

Mama Brenda's Home

Uganda

IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

February | 2023



Overview of this Children's Home

Background & Mission

Mama Brenda's home is one of 5 foster homes supported by 92 Hands, an organization in Kampala that educates and empowers women and children through a foster home program.

Mama Brenda's mission is to meet every child's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs by providing them with love, care, guidance, and education in this home.

Brenda envisions raising them in a safe place, free to be called a home with their rights and freedom.

She currently has six children, the youngest being two years old and the eldest 11 years old. The children stay in a three-bedroom house in a small town called Kitunzi.

One unique feature is that Mama Brenda has skills in baking and her home is known for making pastries like cakes, donuts, muffins, and many others. She also teaches the children how to mix the different ingredients to make cakes and bread.

Some short-term goals include: ensuring children are in school and fully equipped with educational materials and tuition, helping children be free from trauma or PTSD, assisting children in adapting to the new life ahead of them in the next 2-3 years, and creating a safe and secure environment for the children to live in.

In the long term, Mama Brenda's vision is to spread love and make sure all children accept who they are and live a life of merit.



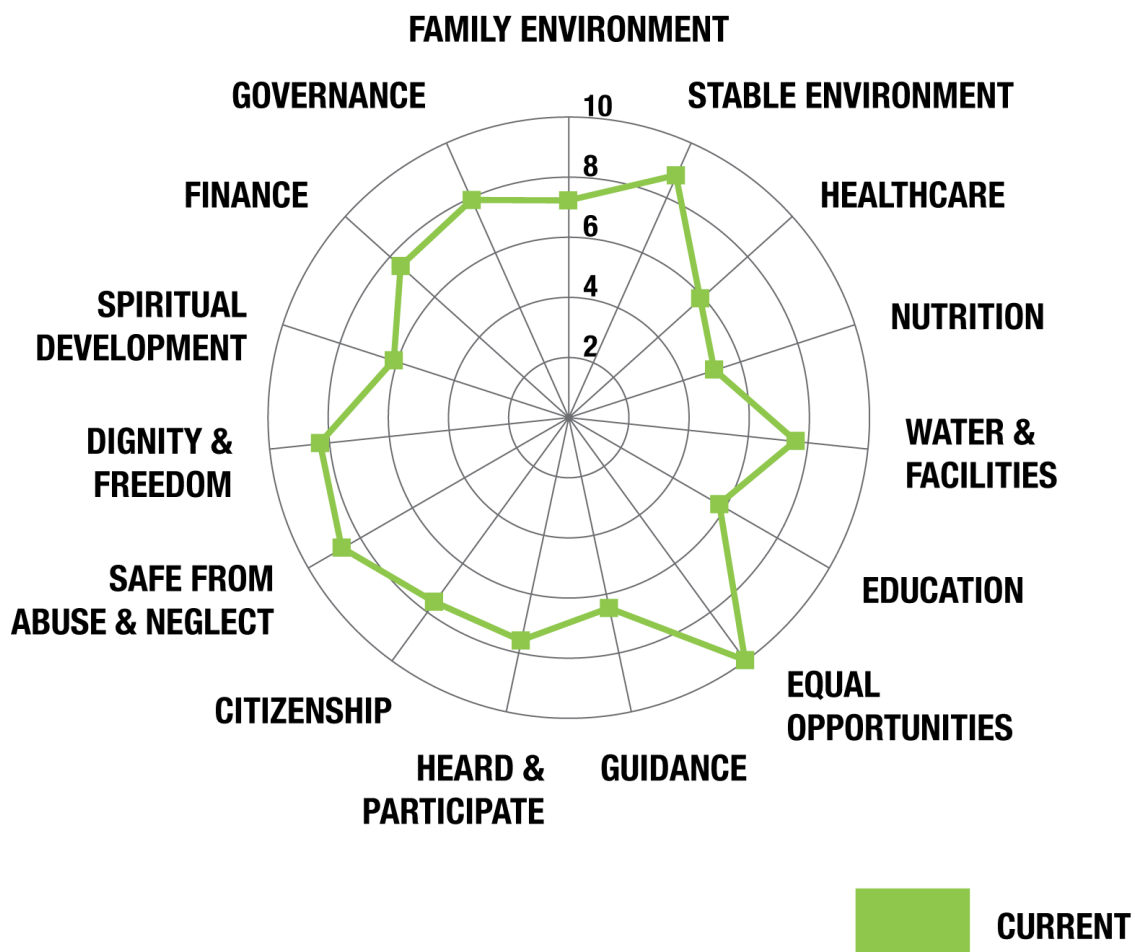
The Thrive Assessment

What is the Thrive Assessment?

In 1959, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which defines children's rights to protection, education, healthcare, shelter, nutrition and more. We have codified all 13 Rights, as well as a Finance Standard and a Governance and Human Resource Standard, resulting in a total of 15 standards. These standards ensure that children receive care that truly helps them to thrive, now and in the future.

The Thrive Assessment will be administered every 6 months with each partner home to chart the progress of each standard. Our team works with caregivers to outline next steps which are then compiled into an Improvement Roadmap.

Current Thrive Scale



Strategic Initiatives

MEDICAL CARE & CHECKUPS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Children at Mama Brenda's home need more medical care and annual checkups at least twice yearly. They also need support to obtain identification and vaccination documents and records. It costs \$150 per child to get a medical checkup.
ESTIMATED FUNDING	\$900

CHILD SPONSORSHIP FOR EDUCATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	More than three children at Mama Brenda's home are now qualified to join the school, and all these would need sponsorship to carry them on. For each child to join, the school costs \$35, \$105 for three children monthly, and \$1,260.
ESTIMATED FUNDING	\$1,260

INCREASE HEALTHY MEALS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Need to increase the calorie intake of the children to boost their immunity. This would cost \$300 to increase the monthly food budget and \$3600 yearly. There's also a need for a professional nutritionist to help out with food preparation, and this would cost.
ESTIMATED FUNDING	\$3600



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Brenda is the primary caretaker in this home. She takes care of 6 children day and night and so far has been the only caregiver of this particular home. In Mama Brenda's home, 2 of the children get to see their father every month. Hence visitation days only apply to 2 children. The other children don't have contact with their families. Brenda is committed to looking after these children, and there is no sort of contract that marks the end of her care. This situation makes research about the child's family background before recruitment difficult. The caregiver in this home, known as the mother, receives training before and during the period of caregiving at this home on the traits and values of a family and what's expected.

- ☐ Research and reach out to relatives of the children to enable visitations and allow children to get to know their family background.
- ☐ Create safe ways for the children to meet with family
- ☐ Monthly therapy sessions are held by Annabelle, a well-trained therapist who does her best in these sessions to improve the children's mental health. More of these therapy sessions are needed with her to help the children overcome their past traumas and also to create more time to each child separately each session costs \$100.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

House rules in this home are age appropriate and taught to the children. Children are disciplined and given simple punishments. Children are called by their preferred names by both the staff members and fellow children, and the mother at home emphasizes this. Family togetherness is also highly encouraged in different ways, like eating, playing games, and working together, especially on weekends and holidays. The home does not take in children with special needs due to the lack of resources. As a caregiver, Brenda doesn't often meet with others, but occasionally she does spend time with other caregivers that are also in the 92 Hands network.

- ☐ Need to create more time and fun days for the entire family to bond.
- ☐ More emphasis on the house rules and regulations at home will also highly impact their upbringing.
- ☐ Weekly meetups for the children to connect with their mentors (92 Hands team) to guide and encourage them.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children usually get medical checkups annually. However, there is a need to improve and provide more medical services at least twice a year. While some children have fully received vaccination documentation, others haven't. At Mama Brenda's home, hygiene is essential, and she advises them daily to keep clean, wash their hands, and brush their teeth. Children with vision or dental issues receive medical checkups at least every quarter. Children usually visit a therapist, and children can access quality medical services in emergencies. With the help of some female staff members from 92 Hands, adolescent girls are taught by Mama Brenda about their menstrual cycle and how to keep clean and take good care of themselves.

- ☐ Need more medical checkups for all the children at least twice a year. This costs \$400 per year for each child.
- ☐ Find ways for all children to receive all necessary vaccinations.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Calorie intake per day is not monitored at this home. There's a need to find a nutritionist to help and train the mother to feed children nutritious and tasty food daily. Food is prepared in a hygienic environment. The kitchen is free from toxic substances and ventilated, but some renovation is needed to improve the ventilation system.

- ☐ The kitchen area needs better ventilation to keep it free from toxic substances. This would cost \$1,000 to complete with an inbuilt stove for baking.
- ☐ The home needs a professional nutritionist to guide and help train the caregiver to prepare the children's meals. Hiring one would cost \$200 per session.
- ☐ Increase the food budget to purchase more nutritious foods that can boost the children's immunity.



Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home has a water purifier for drinking and safe water for the entire family. There are no leakages, chemicals, or decaying substances. The staff members from 92 Hands are working on an emergency plan in case of any risks or emergencies. The caregiver is always watchful whenever she lets children play, especially with the younger ones, to ensure a safe space and environment for them. If exposed wires make it unsafe for the children, they check for this problem regularly. Installing a water system for home use is needed as children must fetch water from the nearby community water source.

- ☐ Create an emergency fund for the home in case of any emergencies.
- ☐ Install a personal/home water source will cost roughly \$500 to put in place a water tap.



Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Brenda's home has six children; three are already enrolled in school, and the other three are qualified to be in school.

Some children attending school receive half sponsorships, but school dues are not fully paid. The home has no computer or access to the internet for the children, and at school, it costs extra to learn these skills. They have a few reading charts and books at home to help the younger children improve their reading skills, but more reading and writing materials are needed.

There's a school library that children can visit once in a while, but the community still needs a library. 92 Hands is still developing the plan for children after their time in foster homes. The home also needs a tutor to help out, most especially for the lower-performing subjects.

- ☐ A professional tutor needs to help the children with poorly performed subjects and excel. Cost: \$137 per month.
- ☐ Sponsorship packages are needed for each child at \$35 per month.
- ☐ Purchase a computer and internet access for the children to practice under the supervision of a member from Era92 is a digital training company that offers skills and a partner of the home. Costs: \$400 for a computer, \$67 for monthly internet access.

Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Currently, the kids share one room but with a separate area for each of their personal items. At Mama Brenda's home, all children have equal opportunities and access to all toys and are treated equally.

Each child in this home has a mentor from 92 Hands staff that acts as their role model, helps with guidance, and provides counseling at all times.

- ☐ Expand and provide another room for extra space for the boys and girls. Cost: \$1,000 to construct a room.



Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

At this home, Brenda, also referred to as a mother, always gives them counseling, guidance, and opportunities for self-discovery and self-expression. Brenda also discusses puberty with the help of their mentors from 92 Hands staff. This guidance encourages them to be disciplined children and show respect for others. Every month, Annabelle, the current therapist, meets with them once to provide guidance and help with their mental health needs. Well-planned counseling sessions must be arranged for girls and boys approaching puberty to help them prepare for changes and avoid frustrating situations.

- ☐ More counseling and guidance sessions with the caregivers and mentors from the staff team are needed.



Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The younger children don't fully decide on what to do in their free time, but the older ones do fully participate in the planning of the home and certain decision-making, such as clothing, meals, school, games, and more. Mama Brenda has a policy of choosing a leader to take on every activity at home, which positively challenges the kids and helps them develop.

- ☐ Involve the children more in decision-making through guidance and supervision.
- ☐ Create more games that actively engage the children.



Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Due to different circumstances, most children at this home don't have access to their original birth certificates. On the other hand, some children are obtaining identification with the National Identification and Registration Authority. Children are not always punished, but sometimes they are given extra chores as a lesson to help teach them moral behavior. The home observes public holidays, which are celebrated most of the time. The children in this home are also taught the rights and responsibilities of a Ugandan citizen and to always stand for what is right. They also help with community work like cleaning and feeding the needy with the 92 Hands team.

- ☐ More sessions from their mentors to empower them to become better citizens.
- ☐ Emphasize the norms and morals of the home and the country at large.



Right to Be Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home is next to a slum area, which doesn't make it entirely safe for the children, but the caregiver ensures it's safe for the children protecting them from abuse, high crime rate, and neglect from the surrounding communities.

The home has a child protection program that ensures no abuse towards children; no child is allowed to any form of wage or barter because this violates the laws and the child's health. The home also has visiting hours during the day.

- ☐ Create a visitors policy for how to conduct themselves around the children.
- ☐ Create more quality time with the children, especially during the holidays, and this will call for another caregiver, which costs \$200 per month.



Right to Dignity & Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children are taught by the caregiver to respect one another and never to bully or be unkind to one another. Some children share beds, and there's a need to provide more bunk beds so everyone has their own bed, freedom, and privacy.

Every week the bedding is changed, and the home would also need to install safety materials like more cable covers, socket guards, and, security lights for the young ones.

- ☐ Safety materials should be installed to protect them from any shocks and fire, especially the toddlers.
- ☐ Construct a new bedroom for more privacy and freedom between the girls and boys.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children in this home attend Sunday services at a local community church every Sunday. They usually hold morning and evening devotions to develop spiritually. Children get to celebrate the Christmas and Easter holidays. Mama Brenda has bibles and storybooks that help children learn more about the things that concern God. The devotions are usually conducted in the living room with a different child leading each day, and children are always super excited and involved throughout the entire session.

- ☐ Initiate more devotions and prayers at home.
- ☐ Purchase more devotional books, Christian storybooks, and Bibles for the children.
- ☐ Encourage the children to actively participate in church activities and different areas of their interest.



Finance Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

92 Hands purchases most of the items for the home, but once in a while, Brenda is given funds to buy groceries and encouraged to be accountable by providing receipts for the things purchased. Bookkeeping is highly recommended to avoid the misuse of funds, and measures are put in place by the 92 Hands to track accountability.

- ☐ Hire an external auditor to review the home's finances. \$542 twice a year.
- ☐ Have Brenda engage more in grocery shopping to encourage accountability



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Land purchase and renovations are supervised and secured by the 92 Hands team. Meetings are held with the caregivers, 92 Hands team, and other leaders to make plans for improving the home and making it a better place for the children. Employee documents and files are kept in a secure place after being filed.

Mama Brenda's received training on their job description and terms. The team from 92 Hands always endeavors to explain and inform most information/details about the home.

- ☐ More meetings should be held between Mama Brenda and the 92 Hands team.



Current Improvement Partners



92 Hands

In 2014, 92hands was born and they have used it as a platform to mobilize local youths in Uganda to live out their lives by sharing the love of Christ through serving the needs of the people of their communities.

For a list of projects and opportunities to coordinate on go to
www.ACHF.org/Projects

