a Ugandan citizen.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children are allowed to be part of a spiritual community under the guidance of the caregiver and mentors. All the children in Mama Jael's home attend Sunday school (children's church) every Sunday where they get to interact with their fellow community members and make friends. Religious holidays like Christmas are celebrated together as a family with new clothes, delicious meals and gift sharing. A few of the religious materials like books are available for reading. However, more interactive and religious materials for the teenager are needed. Mama Jael's home has daily devotions and prayer sessions each morning and evening, which are participated in by the entire home.

- Purchase more religious materials like books.
- Engage and help children participate more in Sunday School.
- Allocate a more private space for devotions, prayer and meditations.



Financial Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

There's an accountant who records every income and expense from the home with the help of Mama Jael. The accountant also keeps receipts from products purchased, but there's a need to hire an internal auditor. There's a home budget for food on a weekly basis, but more nutritious meals should be added into the budget for children to be able to have more balanced meals. An annual budget is always drafted by the 92hands staff for the home to cover the estimated annual expenditures, but most times the budget is exceeded due to emergencies and miscellaneous needs that arise. Therefore, establishing an emergency fund for the home is needed.

- Hire an internal auditor.
- Create an emergency fund for the home.



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Jael's home is on land secured under the organizational name, where it cannot be sold for any personal gain. Compensation agreements are made between the landlord and the 92 hands support staff. Mothers at each home go through a training program before being placed in a home which includes going through the terms of their employment. These documents are stored in a safe place for future use throughout their stay at the home. In case of any concerns raised in the home, Mama Jael always informs 92hands staff and a solution is formed immediately. The home has a safe drinking water dispenser accessible to the entire home and infants are always encouraged to drink water regularly. Caregiving staff meetup to discuss challenges and receive training on child development, child participation and more.

- Provide more training sessions on attachment and child development.
- Establish more regular meetings between the caregiver and 92hands organization.



Current Improvement Partners



92 hands

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.



Makerere University

The College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Makerere University has provided 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



**A CHILD'S
HOPE**
FOUNDATION