

# Kids Club Kampala Newsletter: Reflecting on Six Months of Impact



Dear Friends and Supporters,

We extend our warmest greetings to you from Kids Club Kampala. As we reflect on the first half of 2024, we are grateful for your steadfast support in our mission to empower vulnerable children and families. This newsletter captures our journey and achievements from January to June, highlighting the progress we've made together and the challenges we've faced. Your continued partnership is invaluable as we strive to create positive change in our community.

## Program Highlights:

**The Ewafe Project:** The Ewafe Project continues to be a beacon of hope for abandoned and at-risk children in Kampala. Over the last six months, we've rescued and admitted 6 children to our transitional home, 92 children were rehabilitated and provided with essential services such as counseling, medical care, education, and skill-building. We're delighted to report that through our diligent efforts, we've successfully reunited 6 children with their families.

Our Independent Living initiative, launched this year, aims to prepare teens who may not be reintegrated with their families, for adulthood through mentorship, skill development, funding so that they are able to live on their own when they turn 18, but ongoing funding remains a challenge.

**Access to Education:** In our commitment to providing education to vulnerable children, we've seen significant progress. 83 children aged 3-6 received early childhood education, accompanied by daily hot nutritious meals, in the three slums of Katanga, Naguru and Namuwongo.

Additionally, through our sponsorship project, 166 children received support for school fees and scholastic materials. We celebrate the achievements of Sophia, Patricia, and Swabulah, who graduated with certificates in journalism, computer science, and early childhood development teacher education, respectively after being on the sponsorship project for over 12 years.

The Gwenyth School Project, a new initiative ensuring continued education for children from Ewafe reunited with their families. This program supports children whose families may lack the financial means to sustain their education. 6 children have already been admitted to this project.

**Keeping Children Safe Program:** Our Keeping Children Safe Program remains pivotal in our mission. With initiatives such as Saturday Kids Clubs, where 858 children gather every saturday for activities like bible study, counselling, play and meals, we continue to provide a safe haven for vulnerable children.

Our collaboration with authorities like the police and the probation officers through safeguarding efforts and social justice cases (juvenile cases) ensures that children's rights are protected. Through the last six months, we worked on 6 safeguarding cases which included child neglect, child abuse, 2 Child Inclusive Mediation counselling sessions, 32 social justice cases which included theft, defilement, robbery and we intervened by making social inquiries, counselling, attending court sessions.

The Teens Project empowers teenage girls through the girls' support groups, counselling and sanitary pad distribution, 860 sanitaries were distributed.

Our football Project nurtures talent and provides guidance to young boys, alongside a meal. Our 2 teams of 32 players each, one in Naguru slum and the other in namuwongo were engaged in 96 friendly games and 1 tournament (soccer beyond borders).

**Family Strengthening:** Under this program, we equip families with life skills for self-sustainability. The Mara Skilling Centre in Naguru slum offers training in knitting and tailoring for four months, empowering youths and women, 72 individuals have benefited from this skill in the last 6 months, while our carpentry project in Katanga slum had 12 youths empowered, this training usually runs for a year and students graduate with DIT certificates and starter packs.

Through income-generating activities(IGAs), we support struggling families in their journey towards financial stability. A family of 12 were given an IGA of goats after losing the head of the family who was the bread winner.

## New Team Members:



We are delighted to introduce three new members who joined us earlier this year, each bringing unique skills and passion to our KCK family:

- Tony Abraham, Access to Education Manager
- Atwiine Barbra, Counselor
- Namulema Robinah, Social Worker under the Ewafe Project
- Asire Tom, security personnel at Ewafe home

Their expertise strengthens our ability to provide comprehensive support to those in need.



## Visitors and Partnerships:

In February, we had the pleasure of hosting a team from our UK offices who spent a week with us, gaining firsthand insights into our work. We were also grateful to welcome visitors from our partnering churches in the UK, who volunteered with us and familiarized themselves with our projects across different centers.

During their time with us, our visitors generously sponsored the education of one child, providing vital resources and support. This sponsorship ensures that the child can continue their educational journey with hope.

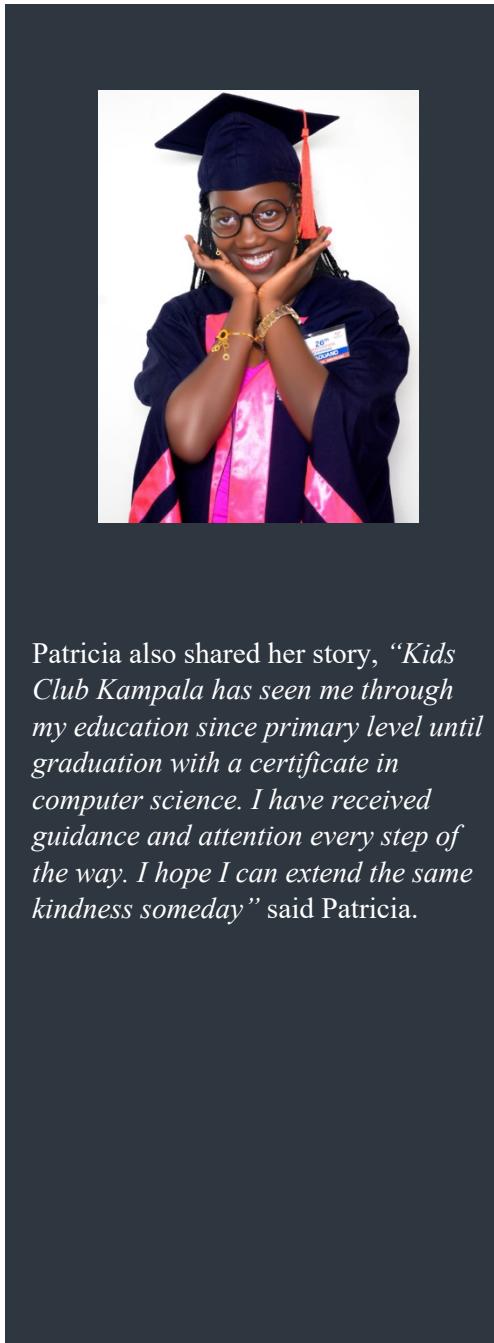
Additionally, our collaboration with researchers extended beyond their valuable insights. Two researchers were moved by their experiences and chose to sponsor a child each, further extending our impact and support network within the community.

These acts of kindness and partnership are testaments to the power of collective action in transforming lives.

## Impact stories:



Farida's story highlights the transformative impact of our work. Rescued and admitted to the Ewafe home in May 2022, Farida, a 13-year-old girl from Amuru district, found safety and rehabilitation with us. After extensive counseling and family tracing efforts, we successfully reunited her with her mother in April 2024. Her mother's relief and gratitude speak volumes about the impact of the Ewafe Project in reuniting families torn apart by adversity. *"I went seeking for help from witch doctors because they informed me that my daughter was dead. But I thank Allah that she's safe and sound. Thank you Ewafe project". Said Faridah's mother.*



Patricia also shared her story, *"Kids Club Kampala has seen me through my education since primary level until graduation with a certificate in computer science. I have received guidance and attention every step of the way. I hope I can extend the same kindness someday"* said Patricia.



Nesta shared her story of resilience and transformation, *"my husband passed away 3 years ago, he left me pregnant. I was so stressed and depressed because I didnot know what to do then. I started hawking bananas but it didnot work for me. KCCA was always chasing us off the streets and sometimes confiscate our things. so I left the business because I was just making losses. My neighbour told me about Kids Club Kampala skilling project which I joined early 2023. I acquired sewing skills first and then came back for the knitting skills. Immediately after graduation, a company that makes reusable sanitary towels called for tailors, I applied and I was one of them that were recruited. I am paid 300,000 ugshs a month. My life has changed very much ever since I got this job, I was able to send my kids back to school and I can also take care of my family. On addition, I have gained more experience, confidence, and friends."* said Nesta .

## Events organised:

We believe in engaging our stakeholders actively. We organized meetings with local leaders, parents, volunteers to strengthen our collaborative efforts, there were also staff trainings.

In March, we celebrated the graduation of 40 students—34 in tailoring and 6 in knitting—from our family strengthening program. Each graduate received a starter machine, empowering them to pursue sustainable livelihoods.



## Challenges:

Navigating our daily activities presents a multitude of challenges that test our resilience and dedication. From adapting to fluctuating infrastructure conditions to addressing logistical hurdles, each obstacle reminds us of the critical need for our work.

We also experienced the heartbreaking demolition of the Naguru Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre, due to the sale of the land. Despite this setback, the children from Naguru now attend classes in a small rental room. We remain hopeful and are actively seeking to establish a permanent ECD centre on our own land in Naguru. Moreover, insufficient funds remain a persistent challenge, limiting our capacity to reach every child and family in need. Despite these obstacles, our commitment to bringing hope and love to vulnerable children and families in Kampala's slums remains unwavering.

## Call to Action:

As we continue our mission to uplift vulnerable children and families in Kampala's slums, your support is vital. There are several ways you can make a meaningful impact:

- **Donate:** Your financial contribution enables us to provide essential services, education, and care to those in need.
- **Sponsor a Child:** By sponsoring a child, you can directly support their education, healthcare, and overall well-being, offering them a brighter future.
- **Volunteer:** Join us in making a difference by volunteering your time and skills. Whether it's mentoring, teaching, or helping with administrative tasks, your involvement is invaluable.
- **Spread the Word:** Share our mission with your friends, family, and colleagues. By raising awareness, you help us expand our reach and impact even more lives.

We are immensely grateful for your ongoing support, which enables us to continue our vital work in transforming the lives of vulnerable children and families in Kampala's slums. Together, we are agents of change, bringing hope and love to those who need it most.

Thank you for being a part of our journey to transform lives. Your support makes all the difference.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kids Club Kampala.



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