

GOD'S MERCY ORPHANAGE CENTRE KISORO-UGANDA.



1.0 WHO WE ARE: OUR STORY

1.1 Introduction

God' Mercy Orphanage Center (GMOC) is a nonprofit organization registered by the Registrar of Companies as a company limited by guarantee and also registered in Kisoro District as Community Based Organization (CBO) Reg No.DGCS/496/2012, to work towards advancing the plight of children especially that of a girl child and women in Kisoro district. GMOC employs communities' own solutions that are aimed at reducing the burden on children and women in Kisoro district.

The story of GMOC is reminiscence in the story of the founder Robbinah. At the time of its registration as a nonprofit in 2009, there was an overwhelming suffering of children in Gisorora Parish of Nyakabande sub-county as a result of poverty, diseases, wars from the neighboring country of Democratic Republic of Congo and illiteracy of the parents and Caregivers who were gender imbalanced in Educating their children. A girl child was considered a source of Livelihood by the parents or caregivers and had no right to go to school as a boy child. At the age of 17 years she was married off and dowries inform of cash, cows or goats were paid to the parents or caregivers. A big percentage of these marriages failed and the girl came back to her parents but most of them with children from the failed marriage. When this happened, the girl would be forced to marry a second man otherwise her parents or caregivers were supposed to refund the dowry. Most girls run away from their villages to the capital city kampala to work as Domestic servants leaving their children behind with their parents who

most of the times don't give them much care. Such neglected children are an example of vulnerable children and Orphans that we care for at God's Mercy Orphanage Centre. Robbinah the founder who had grown up as a child from the same community of Gisorora, saw the suffering of these children by their Parents/ caregivers and felt the need to do something.

Unlike other unfortunate girls in her community who were denied the chance to Education, her parents were Literate and Valued Education even for a girl child. All her six siblings who are all girls were educated by her parents up to Degree level and others have attained Masters Degrees and Post graduate diplomas in different fields of study. Through her study journey up to the time when she began employment, the thought of the suffering girl child that she grew up with never left her mind. Together with her sister Dorothy they agreed to start an initiative which would impact on the lives of the suffering children in her community. This gave birth to God's Mercy Orphanage Center (GMOC).

In 2009, she started providing school fees and scholastic materials (uniforms, books and clothing) to the needy children. Together with her own children, close family relatives and well-wishers they would collect clothing and other household items which she would transport to the villages and distribute to the children and their caregivers. This has continued until now with support from her community in Kampala.

Eventually in 2011 realizing that children even with school fees support were unable to stay in school due to lack of food in their household, she started a feeding program where she identified 25 orphans from the community and started providing regular meals to them. This has continued until today with more children currently benefiting from this program. However introducing the feeding Program came a big challenge of dealing with hungry Caregivers and Parents of these children who would come along with their children to GMOC Centre on the feeding days, ready to be fed too.

It was always difficult to chase them away, yet we were operating on a small budget that was specifically for the 25 children. To address this challenge, a women Livelihood Program was introduced at GMOC. The first intervention was to provide the women with seed Capital in form of crop seed, hoes, pesticides and fertilizer, and using personal funds rented Land where they began growing food for home consumption and sale. This program has to date expanded with the help of Rotary International that has helped the women move from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture. Membership has expanded from 25 women to 150 women as of March 2017.

1.3: Vision, Mission and Our Core Values.

Our Vision	A society where children and women live free from poverty, disease and injustices.
Our Mission	To empower children and women with opportunities to overcome poverty, disease and injustices through education; healthcare support; and social economic development.
Our Core Values.	Commitment: We are dedicated to serving the individuals and communities we work with through collaboration and dedication
	Transparency: We commit to always be transparent and open to all our stakeholders for betterment of the institution and society at large.
	Honest: We act in accordance with GMOC's mission, ensuring honesty in all we do while accepting responsibility for our collective and individual actions

	Team work: We shall always endeavor to collectively put efforts in building a result oriented team and works towards the realization of GMOC's vision.
	Spiritual: We shall always commit to remain spiritually grounded in Christianity values of love to and for all people.

2.0Our Core Competences

Poverty contributes to some of the deprivations that children face. Children can be deprived even when the household income is above the poverty line. Child deprivation in Uganda take various dimensions namely; nutrition, health, water, education, shelter, sanitation, and information and about 55% (3.7 million) of Uganda's under-five children are deprived in one and 38% of 6–17-year-olds are deprived in at least two poverty dimensions. Children aged 0–4 years whose mother has no education are five times more likely to live in extreme poverty than those whose household head has secondary education. Although child poverty is lowest in the

south-west of the country where 41% of children below five years live in poverty, majority of deprived children are the most affected.

The most common deprivations for under-fives are in the areas of nutrition (38%), health (34%) and access to improved water source (30%). With under-five malnutrition representing the most common form of deprivation in Uganda, and given that 85% of a child's core brain structure is formed by the age of three, under nutrition and stunting early in life can lead to significant impairment of brain cell development with lifelong consequences for children.

Furthermore, there is evidence that these deprivations create a 'vicious circle of poverty' in which children who suffer deprivations in childhood grow up and become parents who produce children who suffer the same. For example, the health, education and protection outcomes of children whose mother's highest level of education is primary school or none are much lower than those of children whose mothers completed secondary school – thus producing a self-sustaining intergenerational cycle of poverty. Consequently, the evidence shows that children aged 0–4 years whose household's head has no education are five times more likely to be in extreme poverty than those whose household head has secondary education (MoGLSD et al., 2014).

GMOC's programmatic focus is based on the contextual diagnosis of the poverty dynamics in Uganda particularly South Western Uganda.

2.1 Basic Education and Literacy Program

Literacy is at the heart of basic education for all, and essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy. Literacy is a significant and specific goal for GMOC. It is so important that it is one of the core areas of focus for GMOC's Future Vision – basic education and literacy. ***The goal of this program is to increase literacy and numeracy but also to provide quality education that is context specific to the needs of children and women in rural communities of kisoro district.*** The program will work to improve the reading and writing skills of children and women in the communities. This will be achieved through promoting initiatives that will encourage school retentions by children, and also initiatives that will promote adult reading and writing.



Computer class at GMOC.





God's Mercy Orphanage

Centre children attending classes and counseling sessions.

2.2 Child Protection and Survival Program

Although Uganda has made promising socio-economic strides since emerging from decades of conflict, many children still face myriad challenges there. Despite a growing economy, a large percentage of the population of 30-million+ people still live in poverty, stretching families' capacities to provide a protective environment for their children to develop. Moreover, Uganda is one of the countries most affected by HIV and AIDS in the world, a situation that has orphaned over at least 1.2 million Ugandan children and severely tested extended kinship networks' capacity to care for children. The Child Protection and Survival Program is designed to ensure the safety of children from physical, psychological and emotional harm within their communities. The program is geared at reducing risks to children's holistic well-being, making children's rights a reality, restoring hope and a dignified living where abuse has occurred and creating an enabling environment that supports children's positive development. The program works at individual, family and community levels in a coordinated manner towards enhancing child protection and survival goals. The focus is on the following areas; 1) improving nutrition outcomes through investing in a supplementary feeding of vulnerable children whose families are unable to provide adequate nutrition. The feeding initiative has been the primary focus of the program since the start, 2) improving the welfare of children through meeting basic clothing needs of the children. This initiative support

vulnerable

children

with

basic



clothing.

2.3 Economic Community Development –Focus on Women Livelihood Projects:

This program offers families (especially young women/girls headed families) the opportunity for a better life through mentorship, life-skills training, financial literacy and microfinance. We target women (mainly adolescent mothers) from disadvantaged backgrounds in rural villages within Gisorora and Nyakabande sub-counties. These

are taken through a series of processes. It starts with “safe spaces” close to the home, where women can discuss problems with their peers in small groups and build their social networks, away from the pressures of family and male-centred society. Health education, confidence building and other life skills are added to the mix. Finally an innovative financial component is given. To navigate their way to a more prosperous future, women (especially adolescent mothers) from poor families require financial education, capital, livelihood skills, a sense of self-worth and an entrepreneurial mindset, all of which are taught or encouraged. For younger mothers, the emphasis is on social skills development, financial literacy and creating a savings mentality. The plan is now to expand the program to include micro-loans to all graduating members. Social Plus Financial approach where social empowerment means giving girls the confidence they need to assert themselves and resolve conflicts, making them aware of their rights, and training them in health and gender issues, including family planning and reproductive health.



Planting beans



Irish Potatoes in the garden.



Fork Hoes.



2.4 Water and Sanitation Hygiene.

Poor sanitation, water and hygiene have many other serious repercussions. Children – and particularly girls – are denied their right to education because their schools lack private and decent sanitation facilities. Women and girls are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water. Poor farmers and wage earners are less productive due to illness, health systems are overwhelmed and national economies suffer. Without WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), sustainable development is impossible. ***The goal of this program is to contribute to the realization of a universal access to quality water and sanitation services. With support from Rotary a 5m³ Reservoir tank that supplies cleaned piped drinking water to six public stand pipes in five villages was built. 10,000 people in Nyakabande Sub County have access to clean water.***



Public Water stand Pipe.



5m³ Reservoir Tank.



Centre.

Eco-san Toilet at GMOC

5.1: Strategic Goal and Strategic Directions.

Improved GMOC's capacity and that of its partners to deliver integrated programs child protection & survival, livelihood & empowerment; WASH and provision of basic Education and literacy to children and women in rural communities.

Child Protection
and Survival
Program

1. Improved nutrition outcomes for children and women in the target sub-counties
2. Improved welfare of children in the target s/cs
3. Strengthened child protection mechanisms at HH level

Economic
Community
Development-
Livelihood
Projects.

1. Increased household food security
2. Increased financial literacy (savings and investment in initiatives at HH level
3. Developed entrepreneurship capacity at HH and community level

Basic Education
and Literacy
Program

1. Improved levels of literacy and numeracy by children and women
2. Increased level of school retention esp among girls
3. Increased numbers of school completions among primary pupils

Water Hygiene
and Sanitation
Program

1. Increased access to clean water among households
2. Increased number of HH will proper hygiene and sanitation technologies
3. Changed behaviour and practices at HH towards effective WASH

Institutional
Capacity
strengthening

- Increased partnerships and collaboration.
- Improved organization visibility nationally and globally
- Increased funding and other resources
- Build capacity of the BOD in mgnt and leadership

Support Required from Donors.

We urgently need to build two classroom blocks, an outdoor kitchen with chimney and modern outdoor cooking stoves. We need a Pantry. We need solar fittings for the classrooms. We need Furniture and fittings. All the programs at God's Mercy Orphanage Centre are conducted in one classroom block that has been partitioned in two classes.

Our children who at the moment are staying with Caregivers due to lack of proper infrastructure at the Orphanage Centre like Dormitories and Kitchen use one partitioned class to take classes and at the same time use it as a dining Hall. GMOC Children are all of the school going age. Between the ages of 7 and 22 years. Caregivers are relatives to these children in case of total orphans, or either parent for the children who have one parent. Our core focus is to educate these children so that they help transform their community in future. Despite lack of facilities like dorms tries to keep the Orphans and Vulnerable children at God's Mercy Orphanage Centre schooling still goes on.

The next portion of the classroom is used for Functional Adult Literacy Classes. Women do their handcrafts from the same class. The outdoor kitchen is very small and does not have a chimney and good cooking stoves. We would wish to build a bigger kitchen and put in- built clay cooking stoves that save energy and are environmentally friendly. We need more furniture too as the number of women and children keep increasing.

We get support the problem of having congested classes will be solved. Sometimes there is friction of voices coming from the women learning and children learning at the same time because it is only ply wood that separates the two classes. If we get separate classes for women and children, this problem will be solved.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR AN OUTDOOR KITCKEN AND PANTRY:

NOS	PARTICULARS	UNIT	RATE	AMOUNT IN US\$
1	Bricks	2 Lorries	121	242
2	Stones	2 „	20	40
3	Lake Sand	2 „	23	69
4	Gravel	2 „	20	80
5	Cement	30 bags	12	60
7	Iron Sheets	15 pcs	5.7	40.5
8	Timber	30 pcs	1.7	13.9
9	Nails	6 kgs	1.7	15.6
10	Ventilation	2 windows	28	56
11	Chimney	1	28	28
12	Modern Concrete Firewood Stoves	3	29	87

	ROTAL:			732
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BUDGET ITEMS FOR CLASSROOM FURNITURE:

NOS	PARTICULARS	UNIT	RATE	AMOUNT
1	Twin chairs and benches	20	34.7	695
2	Teachers Table	2	28.9	57.8
3	Teachers Chair	2	15	30
4	Book shelves	2	57.8	115.6
5	Concrete Chalk boards	2	115.9	231.8
	TOTAL:			1130.2

SUMMARY OF BILLS OF QUANTITIES FOR A STANDARD CLASSROOM BLOCK. 690*200M

NO	PARTICULARS.	AMOUNT IN US \$
	Preliminaries	776.8
1	Sub-Structure	2760.2
2	Super-Structure	2492.7

3	Roofing	2349.2
4	Doors and Windows	840.5
5	Finishes	1763.4
6	Painting	1027.8
7	External Works	504.3
8	Electrical Installation	260.8
	Sub-Total	12.776.2
	Contingency 2%	255.5
	GrandTotal:	13,031.7

NOTE: Details of breakdown of each item of the classroom block can be emailed on request. OR you can email robbinah@mercyorphanageug.org.

The quotation is for one classroom. We need two Classrooms. Total cost of two classrooms is USD **26,063.4**

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS:

MR. Irumba Robert-----Chairperson BOD

Mr. Hakiza Joseph-----Member

Mr. Danny Gotto Devito-----Member

Ms. Uwimana Lydia Shalon-----Member

Ms. Muliiza Patience-----Member

Ms. Robbinah hakiza-----Secretary BOD/ Founder God's Mercy Orphanage Centre-Uganda.

OUR DONORS AND PATNERS:

Global Giving

Rotary International

Pens For Kids UK

World Vision Uganda

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