

# Mama Brenda's Home

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Uganda

## IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

August | 2023



# Overview of this Children's Home

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## Background & Mission

Mama Brenda is a caregiver devoted to serving and looking after children. She is part of the 92 hands foster care program and strongly believes that this is her God-given calling and has devoted to do it for a lifetime. She currently has 6 children in her home in Lungujja Kosovo, with the youngest being 4 years old and the oldest 10 years old.

The mission of 92 hands is to help foster mothers meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of every child by providing them with love, care, guidance, and education so that they can grow and become beacons of change. They envision a loving home where children have freedom of speech and a right to be understood and loved equally, thereby raising a responsible generation that will be accountable for their actions in the future. Additionally, they seek to help provide a home free from chronic diseases and fully immunized to fight illnesses and infections in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle for all the children. 92 hands also envisions a literate generation where all children are enrolled in school, receive quality education services, and are well equipped with scholastic materials. They believe every child has a right to quality education.

Through these programs, 92 hands hopes to raise a responsible generation that knows their rights, stands up for the voiceless in their communities, and promotes values taught at a tender age. In the future, they hope to see these children transform the world, by helping change future politics in Uganda and govern the country under Godly principles.

## Recent Accomplishments

- More children have enrolled in school



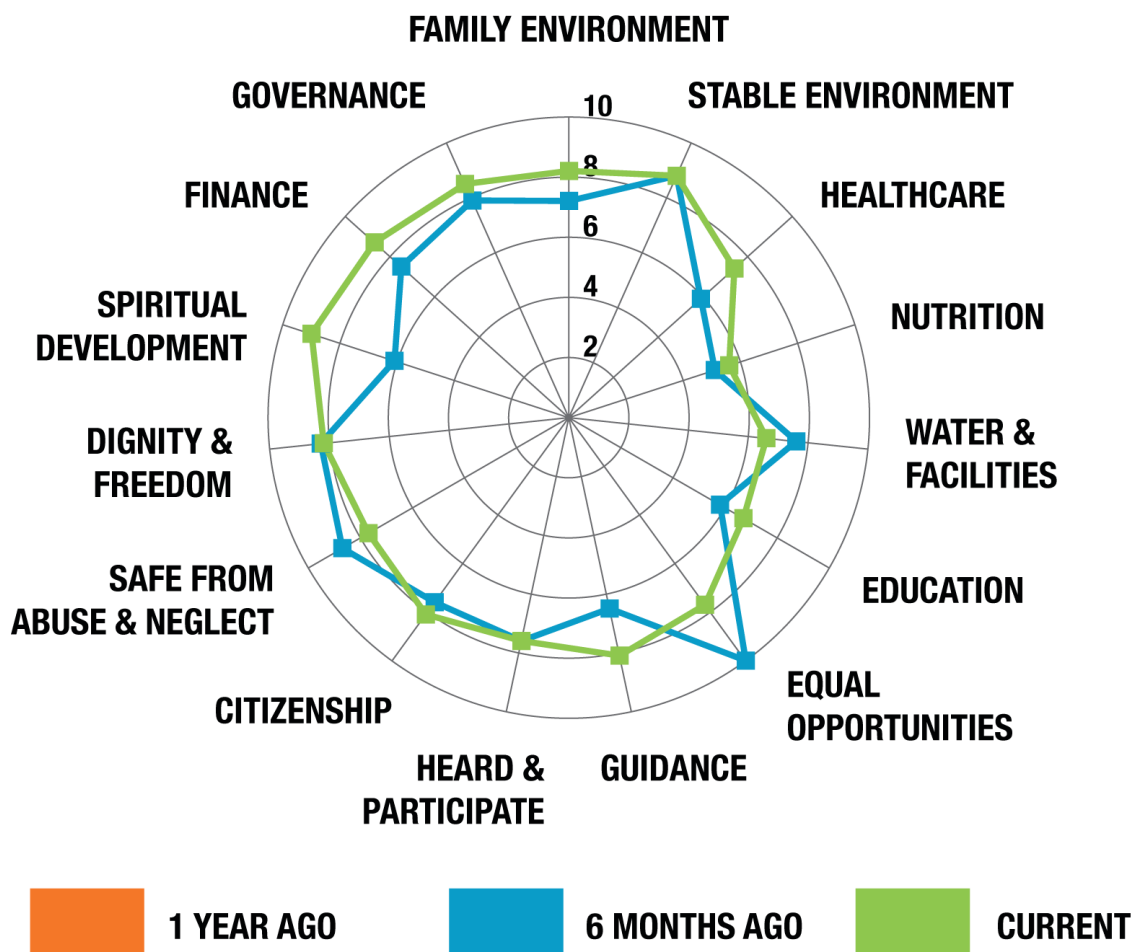
# The Thrive Assessment

## 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

## STARTUP BAKE SHOP

<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	Mama Brenda bakes pastries at her home and she would love to expand her skill into a business to earn income by purchasing an oven and other appliances, which will cost \$1,700 USD.
<b>ESTIMATED FUNDING</b>	6,290,000 UGX \$1,700 USD

## CONSTRUCT A BEDROOM

<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	There's a need to construct an extra bedroom with beds and beddings for the children to have ample space to keep their personal belongings and maintain privacy.
<b>ESTIMATED FUNDING</b>	5,550,000 UGX \$1,500 USD

## PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE

<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	There is a need for medical care and annual checkups, which will also include obtaining national identification cards and vaccination documents. It costs \$150 per child to get a medical checkup and \$50 to process the documents.
<b>ESTIMATED FUNDING</b>	74,000 UGX per child \$200 USD per child





## Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Brenda is the sole caretaker in her home where she takes care of 6 children, day and night. In this home, 2 of the children get to see their father on a monthly basis. Hence visitation days only apply to 2 children, while the rest don't have contact with their families. While Brenda is committed to look after these children, there is no sort of contract that marks their end of her position as caregiver. The 92 hands staff conducts research about the child's family background. As the caregiver in this home, Brenda is known as the mother and received training when she joined the program. She continues to receive training on the traits and values of a family and what's being expected from 92hands.

- ☐ Identify and create safe ways for children to visit with family, if identified
- ☐ Research and reach out to relatives of the children to enable visitations and allow children to get to know their family background.



## Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

House rules are age appropriate and clearly explained to the entire family. Children are always addressed and called by their preferred names and not demeaning nicknames. Most of the activities in this home are done together as joint family activities like eating, playing, bonding and many others. Caregivers within the 92 hands program don't meet often, but once in a while they do meet with a specialist to discuss different ideas to instill discipline in the home. Mama Brenda's home always has monthly celebrations and would need to create more weekly fun ideas as a family.

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



## Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Some children have medical checkups once a year and although this is really helpful, there's a need o to have more than one checkup a year. Not all children have proper documentation of standard vaccinations, but missing documentation is being processed by the 92 hands staff. Cleanliness is highly practiced at this home where brushing teeth occurs daily and washing hands with soap after using the bathroom and before eating is done regularly. There's medical personnel identified from a nearby clinic in case of emergencies. \At the moment, there's one adolescent being taught about personal hygiene, provided with the necessary products, and instructed on how they are used.

- ☐ Obtain funds for more medical checkups for all the children at least twice a year. \$150 per visit for each child.
- ☐ Work on updating medical documents, vaccinations and records at \$50 per child.



## Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children do not currently get to eat enough calories on a daily basis. Food is cleaned before preparation and is also prepared in a clean kitchen. However, the kitchen needs some renovation like the ventilation and other appliances are being worked on as well. Protein and fruits are provided to the home, but not served on a daily basis. Mama Brenda was able to receive training in cooking at the start of her contract, and she still follows the same procedures and guidelines. However, there's a need for additional training with a nutritionist to help educate her with meal preparation for the future. Mama Brenda is also well trained in baking pastries like muffins, cakes and more. As a result, she has hopes of starting up a small bake shop at home to sell in the neighborhood as well as to different shops and supermarkets. Mama Brenda believes this plan will bring more income to the home.

- ☐ Renovate the kitchen area and purchase more appliances.
- ☐ Hire a well trained nutritionist to guide the caregiver and provide a balanced diet.
- ☐ Start up a bake shop to generate income for the home.



## Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

There is a safe water purifier ready for the children to access drinking water at any time. However, the home needs a water source in case of emergencies like an outbreak, and an emergency plan is being worked on. The outdoor premises are not fully safe for the children most especially the infants, but under the caregiver's guidance and supervision it is safe enough. The premises are also safe with electrical installations. Currently, candles are used as an alternative power source, but for safety purposes solar energy is needed for this home.

- ☐ Install an alternative power source like solar energy.
- ☐ Create an emergency fund for the home in case of any emergencies.
- ☐ Install a home water source for emergencies. The cost is roughly \$500 to put in place a water tap.



## Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

4 out of 6 of the children at Mama Brenda's home are fully sponsored and enrolled in school. There are only two infants who haven't yet started school. All children are able to identify most of the letters of the alphabet, which is practiced at home for those who aren't attending school. One of the children at the home isn't so good with writing, but there's a plan in place to identify a tutor who can help with extra lessons/classes for children performing poorly in subjects. There's currently no internet access at home provided for the children, and if access were available, certain trainings would be required. Some of the 92 hands staff act as mentors to children from this home and meet up weekly with their mentees to discuss life changes, school and other personal experiences. These meet-ups build confidence and create allyship, which is really helpful for the children to get time to open up to their mentors.

- ☐ Hire a professional tutor to help the children with poorly performed subjects and excel. Cost: \$137 per month.
- ☐ Purchase a computer and internet access for the children to practice. Cost: \$400 for a computer, \$67 for monthly internet access.
- ☐ Obtain sponsorship packages to meet the education needs for each child at \$35 per month.

## Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Space is shared amongst the children in one room currently. They need to construct an extra bedroom to separate the boys and girls, purchase new beddings, and provide cases or small cabins for children to keep their personal stuff. All children receive the same opportunities. Each child will have an individual transition plan that is updated on a yearly basis. Mentors from 92 hands act as role models to these children and hold counseling sessions to help motivate and support children from the moment they enter the home. Reading materials are available to help out children with learning disabilities, and a tutor is needed to improve on the difficult parts.

- ☐ Expand and provide another room for extra space for the boys and girls. Cost: \$1,000 to construct a room.
- ☐ Encourage children about togetherness and to be united.
- ☐ Plan and update an individual transition plan for each child.



## Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

As the primary caregiver, Mama Brenda is provided with a detailed job description at the start of every contract. She receives this for guidance and also goes through an intensive training program to be a quality caregiver and mentor. 92 hands staff and therapists are also responsible for helping educate children in certain ways allocated, along with home rules. Child sexual behavior is discussed with the children above the age of 10 and one child is being educated at the moment.

- ☐ Schedule more counseling and guidance sessions with the caregivers and children from the 92 hands team.
- ☐ Initiate more sexual behavior lessons for the adolescents.





## Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children are always free to participate and engage in different activities during free time. They are also involved in menu planning. Outfits to wear on a daily basis are always identified by both the caregiver and the children. Mama Brenda has a policy at home of choosing a leader to take on each and every activity, which challenges the kids in a positive way and also helps them in development.

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



## Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Most of the children do not have access to their birth certificates. With the help of Mama Brenda, the children at the home are trained in how to learn and practice responsibility. All holidays are observed and celebrated by the home members. Fun outdoor activities such as games and sports take place, which also helps them out in their bonding. At Mama Brenda's home, all children are part of Children's church that engages them in performing community services.

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



## Right to Be Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Although the home is next to a slum area and not fully safe, the caregiver helps ensure it's as safe as possible for the children. Mama Brenda focuses on protecting them from abuse, high crime rate and neglect in the surrounding communities. The home has a child protection program that ensures no form of abuse occurs towards the children. No child is allowed to work for wages or barter, because this violates the laws and endangers the child's health. The home has visiting hours during the day. There's one bathroom and bedroom for sharing and both boys and girls use the bathroom at different intervals. One on one time is always shared between the mentors and the children to discuss their different experiences.

- ☐ Create a visitors policy for how to conduct themselves around the children.
- ☐ Hire an assistant caregiver to create more quality time with the children, especially during the holidays, which costs \$200 per month.
- ☐ Construct an extra bathroom which costs \$200



## Right to Dignity & Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All infants at Mama Brenda's home are showered on a daily basis by their caregiver. Respect, kindness, and love for one another are some of the core values in this home that are highly emphasized. Children are taught by the caregiver to respect one another and never to bully or be unkind. Some children share beds and there's a need for providing more bunk beds so that everyone has their own bed as well as added freedom and privacy. Every week the beddings are changed. The home also needs to install safety materials. There's ample space for play for all the children under the supervision of Mama Brenda.

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



## Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

At Mama Brenda's home all children attend sunday school in a local church where they are able to interact with other peers, learn new things and memorize verses. There's some allocated time for communal prayer for everyone at home in both morning and evening hours. Most holidays are celebrated together as a family where they learn, read bible stories, share the word of God and act out plays.

- ☐ Create more time for devotions and prayers at home.
- ☐ Encourage the children to participate in communal work at church and in sunday school.
- ☐ Purchase more relative devotional books, Christian storybooks, and Bibles for the children.



## Finance Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

92 hands has allocated a professional accountant who helps with recording and tracking both the income and home expenses. This also helps Mama Brenda with proper home management as well as accountability on a monthly basis. An annual budget is also drafted to help guide the home for easy reconciliation with the bank accounts. An external auditor is present twice a year to review the finances, but there's a need to have the auditor come in more on a quarterly basis.

- ☐ Hire an external auditor on a quarterly basis to review the home's finances. \$1,000 four times a year.
- ☐ Have Mama Brenda engage more in grocery shopping to encourage accountability.



## Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Brenda's home premises are secure from issues like personal gains or being sold. Meetings are also held to address certain issues with both the caregiver and 92 hands staff. A written document with terms of employment attached and a job description is always provided to the caregiver at the start of the employment period and kept in a secure area. Caregivers like Mama Brenda also receive training on attachment and child development.

- ☐ Hold more joint meetings with Mama Brenda and the 92 hands staff.
- ☐ Hold more regular caregiver training about child development and attachment.



## Current Improvement Partners



### 92 Hands

92hands is a Ugandan nonprofit that focuses on supporting single mothers in the slums of Kampala to care for street kids. They prioritize education, skill building, and healing for both the mothers and the kids.

For a list of projects and opportunities to coordinate on go to  
[www.ACHF.org/Projects](http://www.ACHF.org/Projects)





**A CHILD'S**  
**HOPE**  
FOUNDATION