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ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025

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Corporate Summary

Save Sunshine Shelter Kids is an indigenous non-governmental organization registered in the Republic of Uganda, dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions for vulnerable children and underserved communities. The organization complements government efforts through innovative programs in education, vocational skills development, women and girls' empowerment, Music, Dance, and Drama (MDD), and targeted outreach initiatives.

Established in 2005 by a group of former street children, non-street youth, and committed community advocates, Save Sunshine Shelter Kids was founded in response to the rising number of street children in Kampala. The organization's core mandate is to restore dignity, confidence, and self-reliance among street and other vulnerable children by providing care, skills development, talent nurturing, and family reintegration support.

Experience has shown that family reintegration alone is often insufficient, as many children return to the streets due to limited access to sustainable livelihoods. Save Sunshine Shelter Kids addresses this challenge by equipping children with practical, lifelong skills and empowering them to become economically independent and socially integrated within their communities.

The organization is guided by the belief that every child possesses unique potential. Through structured engagement in activities such as crafts, agriculture, sports, music, and entrepreneurship, Save Sunshine Shelter Kids identifies and nurtures individual talents. Personalized mentorship and one-on-one guidance ensure that interventions are aligned with each child's interests and aspirations.

To strengthen impact, the organization leverages mentors, many of whom are former street children who have successfully rebuilt their lives, serving as role models and agents of change. Combined with hands-on skills training, this approach enables beneficiaries to establish small-scale, sustainable enterprises, contributing to reduced unemployment and long-term community resilience in Uganda.

Our vision, mission and Objectives

Vision:

Communities graced with equality, care, and love, enabling former street kids to testify and actively participate in building the world.

Mission:

To initiate a purposeful meaning in the lives of street kids and orphans by equipping them with realistic approaches wherever they are, showing them love and care, and encouraging them to realize their dreams.

Major Objective:

To administer God's love and mercy to street children.

Objectives

- i.) To educate and train street children in various courses.
- ii.) To promote the withdrawal, rehabilitation, and reintegration of street children.
- iii.) To train, empower, and sensitize women on sustainable practices.
- iv.) To promote the welfare of street, ex-street, and other vulnerable children and youth.
- v.) To administer God's love to street children, women, and the entire community.
- vi.) To collaborate with communities to improve conditions and keep children in their homes.
- vii.) To facilitate the capacity building of community stakeholders working with street children.
- viii.) To empower, sensitize, and promote sanitation and medical assistance in communities.
- ix.) To encourage and advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness to curb stigma within communities.
- x.) To increase awareness and responsiveness to child protection issues at all levels.
- xi.) To pursue any other initiatives that enhance the organization's impact and the welfare of the children and communities it serves.



Thematic areas



- 1. Street Kid Outreaches.**
They serve as an essential means of reaching vulnerable children. Through these interactions, we demonstrate care and support, fostering trust and understanding as the foundational step toward meaningful positive change.
- 2. Rehabilitation**
The next step is placement in our shelter, where children reside temporarily for several months or even years. The rehabilitation shelter offers a nurturing and secure environment, helping children adjust to life off the streets while preparing them for eventual reintegration with their families.
- 3. Education**
Education remains the organization's most costly program, as children are enrolled in different schools and levels, with expenses varying by grade and class. Despite these high costs, we remain committed to ensuring quality education, recognizing it as a key factor in breaking the cycle of vulnerability.
- 4. Deborah's Library.**
Libraries act as gateways for children to discover, learn, and cultivate their creativity. They provide a safe and inspiring space

5. Music at the Shelters.

Why do we provide them with skills? We believe that every child has unique talents and natural gifts. Our responsibility is to spark their potential, enabling their creativity to flourish through different art forms, including music, dance, and drama.

6. Advocacy Program

Through our outreach initiatives, we engage communities in highlighting the struggles of street children in Uganda. This program encourages active community involvement in tackling the challenges these children face.

7. Vocational Skills

We offer vocational training in areas such as leather crafting, guided by volunteer trainers. These skills equip children to earn an income and live independently, while the proceeds from their work help support their livelihoods.

8. Resettlement and Reintegration

Every child deserves the care and support of a family. A key part of our work is learning each child's story and assisting in their reunification and reintegration.

10. HIV/AIDS Counseling and Sensitization

HIV/AIDS is a significant factor that can lead children to the streets. We have established programs to educate and raise awareness among children about the risks of the virus, helping to reduce its impact on their lives.

11. Building And Restoring Homes

When funding allows, we take on the task of constructing or rehabilitating homes, focusing mainly on widows with children who are in urgent need.

12. Women Programs

Many households are headed by women who often care for 10–15 or more family members, including children and relatives, under extremely challenging conditions. We support these women with training and resources to enhance their livelihoods and strengthen household stability.

13. Clothing and Sanitary Ware

This program supplies girls and women with clothing and hygiene items, including sanitary pads. Distributions are held twice a year to ensure they have the essential items needed to live with dignity.

14. Distant /Far Projects.

This program was launched during the COVID-19 crisis to assist women and children who were profoundly affected by the pandemic. It continues to help families recover from these challenges and build resilience.

Letter from the founder and CEO Hajara Namuyanja

As the year came to a close, I stood and watched Ninety three young men and women step forward at Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, each at a different stage of growth, celebrating recovery, academic achievement, and progression from one level to the next. That moment led me into deep reflection about the seeds we sow with our lives. Many of these young people are children I have known since their early years, children I have cared for, mentored, and walked alongside for many seasons. They are the same children who once held my hand on dusty red roads, eager to share stories about their days, and who journeyed with me in the early stages of this work, when the future felt uncertain. Though they came from deep material poverty, they were rich in hope, filled with joy and endless possibility.

As I stood at the back watching the children celebrate their growth on various occasions, with my heart lifted in gratitude and worship, one truth kept repeating within me: these seeds matter. The work being done through Save Sunshine Shelter Kids truly matters. Lives are being restored, confidence is being rebuilt, and transformation is taking place in powerful and lasting ways.

Reflecting on more than 20 years of Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, I am reminded of the small but significant seed God first placed in my heart, a vision that felt impossibly big at the time. Yet I trusted that with God, all things are possible. In His faithfulness, God brought people like you alongside this journey, partners who believed in the vision and committed themselves to the work unfolding in this community.

Today, entire families are experiencing the fruit of your faithfulness, prayers, and generosity. Children are growing into confident young adults who think critically, lead with humility, and serve their communities. Most importantly, God is being made known through every interaction with those who pass through our gates. Though this place may be thousands of miles away from where you are, hope is being restored, futures are being shaped, and God's precious children are being transformed by His love.

None of this would be possible without people like you, those who recognize their blessings as gifts from God and choose to invest them in generations to come here in Uganda. Together, we are becoming the hands and feet of Christ to one of the most vulnerable communities in the world, so they may grow rich in knowing Him and His great love.

Thank you for continuing to partner with Save Sunshine Shelter Kids. Thank you for believing in this mission, for sowing seeds of hope, and for walking alongside me in the work God has set before us. I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you.

Namuyanja Hajara | Founder & CEO



Letter from the Social Worker for Teen mothers Gloria Ameno

Dear Friends,

2025 showcased the extraordinary impact that ordinary people can have when united in purpose. Through God's grace and our collective dedication, we have expanded our reach and deepened our impact beyond what we once imagined possible.

Our faith and determination, even in the face of great challenges, testify to God's strength working through us. We are deeply grateful to those on the front lines and to you, our supporters, for your unwavering prayers and generosity.

While the data here tells a story of growing impact, behind every number is a remarkable story of hope. We anchor ourselves in this truth, heaven rejoices when even one child is rescued.

Gloria Ameno | Social Worker for Teen mothers

Acknowledgments, Partnership, and Gratitude Message

Acknowledgement

At Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, we are profoundly grateful for the steadfast support and dedication of our donors, partners, and well-wishers. Your generous contributions whether financial, technical, or in-kind have been instrumental in sustaining our programs and transforming the lives of vulnerable children, teen mothers, and marginalized communities across Uganda.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to create safe and nurturing environments, expand access to education, health services, and vocational skills training, and restore hope and dignity to those who once felt forgotten. Your commitment has directly enabled positive change and provided opportunities for children to thrive.

We acknowledge that none of these successes would be possible without your trust in our mission and your unwavering investment in our vision. Your partnership continues to empower our work and reinforces the belief that together, we can create lasting impact in the lives of those who need it most.

Partnership

We sincerely acknowledge the invaluable partnerships we have forged with individuals, organizations, and agencies dedicated to driving social impact. Save Sunshine Shelter Kids extends heartfelt gratitude to our partner friends in Canada, the USA, and Uganda, whose collaboration has made it possible to implement programs that are both meaningful and sustainable.

Through these partnerships, we have been able to:

- (i) Empower street-connected children by providing education and safe shelter.
- (ii) Support teen mothers with vocational training and psychosocial care.
- (iii) Enhance hygiene, health, and access to essential services.
- (iv) Ensure compliance with NGO regulatory requirements while maintaining transparency.
- (v) Strengthen advocacy efforts and engage policymakers to promote long-term, systemic change.

These collaborations have reinforced our organizational foundation, expanded our reach beyond borders, and cultivated a network rooted in care, empathy, and shared responsibility. Your continued support enables us to create lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable children and communities we serve.

Gratitude & Thank You

To every donor, sponsor, friend, and supporter of Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Your generosity goes far beyond financial contributions, it is personal, intentional, and transformative. You have stood by us through both challenges and successes, and because of your support, countless lives are being changed for the better each day.

We are deeply grateful for the kindness, prayers, resources, and love you continue to share. Whether through a one-time donation or long-term partnership, every effort you make uplifts a child, empowers a mother, and strengthens an entire community.

Your commitment fuels our work, inspires hope, and drives meaningful change. We look forward to continuing this journey together, guided by humility, dedication, and the shared vision of creating a brighter, more hopeful future for Uganda's most vulnerable children and families.



STREET CHILDREN OUTREACHES



The street outreach programs have continued to advance, showing both positive progress and ongoing challenges. Notably, attendance has improved, and adherence to the “no drugs on site” rule has strengthened. This has contributed not only to better health outcomes but also to increased safety, significantly reducing incidents of physical altercations and weapon related conflicts.

Over the past several weeks, there have been no medical cases arising from violence among the boys an encouraging development, considering that previous months required substantial expenditures to cover medical treatment resulting from such conflicts. The growing sense of openness and trust among the boys has also been essential in supporting resettlement efforts.

The number of street children is alarming increasing everyday which is very challenging as the ones that are even still on streets have not been taken all off yet and the new ones still need to get rehabilitated to prevent them from Drug abuse/use and other bad practices. Our street programs, including night and day outreaches, have made a meaningful and measurable difference in supporting children living on the streets. Night outreaches are especially effective, reaching children who have only recently entered

street life. By engaging them early, we help prevent deeper involvement in harmful behaviors such as drug use and crime, increasing their chances of successful rehabilitation.

During the day, outreach sessions provide a safe and consistent space for connection, mentorship, and assessment. Younger or newer boys benefit most, as these sessions help identify those ready for resettlement or vocational training, making rehabilitation more targeted and effective.

The programs also have practical impacts on health, hygiene, and dignity. For instance, settling the community pit latrine bill has enabled boys to maintain basic cleanliness, essential for both well-being and self-esteem. Some children have successfully transitioned into vocational training, showing that consistent outreach leads to tangible results. Even in challenging cases, such as a boy facing arrest for theft, our intervention provided emotional and logistical support, facilitating family reunification and reintegration into structured training.

These efforts demonstrate that sustained outreach restores hope and promotes long-term recovery among street-connected children. Every interaction, mentorship session, and practical support initiative moves us closer to empowering these young lives for a brighter future.

(a) Street visits



(b) Drugs

Drug use among street children has risen significantly during this reporting period, creating an urgent protection and public health concern. During outreaches, we have observed an increase in both the frequency and severity of substance dependency among boys living on the streets.

Although our primary rule states that intoxicated boys are not permitted to participate in the programs, it is profoundly difficult to witness so many being excluded and unable to take part. Of particular concern is a new form of burnt illicit substance that several children are reportedly using.



While its exact composition remains unclear, it appears to be mixed with highly toxic industrial products, including what the children described as aviation-related fuels, leading to rapid and severe health effects. One of the most alarming outcomes has been the accelerated deterioration of dental health, with some children losing teeth within an unusually short timeframe.

This emerging trend is especially heartbreakng because the supply of these substances appears to be intentional and well-organized.

Children report that distributors know exactly where to find them and consistently deliver the drugs in the evenings, often selling them at very low prices to ensure ongoing dependence. This exploitation leaves already vulnerable children increasingly exposed to long-term physical harm, addiction, and further abuse.

The situation requires an urgent multi-sectoral response involving health services, child protection agencies, law enforcement, and community networks to disrupt the supply chain and strengthen support systems for affected children. However, it only remains effective for a week or a few days before it stops working and returns to its previous state which continues to make the eradication difficult among street children.

(a) **Psychosocial Care and Support**

The street outreach program places strong emphasis on psychological stabilization and behavioral change among street-connected children. Consistent engagement has led to

improved attendance and stronger compliance with program rules, including strict adherence to drug-free spaces. This structure has contributed to enhanced emotional regulation, improved physical safety, and a noticeable decline in violent incidents. Encouragingly, recent weeks have recorded no cases of injuries linked to conflict, reflecting progress in anger management, impulse control, and peer relationships.

The growing atmosphere of trust and openness has been critical in helping children feel safe, express themselves, and begin the emotional healing necessary for successful resettlement.

At the same time, the program addresses the psychological risks associated with the increasing number of children entering street life. Through both day and night outreach sessions, the organization prioritizes early psychosocial intervention to prevent deep-rooted trauma, substance dependence, and criminal behavior. Night outreach allows rapid engagement with newly displaced children, while daytime sessions offer safe spaces for mentorship, emotional support, and individual assessment.

These interactions help identify children ready for rehabilitation, vocational training, or family reunification. By restoring dignity, promoting self-worth, and providing consistent guidance, the program supports long-term emotional resilience, healthy decision making and sustainable reintegration into family and community life.

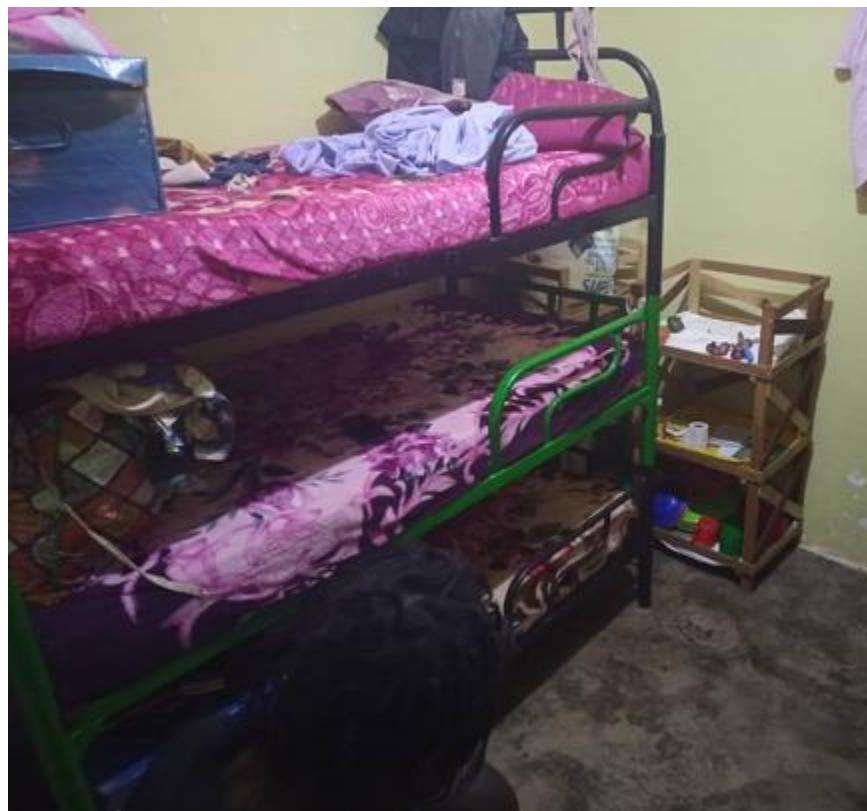


(c) Independent living housing for boys



The Independent Living Program is an initiative designed to support rescued youth particularly boys aged 18 years and above, who cannot be safely reintegrated with their families. This year, three of our beneficiaries joined the program. While our primary goal is always family resettlement and reunification, some situations require alternative solutions.

Family tracing begins immediately after rescue to understand the circumstances that led the child to leave home and to assess the possibility of returning home. When families are unable or unwilling to cooperate, we look for the most suitable housing and support options for each young person.



A transition into independent living is considered carefully and is used either as a timely solution or a preventative measure to protect both the youth and the shelter community. Some young people continue to struggle with behaviors learned on the streets, which can pose risks within a communal shelter. These issues may appear shortly after rescue or even after rehabilitation. Independent living can also be an age-appropriate environment for young adults above 18 years as they continue their vocational training and learn to manage daily responsibilities. At times, challenges arise when young adults develop unrealistic expectations regarding money or material support, and in such cases, we involve families in counseling to encourage responsible growth and strengthen relationships.

A crucial part of our assessment involves evaluating a young person's behavior, particularly regarding violence and theft. These two factors are the most significant indicators we rely on before approving someone for independent living.

If a boy shows serious violent tendencies, persistent stealing, or behaviors that indicate he is not in a stable state to manage independent living, we do not place him in the program. This is both for his safety and the safety of the shelter, the community, and potential housemates. In such cases, alternative support plans are developed to ensure the young person still receives the help they need while protecting others from harm. Security concerns more generally stemming from prolonged time on the streets also influence placement decisions. Some behaviors require extended rehabilitation to unlearn, and whenever these behaviors could endanger others or disrupt community relations, we take necessary measures to transition the teenager into a more suitable arrangement or, in severe cases, require immediate removal from the communal shelter.

Independent living was created to offer a structured and supportive alternative for youth over 18 who demonstrate readiness and responsibility. We remain closely involved through regular follow-up visits to monitor their progress, ensure their well-being, and support them as they complete their vocational studies.

For those who secure employment during this period, we assist them with transitioning fully into independent adulthood by covering their first three months of rent and providing essential household items such as a mattress, cooking supplies, utensils, curtains, clothing, and other necessities. Once the young person is stable and self-reliant, we conclude their case, emphasizing the importance of maintaining or rebuilding family connections whenever possible.

Seeing these teenagers grow, gain confidence, and begin shaping their own futures is one of the most rewarding aspects of our work. The Independent Living Program not only safeguards our shelters but also gives young adults the opportunity to demonstrate their transformation and become active, responsible members of their communities.

Isaac one of the transformed and joined independent living housing for the boys.



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REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Over the past months, the shelters have maintained stable operations, ensuring compliance with state regulations through routine inspections and necessary adjustments.

Core aspects of shelter management, including cleanliness, bedding, and overall organization, have been consistently upheld, providing children with safe and supportive living environments.

Renovations, particularly the updating of bed structures, have improved the functionality of the facilities, while recreational initiatives, such as renting nearby fields and organizing music, dance, and drama sessions, have contributed to the children's emotional and psychological well-being.

Additionally, significant progress has been made in completing essential documentation for the children, supporting their legal and administrative integration into the program. Overall, these efforts

demonstrate the shelters' capacity to provide structured, safe, and nurturing environments that promote the holistic development of the children.



(a) The haven girls transitional shelter



The Girls' Shelter has accommodated and rehabilitated many girls over the past few months, with 11 girls successfully resettled most of whom were referred by the police station.

All our girls resumed and enrolled in school for the third term, and their performance has greatly improved, particularly in writing and pronunciation, which are areas many girls often struggle with the most.

Many of the mid-aged girls are entering puberty, which presents significant emotional and mental challenges and requires increased time, understanding, and support among them. We are grateful for the transformation and positive change we have witnessed in their lives, and this remains the key reason we continue working to create an even more peaceful environment for more girls to join.

(b) The Genesis Boys Restoration Shelter.



Genesis means beginning in the Bible, the very hope and we want for the boys after rescuing them. The boys' shelter encompasses the biggest responsibility in terms of rehabilitation compared to the boys. The shelter provides safe home, food, school, clothing and all the needs a child will require in any way best to help with his development and movements.

The boys' shelter is often filled up compared to the girls and this is because the street number of boys is alarmingly increasing all over on the different streets of Kampala.

The Boys' Shelter carries some of the greatest responsibilities within our programs, particularly in the areas of security, counseling, and daily programming.

Many of the boy's face significant challenges including environmental pressures, physical and emotional struggles, and issues related to thefts which require considerable time, attention, and consistent structure.

These challenges are especially pronounced because many of the boys are accustomed to living independently on the streets and often struggle to follow rules. As a result, maintaining discipline while providing support requires both firmness and dedication on our part.

(c) Hide out center programs

We established these centers during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period when many street-connected children were left lost, confused, and without support. With numerous programs closing or struggling during that crisis to sustain daily operations and shelter services, the need for safe spaces became urgent.

In addition to academic achievements, the program has fostered resilience, personal growth, and a strong sense of purpose among the participants. Through continuous mentorship, the young men have developed critical skills for balancing academic responsibilities with personal development.

The proximity of the new Centre to a vocational institute has also created valuable opportunities for the boys to acquire practical skills that enhance their chances of reintegration and self-reliance.

Additionally, the decision to repurpose the former Centre into an emergency facility for medical needs demonstrates a proactive and adaptive approach to resource management. This dual center structure, one for rehabilitation and another for urgent interventions, has already helped streamline operations and respond more effectively to crises.

Another important impact lies in the strengthened focus on vocational development and long-term empowerment. By prioritizing shorter, affordable training programs that include job placement options, the initiative ensures that more boys can benefit from skill acquisition without overextending limited resources.

The decker bed in the single hide out rooms we rent for the boys, we are always in need of mattresses because each resettled leaves with his mattress so that he has a start when he returns home.

This approach balances sustainability with meaningful outcomes, allowing for continuous intake and rehabilitation of new children.

The calm and elderly-populated environment around the new hideout has further contributed to a sense of discipline and accountability, promoting behavioral change among the boys. Overall, these strategic adjustments have created a more conducive setting for transformation and resilience-building among the young beneficiaries.

Due to uncertainties and a fire incident at one of our hideout centers, we have had to relocate while continuing to search for a safer and more suitable location. In the second week of December, one of our two-room hideout centers caught fire, with one room sustaining the most damage. We lost some mattresses, clothes, bags, shoes, and bedding, though the remainder was saved thanks to the quick response of neighbors who rushed to extinguish the fire with water and sand.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, but we decided it was best to move the children to ensure their safety. Fortunately, none of the children were injured, which is a tremendous relief for us.

As we navigate this transition, the immediate priority has been to maintain stability and reassurance for the children, many of whom were deeply shaken by the incident. We have taken steps to secure temporary shelter while assessing longer-term options that offer improved safety, durability, and enough space for our ongoing activities. This unexpected setback has placed additional strain on our already limited resources.

In the process of relocating to a new temporary site, we were only able to bring with us items that survived the fire. Unfortunately, nearly all mattresses, clothes, and wooden belongings were completely destroyed, leaving us with very limited resources. Remarkably, one mattress survived with only a small corner burnt, providing a small measure of comfort for the children in the new location.

We are planning to replace lost items and acquire metallic storage cases for all shelters, as these are stronger and more fire-resistant. With these in place, we hope to prevent similar losses in the future, ensuring that essential items like clothes, shoes, and bedding are better protected and the children's daily lives are not disrupted by such incident.

Transition Process



Feeding

Feeding remains one of the most essential and resource-intensive components of care at Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, accounting for nearly one-third of the organization's overall budget. The high cost of feeding is driven by the need to provide consistent, nutritious meals across multiple weekly programs, including shelter-based care, open outreach programs, and school-going support.

Each day, children at the center receive balanced meals typically breakfast and lunch carefully prepared to meet their nutritional needs and support healthy growth and development.

The meals include a variety of staple and protein-rich foods such as beans, maize, rice, meat, green vegetables, peas, corn soya, and potatoes. This diverse diet is critical in sustaining the children's physical strength, mental focus, and emotional stability. Proper nutrition enables them to attend formal school regularly, participate actively in vocational training, and fully engage in psychosocial and recreational activities. As a result, improvements have been observed in overall health, energy levels, concentration, and general well-being.

During the reporting period, a total of 678 children benefited from meals provided through our open programs. In addition, Save Sunshine Shelter Kids continues to cover feeding costs for children attending school, ensuring that hunger does not become a barrier to learning or development.



Beyond providing meals, the organization intentionally integrates nutrition education into its feeding program. Each meal serves as an opportunity to teach children the importance of healthy eating and balanced diets. Through interactive discussions, storytelling, visual learning tools, and one-on-one guidance from staff and volunteers, children learn how different foods contribute to their growth, energy, concentration, and emotional health. Emphasis is placed on practical knowledge understanding food sources, making healthy choices even with limited options, and applying these lessons in daily life.

This holistic approach recognizes that nutrition is closely linked to learning capacity, mental health, and self-esteem. Our objective is not only to address immediate hunger but also to equip children with lifelong knowledge and habits that promote long-term well-being. By fostering healthy eating practices in a supportive environment, Save Sunshine Shelter Kids helps prepare children for successful reintegration into families, independent living, and community life. Ultimately, the feeding program is a cornerstone of our mission to nurture physically healthy, mentally strong, and emotionally resilient children who are empowered to thrive and positively influence future generations.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



We believe in education and place great value and importance on our education program by ensuring that our children go to school and have the opportunity to study and eventually have a story to tell once they complete their learning. Throughout the term, we recorded notable progress within the education program, particularly in academic performance. For the first time in several terms, the boys outperformed the girls, reflecting renewed motivation, consistent effort, and significant academic growth across the group.

This improvement highlights the positive outcomes of targeted academic support and close mentorship. Additionally, the focused intervention on literacy, especially in reading and writing produced visible results. Many of the children are now able to express their thoughts more clearly and coherently in writing, showing marked improvement in comprehension, language use, and overall confidence. These achievements collectively highlight the effectiveness of the instructional approaches adopted during the term. Furthermore, the program continued to make progress in both educational advancement and emotional development.

The number of children enrolled in primary school has increased, while several older children are preparing for their final examinations, signaling academic continuity and steady progression. This year, we have nine of our children sitting for their Uganda National Examinations at different class levels. Beyond classroom performance, the children have demonstrated notable emotional growth, developing greater resilience, self-confidence, and a stronger sense of belonging within their learning environments.

This holistic improvement underscores the broader impact of the program not only in raising academic standards but also in nurturing well-rounded learners who are better equipped to face future challenges. Despite our continued efforts to keep every child in school, the need remains overwhelming. Each term, we face the challenge of raising school fees for all the children at once a process that is

demanding and often financially straining as we work to ensure that every child in the organization resumes their studies.

Yet, education remains one of the most transformative elements of our work, and we prioritize partnering with schools that understand and agree to our school payment plan. We make school payments in portions across three installments to ensure that every child is able to resume school. Once children join our shelters and return to the classroom, the change is immediate and profound, renewed confidence, stability, discipline, and the ability to dream again. School gives them a safe routine and a future to look forward to. Education is one of the programs that have greatly enhanced the rehabilitation of the children.

(a) Why sponsorship is vital:-



Educational sponsorship is vital to the sustainability of our education program, as it directly enables vulnerable children to access and remain in school. Due to varying grade levels and rising education costs, sponsorship provides consistent financial support that covers tuition, learning materials, uniforms, and other essential school-related expenses.

Throughout the year, the organization has made deliberate efforts to secure sponsors to ensure that as many children as possible benefit from uninterrupted education, improved academic outcomes, and long-term opportunities for self-reliance.



(b) The table indicates the sponsorship fees for each school stage:-

Realistically, the organization requires a substantial number of education sponsors to adequately support its beneficiaries. The children under our care are enrolled in different grade levels, each with varying academic and financial requirements. As a result, education-related costs, including tuition, scholastic materials, uniforms, and examination fees are significant and continue to increase.

Securing additional sponsors is therefore essential to ensure uninterrupted access to quality education for all children and to support their academic progress effectively. For now, we will continue to collectively raise school funds for all the children together to ensure they continue their education.

GRADE	FEES PER CHILD
Primary School Child	\$90
Secondary/Vocational Studies child	\$142
Community Child	\$45
Re-settled Child	\$60
University	\$500

(c) university programs

The university transition program has yielded significant academic progress for the young men under its guidance. Students taking courses in Computing and studying Nursing have successfully settled into their respective programs and are actively engaging with their coursework. Despite initial delays caused by financial constraints, both students have demonstrated the ability to adapt to the demands of higher education, reflecting the program's effectiveness in providing timely support and guidance during this critical transition phase. Their academic progress underscores the importance of structured assistance in helping students navigate the complexities of university life.



In addition to academic achievements, the program has fostered resilience, personal growth, and a strong sense of purpose among the participants. Navigating the challenges of being young and new to university, while adapting to the constant strictness of rules and regulations, the students have demonstrated remarkable determination and perseverance.

We maintain a strict approach with the university students, ensuring that we are fully aware of their activities and participation in various programs. This vigilance is crucial in helping them navigate both peer and external pressures, which have often influenced some youths to drop out of university or become involved in dangerous and harmful groups. Unfortunately, one of the boys, Innocent, is currently struggling with peer pressure, which has temporarily impacted his academic progress.

(c) Vocational Training Program Report



Save Sunshine Shelter Kids recognizes vocational training as a critical pathway to long-term self-reliance and successful reintegration for vulnerable children and youth, particularly those who may not fully benefit from formal academic pathways. The organization places strong emphasis on equipping beneficiaries with practical, employable skills that enable them to build sustainable livelihoods and develop a sense of purpose and independence. Vocational training provides children with an opportunity to acquire hands on experience and tangible skills that translate directly into income-generating activities and meaningful employment.

During the reporting period, notable progress was observed within the vocational training program. Several children demonstrated increased commitment, improved skill acquisition, and growing confidence in their chosen trades. Through structured training, close mentorship, and consistent follow-up, beneficiaries showed enhanced discipline, responsibility, and motivation. Literacy and numeracy support integrated into vocational learning further strengthened their ability to communicate effectively, follow instructions, and manage basic business concepts, contributing to both technical competence and personal growth.

The number of children enrolled in vocational pathways has steadily increased, particularly among older beneficiaries preparing to transition into independent living. Some participants are currently undertaking final assessments or apprenticeships, marking an important milestone toward certification and employment readiness. These achievements reflect continuity in skills development and steady progression toward economic independence. Beyond technical skills, children involved in vocational training have exhibited significant emotional and social development, including improved self-esteem, resilience, and a stronger sense of belonging within their training environments.

Despite these positive outcomes, the demand for vocational training continues to exceed available resources. Program costs including training fees, tools, materials, and instructor support remain a challenge, particularly as multiple beneficiaries require assistance simultaneously. The organization continues to collaborate with vocational institutions and artisans willing to accommodate flexible payment arrangements to ensure that no child is excluded from training due to financial constraints.

Overall, vocational training remains one of the most transformative components of the rehabilitation process. Once children engage in skills training, positive changes are immediate and visible: increased confidence, discipline, stability, and renewed hope for the future. The program not only enhances employability but also empowers children to envision productive, independent lives. Vocational training therefore plays a vital role in reducing vulnerability, preventing a return to street life, and supporting sustainable reintegration into society.

(d) Deborah's library



We have had so many ongoing brief programs with in the library especially with the change to a temporary location for the past five months affected the progress of the studies of the children at first since there was need to alternate a number of teaching and studying to the children. Despite challenges, the library programs have proven to be truly transformative, fostering a love of learning in every child who walks through their doors.

Within this supportive environment, children develop foundational literacy skills from the alphabet and vowels to reading, writing, and phonemic awareness while also building confidence and curiosity that will serve them for a lifetime. Many of these children have never had the opportunity to attend school, and those who have often remain at the very beginning levels, such as kindergarten.

We are grateful that 15 children from Deborah's program have successfully enrolled in primary school, achieving a key target of the program. Our vision is to serve as a learning center for all children who lack access to formal education, providing them with foundational skills before transitioning them into mainstream schools, where they can benefit from greater resources, structured instruction, and professional guidance.



Equally important, the program aims to reduce the risk of children being lost to negative influences, such as gangs or harmful peer pressure a persistent issue that has tragically affected many families in the community. By equipping children with education, mentorship, and a supportive environment, we hope to open pathways to safer, more promising futures.

Our educational charts and visual aids have proven transformative, enabling children to recognize and pronounce sounds with ease and making learning both interactive and engaging. Each day brings small but meaningful achievements: a child sounding out a new word, writing their first sentence, and celebrating moments of accomplishment.

These milestones are not only a source of pride for us but also for the parents, who have visited the program to witness firsthand the remarkable progress their children have made. Such engagement has fostered significant transformations in both the children and their families.

Our goal is to nurture children to grow into responsible, law-abiding citizens a mission that the library is actively fulfilling.

Each child progresses at their own pace. Some, with prior school experience, grasp new concepts quickly, while others advance steadily with encouragement and support. A particularly proud moment,

this year was the successful transition of 15 children from the library program into formal schooling, a milestone that reflects the dedication of both the children and the program.

The library programs have had a significant and positive impact on the children's foundational literacy skills, with a strong emphasis on the alphabet, vowels, reading, writing, and phonemic awareness.

Educational charts and visual aids displayed throughout the library have been invaluable, enhancing children's ability to recognize and pronounce sounds accurately and reinforcing learning in ways that accelerate comprehension.



The programs have also facilitated important milestones, including the successful transition of two children from the library into formal schooling this year. Overall, the library's structured approach has supported steady academic progress and fostered greater confidence among learners.

Looking ahead, our vision for Deborah's library is to continue educating as many community children as possible guiding them from foundational literacy, writing, and reading skills to enrollment in mainstream schools.

Our target for the coming year is to have 45 children join formal schooling, allowing us to reach more children in the community who have never had the opportunity to read or write.

RESETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION



Hajara addressing children on the importance of resettlement and reintegration.

The primary goal of Save Sunshine Shelter Kids is to reintegrate children with their families, and so far, we have successfully reunited over 10 children with their families. To support these efforts, our team conducts follow-ups every three months to check on the families, provide encouragement, and address any challenges they may be facing and provide assistance where resources are needed as well.

Resettlement efforts continue to be a significant but necessary investment, as many children requiring assistance come from various districts across the country. To maximize the use of our resources, we strategically focus on one district at a time, aiming to resettle at least six or more children in a single trip. This approach helps ensure that our efforts are both efficient and impactful.

However, the process is resource-intensive, as it involves thorough pre-visits to the families and communities, as well as logistical planning to ensure a smooth transition for the children. These steps are critical to creating a supportive and welcoming environment for the children as they reintegrate into their homes and communities.

One of the most pressing challenges we face is the cost of transportation. Renting a car for resettlements and pre-visits is expensive, often requiring full-day or even two-day rentals depending on the distance and number of children involved. This reliance on rental vehicles strains our limited resources and impacts the number of resettlements we can achieve.

Securing reliable and affordable transportation would not only enhance our ability to carry out these essential resettlements but also ensure their sustainability in the long term. With better transportation options, we can significantly increase the scope and effectiveness of our resettlement efforts, bringing hope and stability to more children and their families.

Family Tracing

After identifying children on the streets, save sunshine shelter kids aims at reconciling them with their families, so that they can be supported while staying in a home stead. Between years 2022 to 2024 a total of more ten children were reintegrated within their families. Five in Makindye, two in Makerere and three in Semuto and five in Northern Uganda.

Some children that came from in distant areas such as Karamoja, Teso, and Rakai were not resettled because the project did not have enough funds to support them. Those who were resettled received scholastic materials, bedding, and, for some, craft-making supplies to support the vocational training skills they had learned.



Parents and guardians were counseled before the children were returned to their care. We conducted follow-up visits to encourage the children to stay at home. Out of the five children resettled, only two returned to the streets because their home situations had not improved.

For those where resettlements have failed to work out due to stigma and isolation with their families, we have had to welcome them back to the shelters and this is mainly common with the boys.

Home visits



This is a crucial activity that allows us to monitor the progress of resettled children and their families. The team conducts home visits to different families at least three times a month, assessing how well the child is adapting to life at home. During these visits, we encourage sick parents or guardians to seek medical attention, mediate disputes between couples, and counsel families to become more productive members of their communities. These efforts help create a stable environment for the children to thrive. Additionally, home visits provide an opportunity to evaluate the progress of any small businesses started by the families, offering technical support when needed to ensure their success.

By maintaining regular contact, Save Sunshine Shelter Kids builds stronger relationships with the families, fostering trust and collaboration. This connection plays a critical role in keeping the children at home and supporting their long-term well-being.



DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS



“There is hope for a tree that has been cut” (Job 14:7) serves as a guiding verse for the devotional program, reflecting the belief that restoration and new life are possible for every child. Devotion and Bible study form a foundational component of all programs at Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, providing spiritual grounding, moral guidance, and hope. At each shelter and center, daily Bible study sessions are conducted and are a compulsory part of the children’s routine, ensuring consistency and continuity in spiritual development.

The devotional sessions are led by young leaders selected from among the children themselves, fostering responsibility, peer leadership, and ownership of the program. These child leaders facilitate discussions and reflections, while team leaders provide oversight, mentorship, and support to ensure accuracy and inclusivity. This peer-led approach creates a welcoming and relatable environment, allowing children to engage more openly and confidently in spiritual learning.

Hearing and sharing the Word through fellow children particularly those who have been in the program longer have proven to be a powerful source of encouragement for new arrivals. The testimonies and life experiences shared during devotion sessions inspire spiritual growth, strengthen faith, and motivate children to apply biblical teachings in their daily lives. This environment promotes mutual support, accountability, and a sense of belonging within the community.

Significant transformation has been observed in the lives of the children through consistent participation in daily devotions. Coming from diverse religious and social backgrounds, many children choose to embrace the Christian faith not solely through instruction, but through the lived example of love, care, discipline, and compassion demonstrated within the program. The devotional initiative continues to nurture spiritual renewal, emotional healing, and moral development, reinforcing the organization’s holistic approach to child rehabilitation and restoration.

Peer to peer club



Peer-to-peer engagement lies at the heart of one of Save Sunshine Shelter Kids' most powerful transformation initiatives. The peer-to-peer club is made up of children who have shown growth, resilience, and positive change, and who now serve as role models for others still struggling. Many of these young leaders once endured the same hardships of street life, making their voices credible and deeply relatable. Through peer-led sessions on child rights, life skills, and responsible decision-making, they openly address harmful behaviors such as drug and substance abuse, violence, stealing, and other survival-driven practices common among street-connected children.

What distinguishes this approach is the deep emotional understanding peers bring to the process. The leaders do not speak from theory, but from lived experience, sharing stories of pain, fear, rejection, and eventual healing. This honesty creates safe and trusting spaces where children feel understood rather than judged. As a result, participants are more willing to open up, reflect on their choices, and begin the difficult but hopeful journey toward change.

Peer-to-peer influence also extends beyond the shelters through regular street outreach activities. During these outreaches, club members return to the streets to connect with children who are still living there, offering messages of hope, encouragement, and practical guidance. Seeing peers who once

walked the same streets now living with purpose and stability sparks belief and motivation in those still trapped in destructive cycles. These encounters often serve as emotional turning points, planting the first seeds of trust and willingness to seek help.

The impact of the peer-to-peer club is both profound and lasting. By promoting positive choices within a nurturing and supportive environment, the program restores dignity, builds self-worth, and encourages responsibility. Through shared experience, compassion, and leadership, peer-to-peer engagement continues to transform lives, helping street-connected children move beyond survival and toward healing, purpose, and a brighter future.

Children's Easter and Christmas parties

Children are Easter and Christmas party. It is a custom for save sunshine shelter kids to hold Easter and Christmas parties for the children. Since these occasions are well celebrated in Uganda, it is also a great opportunity for street children to enjoy themselves during these parties.



Christmas was celebrated joyfully, with two parties organized for the street children and shelter children. Over 167 street children joined the festivities, along with volunteers who actively participated. Unlike previous years, where children entertained each other, this year we focused on creating a special moment for everyone. The occasion was a great success, and children who excelled in behavior change were recognized. We held a shelter Christmas party for all shelter children. We were able to provide Christmas gifts this year due to extra funds donated, but we hope to resume this tradition next year.

The Christmas celebrations also served as an opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the children, volunteers, and the community. It was heartwarming to see the joy and gratitude on the children's faces, despite the challenges they face. The festivities brought a sense of belonging and hope to everyone involved, and it reminded us of the importance of creating moments of happiness and togetherness, especially during the holiday season. We look forward to continuing this tradition and making the next Christmas celebration even more special for the children and families we serve.

(b) Christmas Party for Street Boys





(C) Christmas Gifts



We distributed food packages to women especially single mothers and elderly participants who attend our programs and required additional support to care for their families. The experience was deeply moving and faith-affirming, as we witnessed the genuine joy and relief on their faces while receiving the Christmas food packages, each containing a variety of essential food items needed to sustain their households.

Staying for women



(a) Health

During this reporting period, we recorded several critical health challenges among both school-going children and street-connected children. The situation among street-connected children has been particularly severe, as many present with longstanding illnesses and is often unable or unwilling to attend regular health programs where they can receive timely treatment.

We have encountered cases of herpes zoster, typhoid, malaria, urinary tract infections, and tuberculosis, including one case involving a boy who did not complete his initial TB treatment, resulting in a more severe recurrence.



The ongoing rainy season has contributed to a significant rise in malaria and respiratory infections among street-connected boys. While obtaining medication is manageable, identifying safe and appropriate spaces for them to rest and recover remains a major challenge, especially given the large numbers requiring care.

Many children also struggle with persistent skin rashes, which complicate recovery. Even after showing improvement, some children are reluctant to return for follow-up treatment. In several instances, staff has had to carry medication to outreach sites and night programs to ensure continuity of care.

Herpes zoster has been particularly common, affecting seven boys and resulting in higher than expected medical expenses. Management of these cases required repeated blood tests, often more than three per child. Due to the association between herpes zoster and HIV/AIDS, HIV testing was also necessary, adding to both the financial and emotional burden for the children.

A notable case is Enock, who experienced a prolonged sickle cells crisis and required extended hospitalization. Initial treatment at Mulago consisted mainly of pain management, with limited improvement. Referral to a private facility, although costly but it is what was the needful solution, allowed for a comprehensive assessment.

Doctors identified issues involving low white blood cell counts, as well as liver and kidney complications (not functioning well) conditions commonly associated with sickle cell disease.

Medical care and treatment



(b) Food relief packages



In recent months, many of the women we support have faced significant hardship and emotional strain. In response to these growing challenges, we found it necessary to adjust the structure of the programs. Previously, we provided cooked meals twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays during program sessions. However, as the women's needs deepened, we shifted to distributing food packages instead.

This change became essential due to increasing food insecurity within many households. The situation worsened after several women, particularly those depending on small roadside businesses, were forcibly removed and displaced. With their incomes disrupted, the need for consistent food support rose sharply.

Because we often lack upfront funds, we established a partnership with a wholesale shop that supplies food for the street outreach programs. Through this arrangement, we are able to provide food packages for the women as well, paying in installments.

This system has made it possible to continue offering support even during periods of financial strain. Currently, women with medical conditions receive food packages three times a month, while those without receive them once or twice depending on the available resources. Due to limited resources, we can only include essential items: - maize flour, beans, sugar, salt, soap, and sanitary pads. These items are chosen based on necessity and the constraints of our budget.



One of our ongoing challenges is managing individual preferences, especially among older women. While we understand their personal needs, we must take a firm yet compassionate approach in helping them recognize the limitations we work under.

At present, we have standardized food package distribution to two times a month for all women, ensuring fairness and sustainability.

In previous months, cassava played an important role in both the women's program and the street outreach. We had planted a large quantity, and the harvest sustained the programs for nearly two months, easing the food budget significantly especially for the street outreach. This experience reinforced the value of locally sourced, sustainable efforts.

Although we may not have many high-profile success stories to share from the women's program apart from those we were able to renovate their pit latrines and roof their houses. We measure progress through the small, daily victories helping each woman navigate one challenge at a time. Every woman carries her own complex personal and family struggles, and our goal is to walk alongside them with patience and care.

We are encouraged to see a significant reduction in cases of physical and domestic violence among the women. This is a meaningful step forward and reflects the impact of consistent emotional and material support.

However, the most pressing challenges remain unstable food supply and insecure housing. These essential needs continue to weigh heavily on the women we support and remain central to our ongoing efforts. We addressed some of these challenges by renting rooms that women can share with others. Although shared housing comes with its own difficulties, it ensures that they have a safe place to stay. This is especially important to us because many of their children are active participants in our Deborah's Library programs, and we want to ensure their stability and security.



(c) HIV/AIDS Counseling and guidance

We have continued to take part in a wide range of HIV/AIDS counseling, awareness, and community education activities. These included attending workshops, participating in medical check-up initiatives, and joining information-sharing trainings organized by partner institutions. Through these engagements, we strengthened our capacity to educate communities about HIV prevention, medication adherence, and the management of treatment side effects.

In addition to participating in external sessions, we organized a community HIV/AIDS awareness event of our own. Specialists from TASO joined us to provide in-depth guidance, encourage consistent use of HIV medications, and address common concerns related to treatment. Their

input offered practical advice and reassurance for many participants who struggle with the daily realities of medication.

Despite these efforts, bringing community members together, especially men, for such advocacy programs remains profoundly challenging. Attendance at our event reflected this imbalance clearly: women participated in far greater numbers, while many men remained reluctant to join. Increasing male engagement remains an essential area for improvement.

Hajara is going door to door, actively engaging community members and inviting them to the upcoming medical workshop.

HIV/AIDS educators from Mulago Hospital also supported the session, offering important updates on the changing systems for antiretroviral medication distribution. They explained where medications can now be collected, either from state hospitals or designated community pick-up points, and noted that delivery options exist for those living several hours away.

They also highlighted the growing issue of medication shortages in many centers, emphasizing the need for responsible usage and uninterrupted treatment. Facilitators strongly encouraged participants to avoid alcohol, drug use, and multiple sexual partners, explaining that different partners may be at different stages of illness, which carries additional health risks. This message resonated strongly with the group and reinforced the importance of lifestyle decisions in managing HIV.



Participants were given space to share their experiences, and many spoke openly about the challenges they face with medication side effects. Men, in particular, expressed significant frustration and distress, which is understandable given how these effects can impact their daily functioning.

Unfortunately, HIV/AIDS prevalence continues to rise across several communities in Kampala. A major contributing factor is the rapid growth of small, unregulated bars in densely populated areas. With little oversight or enforcement of guidelines, these spaces have become hotspots for risky behavior.

Young and adolescent girls are especially vulnerable, as exploitation becomes easier in such environments, further driving the spread of HIV/AIDS.

We remain committed to sustaining community education, providing accurate information, and advocating for safer environments and improved access to treatment. Strengthening community engagement particularly among men, and addressing the structural risks that fuel new infections will remain central to our efforts moving forward.



(d) Through One on One Counseling

One-on-one women's counseling is a critical component of our programs, responding to the harsh realities faced by many of the women we serve. A significant number of women attending our programs are survivors of sexual violence, domestic abuse, and repeated physical beatings within their homes. For many, these experiences are ongoing, and they have nowhere else to turn for safety, understanding, or support. These private counseling sessions provide a confidential and secure space where women can speak openly about their pain, fear, and trauma without judgment.

Through individualized counseling, women are supported to process deep emotional wounds, address mental health challenges, and begin their healing journey at their own pace. The sessions focus on restoring dignity, rebuilding self-worth, and helping women understand that the abuse they have endured is not their fault. Counselors work closely with each woman to identify her specific needs, whether related to trauma recovery, unsafe relationships, family pressures, or health concerns, and to explore realistic pathways toward safety and stability.

The counseling process also emphasizes empowerment and resilience. Women are guided in developing healthy coping mechanisms, emotional regulation skills, and practical strategies for protecting themselves and making informed decisions. As trust grows, many women regain the confidence to set boundaries, seek further support, and envision a future free from violence. These sessions often represent the first time a woman has been heard, believed, and supported.

By providing consistent one-on-one counseling, the program helps women move from survival toward healing and personal growth. This individualized care strengthens emotional resilience, promotes mental well-being, and lays the foundation for long-term recovery. In situations where women have no safe home or support system, counseling becomes a lifeline offering hope, stability, and the possibility

of reclaiming control over their lives.



10

Teen Mothers

The Teen Mothers' Workshop Program has had a profound and positive impact on the lives of many young mothers and their families. By mobilizing participants from various communities and enrolling 24 teen mothers, the initiative has provided both practical skills and emotional support to this highly vulnerable group.

The inclusion of vocational training in sewing, baking, and hairstyling has empowered these young women to envision a future of independence and financial stability. Beyond technical skills, the workshops have also created safe spaces for dialogue, reflection, and healing, allowing participants to

regain confidence and a sense of dignity often diminished by stigma and the challenges of early motherhood.



The involvement of both government and private organizations, particularly with support from AID, has ensured that the program is well-resourced and aligned with broader efforts to promote women's empowerment and social inclusion.

Equally significant is the program's impact on family reconciliation and community awareness. Through family tracing and guided discussions, many parents have gained a deeper understanding of the challenges their daughters face, fostering acceptance and renewed relationships.

The participation of the mothers of the teen mothers in these workshops has been particularly transformative; their willingness to welcome their daughters back home represents a crucial step toward healing and rebuilding trust.

This intergenerational support system not only strengthens family bonds but also helps break cycles of shame and rejection associated with early pregnancy. As the program continues, it is contributing to a shift in community attitudes, promoting compassion, understanding, and shared responsibility for the well-being of young mothers and their children.



Many girls come from low-income households that struggle to meet even basic needs, making it difficult for them to fully engage in training or sustain themselves after the workshops conclude. This lack of economic stability often drives some young mothers into early or forced marriages as a survival mechanism, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and dependence that the program seeks to break.

Parents who express a willingness to welcome their daughters back frequently request food or basic supplies, underscoring the deep-rooted economic challenges that families face. Temporary Centre for the teen mothers acquiring skills during workshops. Due to limited space, we are no longer able to provide shelter for teen mothers. Nevertheless, we continue to actively support them as they navigate the challenges of raising a child at a young age.

Each young mother comes from a different background, making unified guidance challenging, but through mentorship, counseling, and practical training, we help them build the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to grow into independent and self-reliant young women.

Rape and Abuse

(a) Sheila's story

Sheila was brought from Busia to Kampala to work in a shop, at least that's what she was told. She was contacted and connected by a friend close to her Family. On reaching Kampala, she was met by a man

who spoke her language and identified himself as one who had sent for her and she was shown proof. She agreed and went with this man to his home.

On arrival, she was surprised that there was no one home; he told her that his wife was at school. She was at ease at first, hoping the woman of the house was going to return soon. It became dark and there was no sign of the woman coming home. By then, it was very late in the night and she didn't know anyone in Kampala. Her contact had stayed back home in the village.

Without a person to reach out to, that night she slept with the man and as misfortune would have it, she was sexually abused in the night and the night after that. She resolved to call her contact back in the village to try and get her out of the situation. The dilemma for Sheila was her parents finding out what had happened to her. She didn't want to implicate the family friend who had connected her to the supposed job, so she decided that she wouldn't tell her parents. Her contact got in touch with us who started following up the case.

After a process of investigations, the suspect was apprehended by police and awaits court ruling. Sheila was successfully resettled back with her family after a sit down with them to counsel them and help them understand that it wasn't Sheila's fault that these events happened to her.

A photo of a recent victim of sexual assault.



Teen Mothers' Shelter

The need for a dedicated and spacious shelter for teen mothers remains urgent due to the increasing number of young girls facing abuse, neglect, and extremely challenging life circumstances. Many of these teen mothers come from disadvantaged backgrounds with limited family or community support, placing them at high risk of exploitation, homelessness, and survival-based practices such as prostitution.



Two teen mothers joining independent living and starting life after attaining skills.

Unfortunately, during the past year, we were unable to raise sufficient funds to advance the teen mothers' shelter initiative. A significant portion of available resources had to be directed toward meeting the rising costs of education for the children in our care, which consumed a substantial share of the overall budget. While prioritizing education was necessary to ensure continuity and stability for enrolled children, it limited our capacity to mobilize funds for the shelter project.

Despite this setback, the vision for a teen mothers' shelter remains a priority. A well-equipped facility would provide a safe and protective environment where young mothers can heal both physically and emotionally, while also accessing rehabilitation services and vocational skills training. Such a shelter would not only restore dignity and hope but also equip teen mothers with practical skills to support themselves and their children, breaking cycles of vulnerability and dependence.

Our vision for a shelter dedicated to teen mothers.



Extreme need

Our vision is to respond to the urgent need for a permanent and well-structured home for teen mothers one that is spacious, safe, and purposefully designed to provide both shelter and a dedicated learning environment. Teen mothers require comprehensive support that addresses their physical, emotional, spiritual, and vocational needs, and a permanent facility would greatly enhance our ability to guide, rehabilitate, and empower them effectively.

Such a home would offer stability and consistency, allowing young mothers to heal, builds confidence, and acquire practical skills while adjusting to the realities of motherhood, a new and often overwhelming journey for many of them. In the coming year, our priority is to secure a permanent home for teen mothers, enabling us to provide stronger support systems and equip them with the tools they need to build secure, hopeful, and sustainable futures for themselves and their children.



The Far project Programs



After months of effort and perseverance, we have managed to secure a 30 by 100-foot plot of land. Though small, this space is invaluable to us and will allow us to continue the programs we have been passionately developing especially our children's activities, women's counseling services, and small-scale farming initiatives. With guidance and training from members of the Ministry of Agriculture, both women and men have gained practical knowledge to improve their farming practices, and these lessons continue to make a meaningful difference in the community.

This achievement comes after nearly seven months of navigating challenges to reclaim our land, which were complicated by fraudulent practices. Unfortunately, we lost a portion of the property during this process, a result of conflicting land ownership systems. One system operates under traditional authority, while the other follows a different legal framework, and both have at times used questionable methods that disrupt rightful ownership. These discrepancies have created considerable obstacles for many landholders, including us.

Despite these setbacks, we are grateful for the land we were able to preserve. Our goal for the coming year is to establish at least a temporary program area, reducing our reliance on borrowed spaces. We plan to construct a shed a large, durable wooden structure that will serve as a dedicated facility for our children's programs, women's counseling, and other community activities. This space will enable us to continue our work effectively and provide long-term benefits to those we serve.

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

The international day of street kids in Mbale during the dialogue and party preparations.



The advocacy initiatives have produced a substantial positive impact on both the organization and its target beneficiaries, particularly teen mothers. Participation in government and stakeholder-led programs has provided valuable insights into aligning operations with national standards, ensuring compliance, and enhancing accountability.

These efforts have strengthened the organization's credibility and established it as a responsible and trusted actor in community development. Moreover, the emphasis on addressing child abandonment has promoted a more holistic approach to supporting teen mothers, addressing not only skill development but also the emotional and social factors that contribute to child neglect.

A mental health and social workers dialogue at the American centers.



On a practical level, the establishment of a safe space and skills center has provided immediate support and empowerment opportunities for young mothers. The training programs have equipped them with essential knowledge on early motherhood and critical life skills, fostering self-reliance and confidence.

Additionally, the provision of temporary housing and basic necessities has ensured safety and stability during a particularly vulnerable period. These interventions have helped restore dignity and provided a foundation for rebuilding their lives, ultimately reducing the risk of further social and economic marginalization.

(a) Police Advocacy

We are profoundly grateful to the Uganda Police in the various local communities where we operate, particularly for their unwavering support in handling rape cases and protecting vulnerable young women. The policewomen, in particular, have played a vital role in apprehending perpetrators, who prey on young women, and they have guided us through the legal procedures and court processes, helping us understand how to effectively follow up on cases involving the girls we support.

Their involvement has also been invaluable in helping us secure safe placements for women fleeing violence, ensuring they have immediate protection and a chance to rebuild their lives. It is stories like these, Sheila stories of courage, collaboration, and meaningful impact, that inspire us and give us the hope and strength to continue the work we do every single day.

As much as corruption surrounds our security systems in Uganda, we recognize that we would not be able to operate fully without the presence and support of the officers who continue to act with integrity, and we do our best to cooperate and ensure we are always in line with the law, even though acquiring the necessary documentation is often extremely difficult and time-consuming. As we continue to expand our programs, we remain committed to strengthening these partnerships and deepening our work within the community.

Each success we witness reminds us of the importance of standing together to safeguard the dignity and future of vulnerable women and girls, and with continued support and collaboration, we believe we can reach even more lives offering hope, healing, and the opportunity for a safer tomorrow.

(b) Restoring Homes

This year, due to very tight budgets, our support was limited. We were only able to assist a few women with installing windows and provide roofing for a small number of households most affected by the recent floods. A significant portion of our funds was spent on essential sanitation projects, including pit latrine construction and cesspool emptying, which meant we couldn't meet the needs of every woman in our community.

Despite these challenges, we remain hopeful. In the coming year, we aim to support at least three women with their urgent housing needs. Our resources are critically needed to make this possible, and every contribution will directly improve the safety and dignity of these households.

These efforts have provided elderly beneficiaries, who live with their families, with safe and secure homes, safeguarding their health and well-being through interventions designed to create lasting positive impact.

Community outreaches



We carried out quarterly community outreach activities within the slums and surrounding areas where we operate. These outreaches are designed to increase awareness of the challenges faced by street-connected children and to highlight the vital role communities play in protecting and supporting them. Key topics addressed include children's rights, parental responsibility, and the risks associated with drug and substance abuse. Through these engagements, many community members gain essential knowledge, develop more positive perceptions of street children, and are encouraged to take practical steps to support their safety and well-being. As a result, community participation in addressing issues affecting vulnerable children has been significantly strengthened.

Beyond awareness creation, the outreach programs serve as a platform for deeper engagement between community members and Save Sunshine Shelter Kids. They create opportunities for volunteer involvement, partnerships, and resource mobilization, further extending the reach and impact of the

organization's work. By promoting collaboration and shared responsibility, these outreach initiatives not only improve outcomes for street children but also contribute to building stronger, more compassionate communities that prioritize the care and protection of their most vulnerable members.

Networking and Collaboration Activities

In 2025, we partnered with several grassroots organizations, including HIV/AIDS medical centers, the Uganda Police, and other groups engaged in street children's welfare, labor, and gender-related interventions. These collaborations were established to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise, strengthen information sharing, and coordinate joint actions to address the complex challenges facing street-connected children.

Through these strategic partnerships, the organization was able to broaden its reach and enhance the effectiveness of its programs. Working alongside like-minded institutions fostered a coordinated and unified approach, strengthening collective efforts toward sustainable solutions and meaningful, positive change for vulnerable children and communities.



Additionally, these partnerships have enabled Save Sunshine Shelter Kids to access specialized services essential to the well-being and development of street-connected children, including healthcare, legal assistance, and eye medical clinics. By working in collaboration with other organizations and legal institutions, the organization is better positioned to respond to complex needs that cannot be addressed in isolation.

Through this coordinated approach, we are also able to advocate more effectively for policy reforms and raise awareness about the systemic challenges affecting vulnerable children. Such collective efforts strengthen our capacity to deliver meaningful support while contributing to the creation of a more protective, inclusive, and child-centered environment across Uganda.

Participation in National and International Celebrations

Save Sunshine Shelter Kids actively engages in national and international observances, using these platforms to raise awareness about the challenges faced by street-connected children. In partnership with district authorities, children from the shelter perform songs, dramas, and poems during significant events, allowing them to share their experiences and inspire community action. Key events include:

(I) Day of the African Child (June 16th)

This day emphasizes the importance of children's rights and access to quality education for all. For Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, it serves as a powerful platform to highlight the struggles of street children and advocate for their right to education, protection, and opportunity. Through performances and community engagement, the children connect with audiences, fostering awareness and encouraging support for their needs and aspirations.

(II) World AIDS Day (December 1st)

World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, honoring those who have passed, and reducing stigma and discrimination for those living with the disease. For Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, this day also becomes an opportunity to educate children and communities about risky behaviors often associated with street life, including drug use and unsafe interactions. Through dramas, songs, and educational sessions, children spread messages of prevention, care, and hope, promoting safe practices and empathy within their communities.

(III) World Street Children's Day (April 12th)

Observed to recognize and support children living and working on the streets, World Street Children's Day highlights their daily hardships, including lack of shelter, education, and protection. Save Sunshine Shelter Kids uses this day to amplify the voices of street children, providing them a platform to share their stories, talents, and perspectives through performances. These activities foster understanding and encourage both communities and policymakers to take concrete steps toward creating safer, more supportive environments for vulnerable children.

(IV) International Women's Day (March 8th)

International Women's Day celebrates the achievements of women and girls while drawing attention to ongoing struggles for gender equality, such as discrimination, gender-based violence, and unequal access to opportunities. For Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, it is an important occasion to promote empowerment, women's rights, and supportive environments where girls and women can thrive. On several platforms, Hajara Namuyanja was recognized for her impactful program initiatives, highlighting the organization's commitment to gender equity and community transformation.

These engagements not only showcase the talents of children but also serve as critical avenues for advocacy, community education, and the promotion of social inclusion.

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Staff Development

A committed team of eight volunteers has been actively supporting operations at the Save Sunshine Shelter Kids office and shelters, providing invaluable assistance across various activities. In addition, two community volunteers have played a significant role in advancing our initiatives, extending their support to multiple programs.

To enhance their effectiveness, these volunteers participated in specialized training sessions designed to build their skills and improve service delivery. The training covered areas such as Database Management, Communication for Community-Based Education, and Psychosocial Care and Support.

These capacity-building opportunities have equipped the volunteers with practical knowledge and tools, enabling them to engage more effectively with children and communities. Their contributions strengthen our programs and ensure that the support provided has a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

Future plans

Save sunshine shelter kids hopes to embark on the following activities:-

Short-Term/Immediate Plans for Save Sunshine Shelter Kids

(I) Construction of a Wooden Shelter on Our 30x100 Land

One of our immediate priorities is to build a wooden shelter on the 30x100 plot of land we currently own. This structure will provide a secure, dedicated space for implementing our programs; ensuring activities are not disrupted by external factors. In addition, the shelter will safeguard the land from misuse or unauthorized access. Having a permanent and protected facility will create a stable environment for the children and allow us to deliver consistent care and support.

(II) Acquisition of Two Motorcycles for Shelter Operations

To strengthen our transportation capacity, we plan to acquire two motorcycles for use in shelter-related activities. These motorcycles will reduce transportation costs and improve our responsiveness in emergency situations, such as transporting children to medical facilities or supporting field volunteers. The ability to navigate difficult terrain quickly will ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of children efficiently and without delay.

(III) Rental of a Spacious Facility for Teen Mothers' Shelter and Vocational Training

We aim to rent a larger, secure facility to establish a dedicated shelter for teen mothers. Many of these young women face abuse, exploitation, and unsafe living conditions, making access to a safe environment critical. Beyond shelter, the space will also serve as a vocational training center, equipping teen mothers with skills to become self-reliant and regain control over their lives. This initiative is designed to empower teen mothers, protect them from harm, and create pathways for long-term independence.

(III) Establishment of a Drop-In Center for Street Children

We plan to rent a suitable space for a drop-in center to serve street-connected children. This center will act as a safe haven where children can access food, shelter, and essential services. It will also function as a hub for outreach programs, enabling closer engagement, rehabilitation, and mentorship. By creating this center, we aim to reach more children, provide consistent support, and ensure that vulnerable youth have a secure environment where they can receive care and guidance.

(V) Re-establishment of the Goat Rearing Project for Women's Sustainability

We plan to revive the goat-rearing project to empower women with a sustainable source of income. This initiative will improve livelihoods, enhance independence, and strengthen their ability to support their families. By providing training and resources for goat rearing, we aim to create long-term economic opportunities and promote self-sufficiency among women in our programs.

Future Plans for Save Sunshine Shelter Kids

Save Sunshine Shelter Kids has identified several strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening support for street children and women, with a focus on creating long-term, sustainable impact:-

(I) Construction of a Permanent Home for Street Children

We plan to build a permanent, safe, and nurturing home where street children can live, receive education, and access counseling services. This facility will provide a stable environment to support their

reintegration into society and help them develop the skills and confidence needed for a successful future.

(II) Establishment of a Drop-In Center

We aim to set up a fully equipped drop-in center that will offer immediate refuge, care, and support for street children. This center will provide a safe space to rest, eat, and receive counseling before transitioning to more permanent shelter arrangements, ensuring that children in urgent need are attended to without delay.

(III) Acquisition of a Building for the Sunshine Rehabilitation Center

To enhance our rehabilitation efforts, we plan to purchase a centrally located building for the Sunshine Rehabilitation Center. This facility will be easily accessible to street children and will host programs focused on education, vocational skills, and emotional support, helping them rebuild their lives and reintegrate successfully into the community.

(IV) Completion of the Piggery Farm

As part of our sustainable development initiatives, we plan to complete our piggery farm, which will function both as an income-generating project and a platform for community skills training. This initiative will empower local families, provide economic opportunities, and help fund ongoing programs for the children and women under our care.

(V) Purchase of a Van

To improve transportation for emergency cases, outreach activities, and moving children between centers, we plan to acquire a van. This will reduce transport costs and enable us to provide timely support to children and families when they need it most.

While we recognize that accomplishing all these goals immediately is not feasible, we remain grateful for each step of progress we make. Our priority is to focus on achieving short-term objectives first, as these will lay the foundation for addressing larger, long-term needs. Limited sponsorship continues to be our biggest challenge, restricting the full implementation and expansion of our programs. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful, committed, and determined to create meaningful and lasting change for the vulnerable children and women we serve.

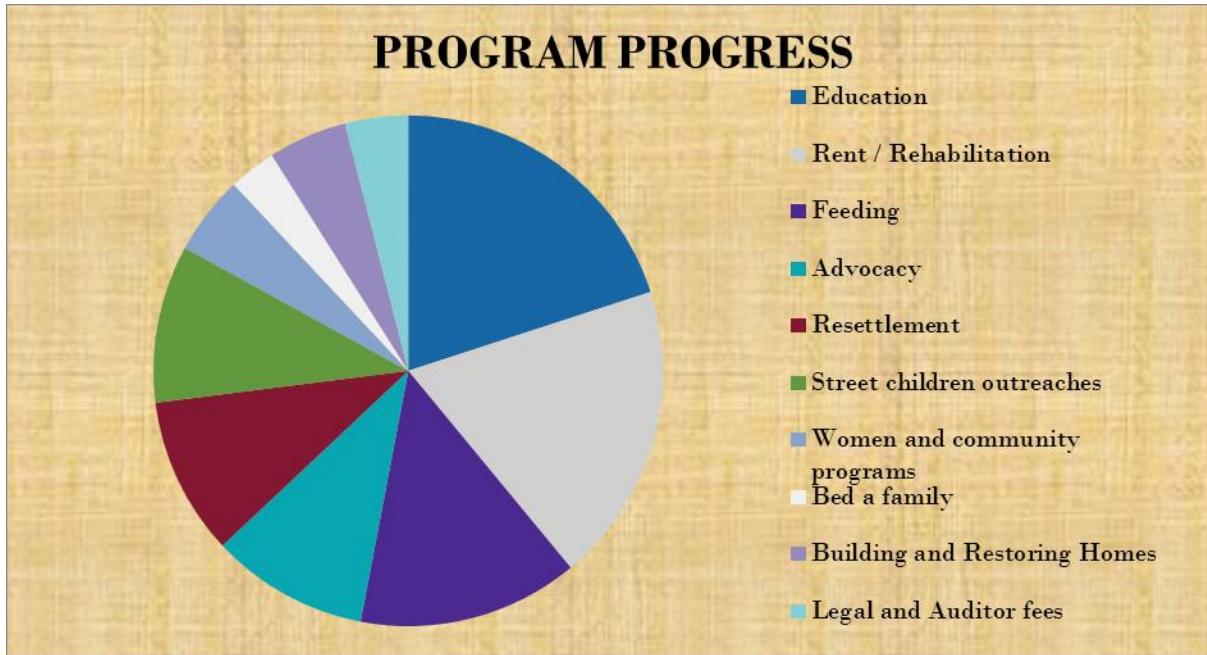
Finances

At Save Sunshine Shelter Kids, finances are handled with the highest level of accountability, ensuring that every donation and contribution is used efficiently to implement programs and achieve their intended impact. Fund allocation is carefully prioritized based on the urgency and specific needs of each program. Feeding, education, and rental costs constitute the largest portions of our budget, reflecting their critical role in maintaining operations and supporting the well-being of the children. Education, in particular, demands the greatest share due to the significant number of children enrolled across multiple levels, including kindergarten, primary, secondary, and vocational training programs.

Despite the challenges posed by limited resources and a shortage of sponsors, we maximize the impact of the funds available. We remain deeply grateful to our sponsors from Canada, whose consistent support has been instrumental in sustaining our programs and helping us reach more children effectively.

Our most pressing financial challenge is the lack of personal sponsors for any of our children's education, which limits our ability to provide individualized support. Additionally, several programs operate without dedicated sponsorship, making it difficult to sustain and expand them as needed.

Nevertheless, we continue to manage resources prudently, focusing on efficiency, accountability, and strategic planning to ensure that every contribution has a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve.



A pie- Chart illustrating the relative expense allocation across various programs, with feeding taking the largest share and others follow in order of priority.

Key Highlights:

- (a) **Feeding, Education, and Sheltering and Rehabilitation** receive the highest allocation, with Feeding ranked at the top. This reflects the organization's strong focus on basic needs and stability for the children.
- (b) **Health Care, Outreach, and Transportation** follow, indicating the importance placed on well-being and access.
- (c) **Vocational and Skilling Programs and Resettlement and Integration** are in the mid-range, showing growing investment in long-term empowerment and reintegration.
- (d) Programs like **Deborah's Library Program, Women Programs, and The Far Project** receive comparatively lower funding, possibly due to their newer or more targeted nature.

This expense distribution highlights the practical approach taken by Save Sunshine Shelter Kids in addressing the most urgent and foundational needs of the children first, ensuring they are well-fed, safe, and educated, before scaling into specialized and long-term development programs. By allocating resources in this manner, the organization not only provides immediate relief but also builds a sustainable path for growth, empowerment, and reintegration into society. The data underscores a clear commitment to holistic care, balancing short-term needs with strategic, long-term impact.

Vote Of Thanks

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our cherished donors who have selflessly contributed to the street children cause. Your unwavering support has made it possible to rehabilitate and educate former street children, giving them the opportunity to build a brighter future. Without your generosity and compassion, these children would still be struggling in hopeless circumstances. Your partnership has been a beacon of light in their lives, and we are profoundly grateful for your commitment to this mission.

The theme verse for the past year, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19), beautifully encapsulates the essence of your support. It reminds us that the love we extend to these children is a reflection of the boundless love God has shown us. Your kindness and generosity are living examples of this truth, and through your contributions, these children have experienced God's love in tangible ways. Thank you for being a vital part of this work and for standing with us as we transform lives together, one child at a time.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to our dear friends in Canada, whose steadfast support has been instrumental in bringing many of our projects to life. Your funding has enabled us to rescue, rehabilitate, and provide opportunities for countless street children to rediscover hope and purpose. Beyond financial contributions, the awareness you have created on behalf of Save Sunshine Shelter Kids has inspired others to join the cause, amplifying the impact of our shared mission. Your dedication to this work has been a source of strength and encouragement, and we are truly blessed to have you as partners in this journey.

Through your support and God's guiding hand, we continue to witness lives transformed and communities strengthened. Together, we embody the spirit of our theme verse, "We love because He

first loved us" (1 John 4:19), by showing these children that they are not forgotten, but deeply cherished and loved. Thank you for standing alongside us, for believing in the potential of every child, and for being part of this incredible story of redemption and hope.



SaveSunshine
Shelter Kids

A Home away from the streets

