

Kyaninga Child Development Centre



Reimagining the
futures of children
with disabilities



Our Story

Having created their dream lodge, owners Steve and Asha Williams faced the biggest challenge of their lives when their son Sidney was born with severe epilepsy resulting in developmental delay. After struggling to find any appropriate care in Uganda, they felt compelled to act – not just for Sidney but for families in similar situations. Such families, often shunned because of widespread beliefs that disability is contagious or caused by witchcraft, were in dire need of help. Together with Fiona Beckerlegge, a paediatric physiotherapist, they established the Kyaninga Child Development Centre in 2013. KCDC's holistic approach creates solutions at multiple levels—medical, therapeutic, educational, and social—to ensure that these children are no longer neglected.



KCDC Areas of Support

ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT

INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION

ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY

REHABILITATION
& THERAPY

DISABILITY ADVOCACY
& AWARENESS

Child Centred Provision



Therapy and Rehabilitation

Our mission

In Uganda, an estimated 13% of children (2.5 million) live with a disability and access to healthcare and rehabilitation is extremely limited. Widespread cultural beliefs that disabilities are an untreatable curse often cause disabled children and their families to be excluded from their communities, causing increased family stress, financial burdens, and a reluctance to seek help.

KCDC provides physical, occupational, speech and language therapy, orthopaedic services, special educational support, nutrition support and distribution of essential epilepsy medications to children with a wide range of physical, intellectual and communication disabilities in rural western Uganda, resulting in increased functional independence, increased enrolment in primary school and caregivers reporting an average of 25% improvement in quality of life (PEDSQL).



Reaching the community

Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) is a community development strategy, initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), that aims at enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities (PWDs) within their community. KCDC has been delivering CBR across 7 districts over the past 7 years which includes partnering with 25 local health centres by providing monthly clinics to increase accessibility and community engagement. KCDC has built strong relationships with individual family members, communities, local health centres, schools and district governments and is recognised as the centre of excellence regarding disability regionally.

Our impact so far...



5200

Children with disabilities benefited from therapy services



825

Community and health workers trained



28

Monthly outreach clinics launched



296

Teachers & educators trained



3947

Children's educational outcomes improved



25%

Improvement in quality of life by parents & caregivers

Together we can change the future

Within 3 years we will:

- Construct a Disability Centre of Excellence
- Support 3,000 additional children through community-based rehabilitation
- Build a specialist school to provide education for children with disabilities
- Give 1,000 caregivers financial security through Street Business School
- Complete the Kyaninga Mobility workshop building
- Produce 300 wheelchairs and adaptive aids



“Reigniting the vision of outstanding education for every child, by every teacher in every school.”

Kyaninga Education Hub was born in 2020 to address the alarming reality that only 9% of Ugandan CWDs attend primary school. Through carefully designed training sessions and ongoing direct support to schools, the Education Hub equips local teachers with the skills to use more interactive, engaging and inclusive methods in their classrooms. The impact is a transformation of the learning experiences of CWDs; leading to significantly improved outcomes for all children, which can subsequently break the cycle of poverty, and provide real hope to even the most marginalised children.



An integral aspect of The Education Hub is Kyaninga Inclusive Model School (KIMS) which provides inclusive education for children from diverse backgrounds who come together to learn and play despite financial situation, need or disability.

Miracle's story

Miracle is an example of one of the children at KIMS. She was born with Spina Bifida and her parents were told she was 'unsuitable' for school. Miracle was left to sit by herself, day after day, with little stimulation or engagement with the world around her. When Miracle was told she could join KIMS, her face lit up with a brilliant smile. She knew that this would change her life and her chances of happiness. With its inclusive ethos, KIMS is perfect for Miracle. However, many KIMS children like Miracle live in poverty and have no means of paying for education.



With your help many children with complex needs can access the education they deserve.



Making the everyday possible

Kyaninga Mobility is a not-for-profit initiative set up by the Kyaninga Child Development Centre to manufacture and supply locally produced and adapted wheelchairs.

Many of the 700 children seen by KCDC every month desperately need mobility equipment such as wheelchairs and standing apparatus. Without this equipment children cannot leave the home to attend school and are often left lying on the floor while their caregivers go to the market to sell produce. This diminishes life chances and poses many dangers including high risks of illness and accident. KCDC has a growing list of 300 children in urgent need of a wheelchair. This reflects the unmet need of the estimated 820,000 children living without a wheelchair in Uganda.



Local terrain requires a wheelchair that can endure a rural environment and be modified to fit the unique needs of the individual, as improperly designed and ill fitted wheelchairs can be life threatening to the child. Kyaninga Mobility was established to meet this need.

"For most of us, technology makes things easier. For people living with disabilities, it makes things possible..."





Kyaninga Child Development Centre

Helping children reach their full potential

Plot 7, Bank Side, Boma
Fort Portal, Western Uganda
+256 782 869592 / +256 782 277248
info@kyaningacdc.org
www.kyaningacdc.org

Uganda NGO: S5914/11444 Reg 11031
England and Wales: Charity 1164706

Scan me!



Help us change the
futures of children with
disabilities in Uganda...