

Mama Harriet's Home

Uganda



IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

September | 2023



Overview of this Children's Home

Background & Mission

Mama Harriet is passionate about children. She's a professional, qualified, well-trained caretaker and has taken care of a huge number of children from the community as well as many in her previous home. She adores and loves everyone under her care and always seeks to raise them as God fearing children. Harriet's mission is to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of every child by providing them with love, care, guidance, and education in the home. She envisions providing them with a safe and secure environment with their rights and freedom intact. Additionally, Harriet has completed several trainings and teachings about childcare and child protection.

Currently, Mama Harriet has six children with the youngest being 3 years old and the eldest 11 years old. The children stay in a three-bedroom house in a small town called Kitunzi. Some of Mama Harriet's goals include ensuring children are in school and fully equipped with educational materials and tuition. She also wants to help the children be free from trauma or PTSD and assist them in adapting to the new life ahead of them. Ultimately, her vision is to raise children to become successful responsible citizens within their country so that they raise their own children in the same way and ultimately reduce the level of child neglect.

Recent Accomplishments

Ongoing therapy session for the children is now being provided. Spiritual development has progressed as more children are participating in church and have joined the children's choir. Some children are now able to attend school, three of them have joined with fully paid tuition.

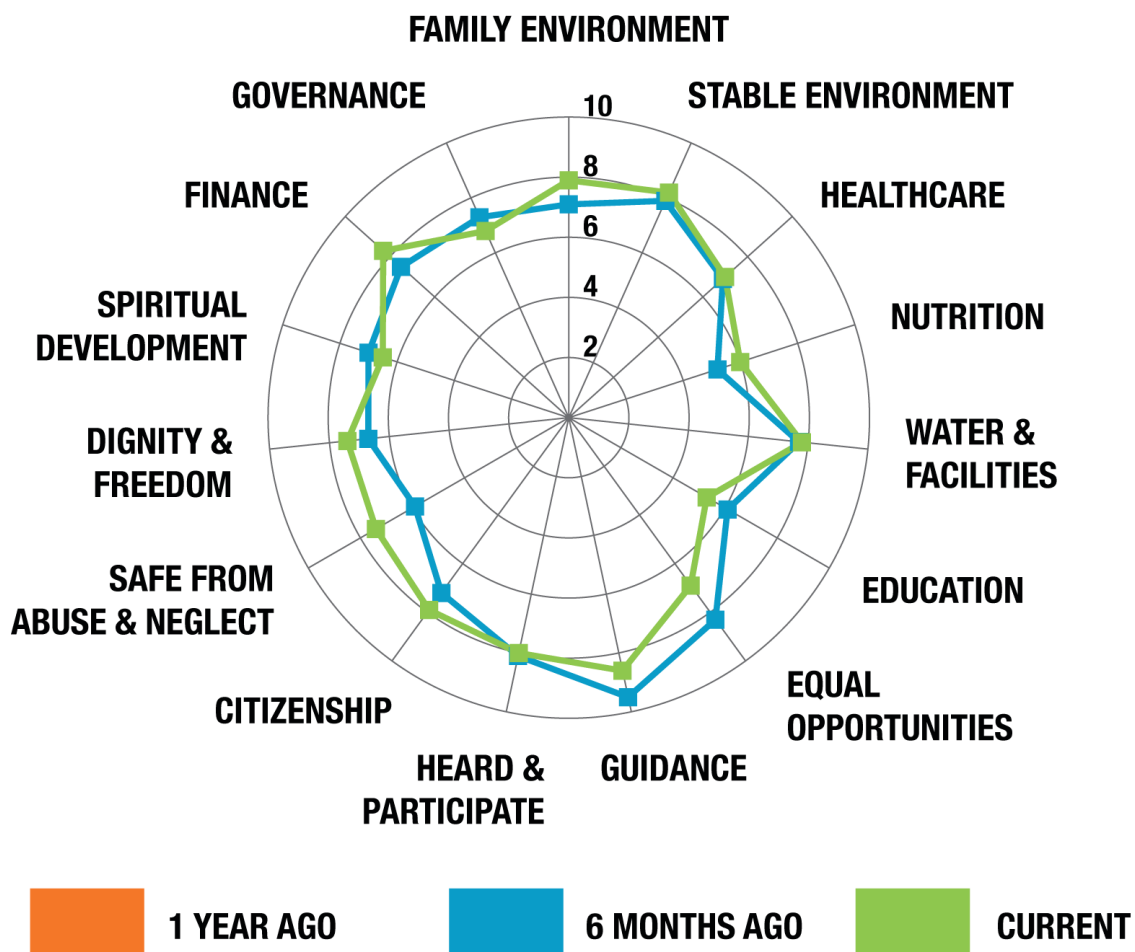


The Thrive Assessment

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 compiled into an Improvement Roadmap.

Current Thrive Scale



Strategic Initiatives

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY	Mama Harriet's home is in need of an extra bedroom for the children in order to create more privacy and space for them. The home also needs to purchase additional bedding to accommodate the children more appropriately. These improvements will help the home better meet standards of the right to equal opportunities as well as dignity and freedom.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	7,500,000 UGX \$2,000 USD

CHILD SPONSORSHIPS & TUTORING

PROJECT SUMMARY	Currently there are still 3 children who require sponsorship in order to attend school. Additionally, a tutor is needed for extra lessons to supplement what they are learning at school. Addressing these needs will help dramatically improve their standard in the right to quality education.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	Tutoring: \$ 137 USD / 1,312,500 UGX per month Sponsorship: \$ 35 USD per child / 129,500 UGX per month

PROVIDE HEALTHY MEALS

PROJECT SUMMARY	Nutrition is an area the home would like to focus and improve in. They would like to increase the food budget in order to purchase more fruits and proteins as well as hire a trained nutritionist to train the caregiver and children in basic nutrition.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	Food Budget: \$ 300 USD / 1,125,000 UGX per month Nutritionist Session: \$ 200 USD / 750,000 UGX per session



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Harriet is a full time caregiver who stays with the six children day and night. In case of an emergency, her eldest daughter Winnie comes to help. All children in her home are between 3-8 years old. Currently, no family visitations are allowed in the home because some of the families haven't been identified and others haven't been authorized to visit due to negligence or other reasons. Caregiver training is carried out by 92hands staff once or twice a year. In Mama Harriet's home most activities like cooking, washing utensils, prayers, and sharing meals are done together. These activities have created a special bond and togetherness. Anabel, the therapist, meets with Mama Harriet once a month while the children meet with university students who provide counseling. There's an allocated social worker who focuses on identifying possibilities of child reunification with their families after undergoing the required procedures.

- ☐ Create more time for children to bond with one another.
- ☐ Conduct more research about the children's families.
- ☐ Schedule more therapy sessions for children with past family trauma.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In Mama Harriet's home, house rules and regulations are age appropriate and there are consequences for breaking home rules. Currently at Mama Harriet's home there are no children with special needs. Children are addressed by their names and are always encouraged to know how precious their names are. The living situation of the home is safe for the children in a community surrounded by loving people. Caregivers like Mama Harriet rarely take days off since this is a full time commitment, but in case of an emergency or need, they always have someone to leave in charge. Mama Harriet is well trained and knowledgeable in regards to child protection and care services. Mama Harriet and the children always have fun days during weekends, holidays, birthdays and other events where they play together.

- ☐ Hold more training on child protection and development.
- ☐ Hold more mentorship sessions for the children to bond with additional mentors.
- ☐ Create more one on one bonding time between the mother/caregiver and the children.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Few children in Mama Harriet's home receive annual checkups or examinations and have medical documentation. Children are always encouraged and reminded of good hygiene like washing their hands with soap. Mama Harriet's home only has one girl approaching puberty, and she's being instructed in the different activities of the menstrual cycle and feminine hygiene. Everyone in this home has a toothbrush and all children are advised and reminded to brush in the mornings and evenings before bed. Vision and dental exams are carried out in case of an emergency if concerns are raised for any of the children. No emergency fund exists in this home and in such cases, 92 hands figures out a quick way to solve any kind of issue or emergency in the home.

- ☐ Introduce sexual awareness talk with the children approaching puberty/adolescence.
- ☐ Create more time for the caregiver to talk to children one on one.
- ☐ Schedule full checkups for every child at least twice a year, cost per child \$400.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Calorie intake is never monitored by the caregiver, but she tries to balance meals where needed. The kitchen needs renovations to make it safe for both the children and caregiver due to the open kitchen area which needs to be enclosed. Children always help make decisions on the meals they prefer and according to what's available. The caregiver also always prepares food to ensure it's tasty and appetizing for them to eat. Fruits are not served on a daily basis, but at least 2-3 times a week. Therefore, there's a need to increase the monthly food budget in order to purchase more fruits, vegetables and proteins for the entire home. Mama Harriet also needs training with a licensed nutritionist to better understand how to prepare food to meet the nutritional needs of the children.

- ☐ Increase monthly food budget to purchase more fruits, vegetables and proteins for the home- \$300 per month.
- ☐ Hire a well trained nutritionist to train both the caregiver and children on how to prepare and have healthy meals- \$200 per session.



Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home always has safe boiled water for drinking and a water purifier. They also use well water for other household chores. The bathroom, toilet and hand-washing areas all have one functioning bulb which provides proper light. There is proper disposal of waste that prevents water contamination. An emergency plan is in place in case of a fire outbreak, electricity shortage, flood and other emergencies. Children have access to clean water at all times. Electricity is wired properly to avoid short circuits and electric shock. Although the home is next to a slum making the surrounding area unsafe for the children, Mama Harriet has safety measures in place to help the children play and remain safe. There are alternative light sources in case of any emergencies such as lamps and candles, but there's a need for a solar power system to increase safety. There are a few leakages in the home as well which need to be repaired for the safety of the children.

- ☐ Set up a private home water source for domestic use- \$200.
- ☐ Create an emergency fund that can be used when needed.
- ☐ Fix the drainage system of the home and all leakages- \$200.



Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

5 out of 6 Children in this home are in school, but 2 have only half scholarships making it difficult for them to attend school. Children don't receive extra tutoring due to limited resources. The children are doing well with word articulation and letters. They can also do subtraction and addition on their own. Mama Harriet always helps out the younger children with reading numbers and alphabets and involves them in activities to enhance their development. Most children are actively involved in games and sports at school. There is currently no library at the home. Additionally, there is a need to purchase a computer and internet access so that children can enhance their skills and learning. There is also a need for a tutor to help children performing below average in certain subjects.

- ☐ Hire a professional tutor to help children with revisions and learning difficult or new concepts- \$137 per month.
- ☐ Obtain a donor to support sponsorship needed to fully meet the children's needs at school- \$35 per month/per child.
- ☐ Purchase a computer and internet for the children to practice under supervision of Era92- \$400 computer, \$67 internet access per month.

Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children in Mama Harriet's home don't have enough space to store their personal items in an allocated spot because the shared bedrooms have limited space. Not all children attend school due to current financial limitations. At the moment there's a transition plan in progress to help children prepare for independent living. The children have one on one time with mentors from 92hands who also act as role models and are always available for counseling and other activities at the home. Charts and other learning materials are provided to the children with learning disabilities, but there's a need for a tutor.

- ☐ Complete an extra bedroom to create personal space for the children- \$200.
- ☐ Update and work on the transition plan of every child to help prepare them for independent living in the future.
- ☐ Plan more time with 92hands mentors to identify or address inequalities children tend to notice.



Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The caregiver trains children in this home to be respectful and follow the example of Jesus, who was an obedient child that was kind to people. Respecting people is one of the core values and rules in this home and is displayed for them on the wall to see. During recruitment for caregivers, 92hands seeks out those who are God-fearing, passionate about children, and demonstrate a motherly heart. Children meet up with a therapist once a month for therapy sessions where they also discuss issues concerning puberty with the older children. However, more sessions with the therapist are needed, at least twice/thrice a month.

- ☐ Coordinate caregiver trainings on child development.
- ☐ Schedule more therapy sessions for both the caregiver and the children.
- ☐ Obtain guidance and counseling for children to eliminate inappropriate behaviors.



Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children in this home have the freedom to decide what to do in their free time, but generally under the supervision of a caregiver. Children are also involved in decision-making on certain things like the food menu and extra curricular activities. Leadership positions are assigned to children every week in certain activities like leading devotions, participating in meal preparations, and so much more. The home does not have an individual development plan for each child currently, but they are working on one for each child in the shortest period.

- ☐ Create teamwork activities to emphasize togetherness between the caregiver and children as a family.
- ☐ Encourage and engage children to take up leadership roles.
- ☐ Establish individual development plans for each child.



Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Not all children at Mama Harriet's have access to a birth certificate or acceptable identification, but some are being worked on or processed by 92 hands. Every child is trained on how to be responsible and exemplary to others. Each child is assigned to a task or chores that are age-appropriate. All holidays are observed and celebrated by members of the home together. Children participate in the community by cleaning roads and gardens as an act of service, which is led by the children's church to help give back to the community.

- ☐ Engage the children more in community activities.



Right to Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

This home is currently located in a slum area, which means it is not fully secure for the children. There is a need to construct a gate to create secure and ample playing space for the children in the yard. All children share both the bathrooms and the toilets and take turns for girls and boys. They all also share beds with a bunk bed for boys and another bunk bed for girls. Thus, there is a need to obtain more beds and construct an extra room to separate the boys and the girls. Trainings are held between caregivers, trainers and 92hands staff about child protection, child development and general policies within the home. However, more trainings are needed off-site for caregivers regarding child abuse and adolescents.

- ☐ Construct a gate to increase home security.
- ☐ Construct an extra bedroom to provide separate sleeping space for boys and girls.



Right to Dignity and Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The infants at Mama Harriet's home are bathed and older children bathe on their own under the supervision of the caregiver. Kindness, love and care are highly emphasized in this home by Mama Harriet. Beds and bedding are shared amongst the children and cleaned on a weekly basis. Since the outdoor area isn't fully safe for the children to play in alone, the caregiver supervises them during playtime outside with their toys, which are age appropriate. Children are trained and encouraged to speak their native language of luganda, which generally helps them communicate easily with their mother/caregiver.

- ☐ Purchase more luganda books to teach the children more about their culture and native language.
- ☐ Engage children in decision making activities.
- ☐ Create more recreational time for the children to play games.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children are fully allowed to participate in a spiritual community and activities. Most of them have joined the children's church which has helped them to gain confidence, learn more about God, and make new friends. Daily devotions are practiced in Mama Harriet's home both in the evenings and mornings. Religious holidays are highly celebrated where bonding time for the family is prioritized to express love for one another and play games together.

- ☐ Purchase more religious books for children to access- \$15 per book.
- ☐ Encourage the children to pray.
- ☐ Encourage them to also participate more in children activities.



Financial Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

An accountant from 92hands tracks the use of funds as well as procures and files expenses for the home. 92hands also involves Mama Harriet in the purchase of certain items for the home that are necessary to meet every child's need each month. Due to the high costs of a professional internal auditor, 92hands hires an external auditor to authenticate the books of the home and the organization at large annually.

- ☐ Engage the caregivers in the purchase of food.
- ☐ Employ an affordable auditor to manage the home's finances. \$542 for an auditor twice a year.



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Harriet completed a training about child protection while starting her working contract at the home. She was also given a written Memorandum of Understanding to ensure appropriate work for each party with responsibilities, rules, and expectations for both Mama Harriet and 92 hands. Staff members of 92 Hands visit the home every week to support and guide the home in making improvements and progress. Safe drinking water for the entire family is available. Mama Harriet has also attended a few medical and hygiene sessions to prepare her in case of any sick child.

- ☐ Provide more trainings about child abuse and their rights as children.



Current Improvement Partners



92Hands

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. Learn more at www.92hands.org.

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



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HOPE**
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