



## Summary of our work in Uganda

[www.childofhopeuganda.org](http://www.childofhopeuganda.org)

### Namatata slum

There are around 20,000 people living in Namatata which is split into six zones. COH currently works in three cells: Muvule (primarily), Sisye and Somero.

A high proportion of Muvule Cell is populated by internally displaced peoples from the previously-warring Karamojong and Iteso tribes.

Most residents of Muvule Cell live in mud houses with either grass or iron sheet roofs, with no electricity nor running water. These houses are generally rented for 7,500 to 15,000 Ugandan Shillings (£2.50-£5.00). Finding this money is a serious strain for most families and it is common for two families to reduce their costs by sharing a single one-room round house.

Cooking is usually carried on outside the house and the residents tend to share communal pit latrines. Until the building of five communal pit latrines by Child of Hope in Muvule Cell last year, it was not unknown for human excrement to flow into and through people's houses during the rainy season.



### What we do

#### 1. Education:

- Free nursery and primary schooling for needy and under-served children.
- Uniforms and books for children.
- Play equipment for children.
- Building a nursery and primary school as a centre of excellence for needy children.
- Literacy and numeracy classes for mothers.
- Seminars on family planning for mothers.
- Life skills for parents and the children.



#### 2. Health:

- Free healthcare and medical services for children.
- Combat the spread of disease amongst the children.
- Bathing soap and other personal items for children.
- Shoes and clothes for children.
- Mosquito nets for children.
- Sleeping mats and blankets for children.
- Community toilets.
- Repair work to accommodations.
- Practical teaching on health issues.
- Practical teaching on other issues such as domestic child abuse, road safety and domestic unintentional poisonings.



#### 3. Food and drink:

- Free breakfasts to children at school.
- Free school meals/lunches to neediest children.



#### 4. Social and Economic:

- Regular home visits for children.
- Entrepreneurial training for disadvantaged teenage children.
- Business training for parents.
- Grants for parents to start businesses.
- Business mentoring for parents.
- Savings scheme for parents.
- Business loans for parents.
- Advocate child and women rights.



#### 5. Spiritual:

- Formal spiritual nourishment for children at school.
- Informal spiritual nourishment for children through films, sports and games.
- Christian seminars and conferences for children.



## Approach

- **Community involvement** leads to the community becoming the custodian and owner of our activities.
- We act as a **catalyst**, regularly mobilising the community for consultation meetings and to raise awareness on health and issues.
- **We equip** the community through training in life skills, entrepreneurial skills, adult literacy and numeracy.
- We are involved in **advocacy** for all of the issues in the community, especially being a powerful voice for the rights of the children.
- Our employees, volunteers and contractors are **members of the community**, whenever possible.
- Our activities are **socially acceptable** to the community. This reduces resistance and opposition.
- Our activities aim at developing the children and their families in a **holistic** way, physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
- Children's activities are designed to be **fun and enjoyable** and beneficial for physical and mental health.
- Activities directly **benefit** children, their families and community.
- Everything we do is **independently assessed** to measure its impact on the community.
- Activities are designed to be **sustainable** and to have a long term beneficial impact on the community.

## Education

- Around half the population of Namatala (9,000) are under 15 years old.
- Around 4,000 are in school... so 5,000 are not.
- We take children currently from three cells (Muvule, Sisye, Somero cells).
- So, if we're taking from three cells out of six - that makes 50% of 5,000 = 2,500 kids needing help in our catchment area.
- **We are helping 410 children at the moment, around 16%.**
- The school will eventually hold up to 500 children (nursery and primary - so out of 2500 kids that's a percentage of around 20%).
- The plan is to add around 50 to 60 children per year.
- Our nursery and primary sections are roughly equal to the UK's First and Middle schools.



Everyone wants to come to our school pretty much – why? Because it's free... plus we feed them, we clothe them, we pay the medical bills, the teacher-pupil ratio is superb and the teaching is high quality. Even the parents who are already paying for them to go elsewhere want them to come to us - and have offered bribes for us to take them. Of course, we won't – if they can pay then they can go elsewhere – we're only taking the poorest and most vulnerable.

## Income generation activities

Our IGA programme is successfully setting up businesses for parents of our children, who are then able to earn an income to pay their rent, buy food and educate their children.



These mothers come from the very poorest families, so they are usually totally illiterate and innumerate. Most have never gone even to primary school and have lived on handouts or by begging for decades. There are many micro-finance providers in Uganda but they won't lend to these women because they are considered high-risk.

We enable the women to sustainably provide for their families – and doing so raises the status of women who traditionally lack financial independence, and therefore a voice in family decision-making. They are given basic business and financial training and a one-off grant (£25) to start their business, then encouraged to attend weekly support sessions to ensure it prospers. We also provide an optional savings scheme to help them to manage crises they will face.

Typical business ventures include charcoal selling, used clothes selling, fruit and veg stalls, rice or banana selling, hairdressing, small 'restaurants', shops, wheelbarrow hire and small household goods.

These women recover their self-respect and dignity and become women of influence in the community.

