When I came from Gulu I stayed on the veranda at Mulago for 2 weeks with my daughter. It was terrible, so uncomfortable and we struggled to see a doctor and get put on treatment. We spent another 4 days before meeting the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) social worker who referred us to this hostel. Since I have been here it is so comfortable with a bed, enough water for bathing, enough food and I have made some good friends. On the veranda we couldn’t cook or sleep well so I am so relieved to be here now. The social worker here goes with us to the hospital for our appointment dates which is good and she helps me understand as I cannot read or write. Here our property is safe and secure, on the veranda things would get stolen or go missing. Nowadays because I am here the pain and stress are no longer there. My daughter cooks for me good vegetables, sometimes we can pick these from the hostel garden.

The hostel has helped these patients a lot. Aside from accommodation, feeding and transport, the hostel offers psychosocial support to patients which is very important.
Achievements to date

- 167 patients plus their carers (totaling 20,000 overnight stays) since started delivering a patient centred approach
- Expanded capacity to 50 beds for patients with their carers giving free food and transport
- Good referral system with UCI and local cancer stakeholders, records showing over 70% having cervical cancer
- Organisational technical capacity was strengthened through SOURCE programme for greater day to day management using tracking tools

Future targets

- To establish 3 high quality care hostels for female cancer patients in Uganda by 2021, including food, accommodation, transport and psycho-social holistic support for patients
- To empower patients through income generating programmes in crafts and perma-gardens to improve nutrition and livelihoods through demonstration gardens on our farm and training for 50 women
- To raise PRM visibility through media platforms and radio talk shows to create awareness on cancer
- To raise financial and in kind support locally and develop long term sustainability plans through farms and income generating projects
- To promote awareness raising with partners for communities, providing screening and IEC materials at least once a year

How you can help

Money
Tropical Bank Kampala Rd Patients Relief Mission (UGX) 0010304822
Donations via mobile money 0753 848 986

Pro-bono
Teach basic adult literacy, drivers

Time
Volunteer to visit guests

Materials
Sanitary items, bed linen blankets, mattresses, food, clothes

Equipment
Beds, office consumables, first aid boxes, wheelchairs, vehicle