



LALA'S

CHILDREN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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Fear God, Be Wise

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lala Children Support Organization has continued to create lasting changes in the lives of children with special need in Wakiso District districts of Uganda by supporting these children get therapies and expert nurturing to help them live to their full potential. Our work has greatly Strengthened delivery of critical and requisite services to children with Special needs (cerebral palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other physical and mental handicaps in Wakiso District.

According to National Housing and population survey 2014, more than 19% of Ugandans have a disability. With children making 57% of Ugandan population, It is estimated that 3.9 million children in Uganda have a disability and out of this number only 5% have access to main stream education and other requisite services.

In 2019, we achieved a lot of success in impacting ASD children, their families and communities. We carried out a family health outreach, where 28 children were assessed and found to be on the spectrum. Their families were ignorant about this and before the Covid 19 pandemic, these children's ways of life had improved. Our Early Intervention Programs have helped enhance their communication, behavior and for some, speech. Despite that great success we have also encountered some challenges like inadequate funding.

I sincerely wish to thank our partners who have continued to support our work in all the way not forgetting our many individual sponsors and donors. Continue the good work and together we make the world a better place to live in.

God Bless you all!

Murungi Christine
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

Lala Children Support Organization is a registered Community Based Organization in Wakiso District with Reg No. [BO/04/753](#). We are dedicated to working with children with special needs, their families and communities in Wakiso District, to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of cerebral palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as reducing stigma among parents and the community as a result of these disabilities. We restore confidence of parents in their children, dignity and respect of these children despite their condition; we teach them skills in order to secure their future. We also build their capacity of their caregivers to overcome socio-economic barriers through enhancing their business and entrepreneurship abilities to raise enough funds to cater for their children.



OUR THEORY OUR CHANGE

We believe that disability in form of cerebral palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other physical and mental handicaps robs children and their parents of their dignity, joy, confidence, ability to dream, and in the end disconnects them from opportunities. Our work restores the confidence of these children and their parents and, stimulates their capacity to live meaningful lives as well as empowering their caregivers to connect to opportunities in order to support their children. We support children with special needs to experience significant growth of their own personal power and fulfil their potential as well as discovering and celebrating their own capacity to make a significant difference in this world.

Our Vision

To create an empowered community where children with special needs live healthier, happier and useful lives

Mission Statement

Lala Children Support Organization exists to promote education, health and socio-economic programs that build the capacity of children with special needs as well as their families, and empower them to live respectful and dignified lives as God intended it.

EFP-Uganda Objectives

- To promote rights based approach to improve livelihood of children with special needs
- To equip the community members with skills that enable them detect early enough ASD children and link them to care
- To provide Psycho-social support to parents, help them have a positive mindset towards all children with special needs and hence fight stigma
- To provide a networking platform for parents with ASD children to interact and share parenting information
- Empowering Lala Children Support Organization management and governance systems for effective program implementation

Our Values

- **Respect:** Respecting and caring for children and the environment for our safety and for future generations.
- **Integrity:** Being honest in whatever we do and nurture strong ethical moral principles and uprightness.
- **Excellence:** Working to excel in every task
- **Self-Reliance.** Support children with special needs to become self reliant
- **Self Esteem.** Support children with special needs to overcome inferiority complex
- **Religiosity.** Having a fear of the Lord in all transactions of our business
- **Discipline.**

OUR FOCUS

CONTINUED MULTIDISCIPLINARY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS:

With financial support from friends, we have developed a multidisciplinary team of therapists that assess and provide early intervention therapies to children with special needs that help them meet their maximum potential. This program is an ongoing assessment program that will continue, to the point of seeing learners develop from one level of interaction and learning to another.

COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

In our community and society as a whole, children with special needs are believed to be either bewitched or a curse. Through community outreach activities, we aim at sensitizing the community members about this dilemma and breaking the evils of stigma and discrimination inflicted against children with special needs.

HOME BASED THERAPIES

Based on the fact that children with special needs come from different home settings and their needs, challenges, facilities and parents' priorities differ, we carry out home based therapies in equipping parents, guardians and caregivers with skills related to how to care and train their children.

MEDICAL CAMPS:

In a bid to promote health care in our communities, we carry out medical camps where we implement activities like sickle cells training, screening and awareness, HIV counseling and testing, cervical cancer screening, male circumcision, blood donation, general health checks, child vaccination and deworming, child nutrition, assessments for children with special needs and learning disabilities, to mention but a few.

ACHIEVEMENTS

HEALTH PROMOTION

Lala Children Support Organization has trained our team of volunteers in various areas of childcare. These include first aid and learning disabilities. We equip teachers, mothers, caretakers and communities with knowledge and skills to identify and help children with learning challenges (ADD, ADHD, Dyslexia etc...). A total of 98 have been trained and they are doing an excellent work to help the children.

PARTNERSHIP FORMATION

We have built partnerships with a number of organizations meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, social and mental needs of children with special needs. Among the partners include: Watoto Church, Doctors' Hospital, Mildmay Uganda, and the Children's Medical Centre, CoRSU, among others

DEVELOPMENT OF PSYCHO MOTOR SKILLS

Through our continuous engagements with the children, we now see light at the end of the tunnel where Autistic children are able to carry out conversations, have no more behavioral and social mishaps and are beginning to learn some classroom concepts. This is attributed to constant therapies that we give to the children.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Our programs have tremendously reduced stigma and discrimination, self pity and acrimony of parents with ASD children. Many children were used to be locked up in rooms where they could face untold suffering but with this intervention, many parents have been helped

SUCCESS STORIES:

Joy Karatunga's Story, "Lala Children's Center Restored My Hope"

"My name is Joy karatunga, a mother of 2 and wife to Dr. Pascal Karatunga and I'm glad to be a part of the great Lala's family as a parent, sister and friend to many.

Lala's Children Support Organization is an answered prayer to me. Whenever I remember the first day I met the Executive Director whom I happen to call a good friend and mentor, I just cannot stop giving thanks to God Almighty. It's a day I cannot forget in my life as I was stuck with my own child. As much as there are many schools around, Lala's is such a unique place full of life and love.

I entered their Center gate with a lot of frustration visibly clear on my face thanks to what my son Eugene (then 3yrs) was going through. I need to tell you truthfully my friend that Eugene is a living testimony, a walking miracle. He is the very reason I surely know that God is always watching over us and has a good reason for whatever you are going through however hard or tough a situation may seem.

Eugene and I went through a torrid time. He started getting very serious convulsions out of the blue which went from once a month to twice, then weekly before it became daily and then hourly. The number of times this happened daily, I surely lost count, that's why am saying if you see him now he is a great living testimony.

Here I was, at Lala Children's Support Organization, seeking for how best he would be helped after he had been rejected by several other schools. I actually left that gate totally relieved after the interaction I had with, Ms Christine Murungi also known as Mama. I was immensely surprised that she calmly accepted to take up Eugene. You should see what has become of Eugene in just a year. One who was destructive now calm, one who had had what you would call weird social skills is now able to interact with others. Eugene has totally been transformed by the Grace of God and the works of this organisation.

Allow me to say that on top of all the therapies offered at Lala's, there's a great team of prayer warriors too who started a prayer and fasting session once a week for all our children and this has helped a lot. When I and my husband look at Eugene now, we cannot stop thanking the living God who constantly watches over us and knows exactly what our needs are. Learn to trust him earnestly and he will fulfil his promises to you.

2 chronicles 7:14 (If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land)"

CHALLENGES FACED

Despite the fact that Lala Children's Organization with stakeholders and beneficiaries have made great strides, there were some challenges that we experienced;

1. Failure of the communities and parents to raise their local contribution.

The project required parents and the community to raise some funds locally as local contribution to the project in terms of building materials and labour but this was not realized

2. Carrying out therapies is very expensive since they are carried out by specialists and when he run out of funds, its affects services given to children

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff Development

Lala's Children Support Organization employs full time staff and volunteers. In order to maintain and improve capacity of staff Lala's continuously offers short training courses to its staff. This time, 3 staff attended an which enabled staff to learn new techniques in improving care and support of children with special needs

Compliance with the law:

Lala's Children Support Organization applied to the Directorate of Community Development and was awarded a certificate of operation. This certification came after all relevant requirements were met and approved by the governing authorities.

Fundraising

In 2019, Lala's Children Support Organization was able to raise **112,457,000**. This was made possible by strengthening partnership with our current supporters' and brings new partners on board.

Networking

Lala's Children Support Organization continues to cooperate and network with a number of stake holders. Local authority at district and sub county levels, community members, groups and their leaders and partners like Watoto Church, Doctors' Hospital, Mildmay Uganda, CoRSU and the Children's Medical Centre, among others, who have been great partners in this project.

OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Your support means a great deal to our organization, but even more to the people who rely on Lala Children Support Organization to help children with special needs. This CBO will be blessed with your continued support to improve and transform the lives of the ASD Children and their families. As a Community Based Organization, Lala Children Support Organization relies on the generosity of others especially now, more than ever! Through our partnership with you, we can continue to make lasting changes in our communities.

Thank you for your interest in our organization and your support is very much appreciated.