

Mama Brenda

Uganda



IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

February | 2024

Recent Accomplishments

- Mama Brenda was able to start up her own bakery store in home where she sells pastries for income, which helps better address certain needs of the children.
- All the children in this home have been fully engaged in therapy sessions and most especially 1:1 sessions, which have proven very helpful.



Overview of this Children's Home

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 committed 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.

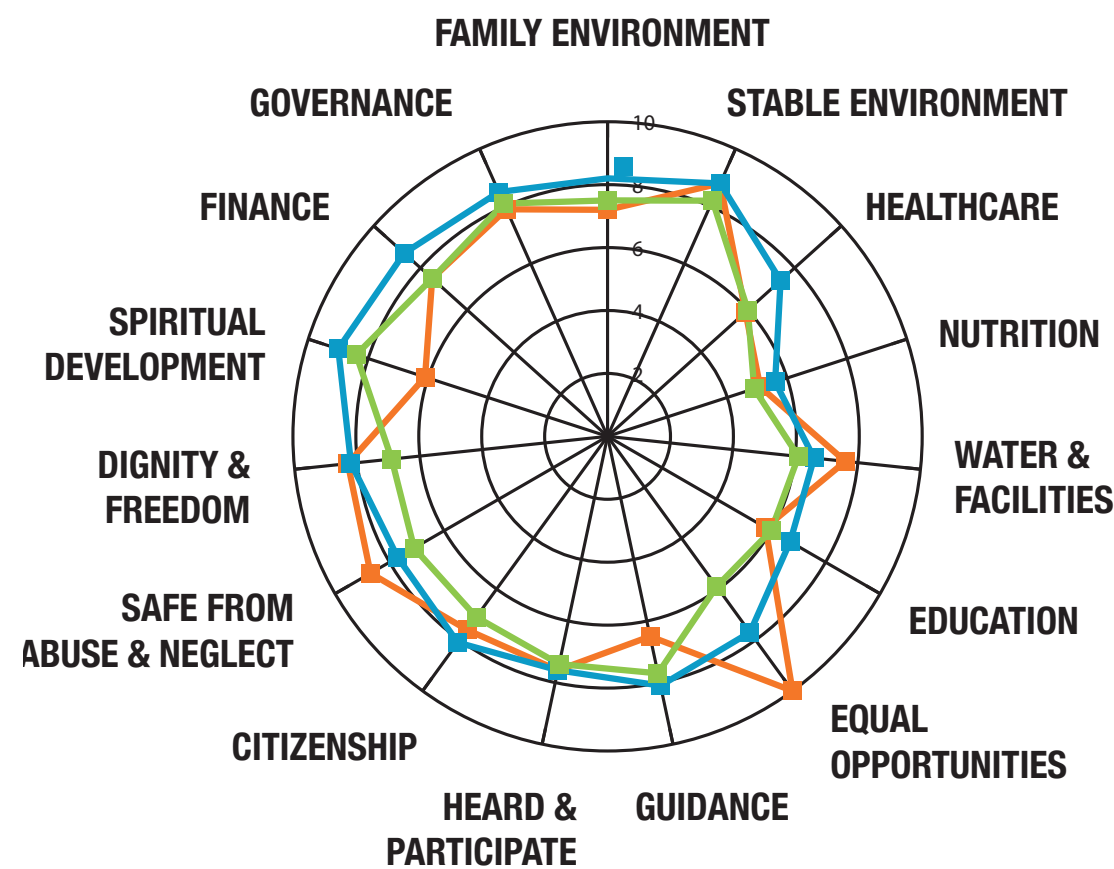


The Thrive Assessment

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 and compiled into an Improvement Roadmap.

Current Thrive Scale



■ 1 YEAR AGO
 ■ 6 MONTHS AGO
 ■ CURRENT

Strategic Initiatives

CONSTRUCT EXTRA BEDROOM

PROJECT SUMMARY	There's a need to construct an extra bedroom with beds and bedding for the children to have ample space to keep their personal belongings and maintain privacy.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	5,550,000 UGX \$1,500 USD

PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE

PROJECT SUMMARY	There's 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.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	740,000 UGX per child \$200 USD per child

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS

PROJECT SUMMARY	There's a need to work on the kitchen area to cover the open cables and repair damaged areas. These improvements will better protect the children from harm.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	2,200,000 UGX \$600 USD



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Brenda serves as the sole dedicated caregiver in this home, providing round-the-clock care to six children. Within this household, two children have the opportunity to meet with their biological father once a month. Visitation rights are restricted to these two children as the remaining children have unknown family connections. The commitment of Mama Brenda as caregiver to nurture these children is steadfast, without any formal agreement delineating the termination of her duties. The 92hands team conducts investigations into the family backgrounds of the children, and Mama Brenda, who is affectionately regarded as the mother figure in the home, undergoes ongoing training to instill family values and expectations during her tenure.

- Carry out more research on the children's family backgrounds.
- Create more trainings for the caregiver.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All house rules are suitable for all ages and are thoroughly communicated to each member of the home. Children are respectfully referred to by their chosen names, avoiding any derogatory or demeaning nicknames. The majority of activities within the home are conducted as collective family events, such as dining and playing, to foster bonding and allocate quality time for each member. Although caregivers from the 92hands homes do not convene frequently, they occasionally gather with an expert to exchange strategies for instilling discipline effectively. Mama Brenda's household consistently organizes monthly celebrations, and there is an ongoing effort to devise additional fun, weekly activities to enhance the family experience.

- Emphasize the house rules and regulations more consistently.
- Create more time and fun activities for the children to bond with each other and the caregiver.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children receive medical checkups when sick or during emergencies. Some children have successfully received vaccinations along with the necessary documentation. Soap is available throughout the home, and cleanliness is strongly emphasized in Mama Brenda's home. Although there isn't a pediatrician on-site for emergencies, a nearby clinic is always accessible for any required medical treatment. Teenage girls are provided with feminine hygiene products and are educated on menstrual care basics. Medical records detailing the medical history of each child since their arrival at the home have been established. Additionally, the home requires the first aid kits to be restocked quarterly. However, an emergency fund is needed in case of emergencies.

- Create an emergency fund for the home.
- Provide a fully stocked first aid kit on a quarterly basis.
- Emphasize menstrual hygiene and care for all adolescent girls in the home.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Daily calorie intake is not strictly monitored at the home, though fruits and vegetables are included in meals periodically. A chore roster assigns household tasks to everyone, enhancing cleanliness throughout the home, including the kitchen area. The kitchen currently requires renovations. Protein-rich meals are not served regularly, indicating a need for additional funds in the food budget to facilitate daily protein. Assistance from a qualified nutritionist is also needed to ensure that all children receive proper nutrients every day.

- Hire a well trained nutritionist to guide the caregiver in providing a balanced diet.
- Renovate the kitchen area- \$600 USD.
- Increase on the monthly food to be able to facilitate daily protein offerings- \$300 USD per month.

Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

A water purifier is available to provide safe drinking water for the children at all times. Work is underway on an emergency plan to address any outbreaks that might affect the home. While the outdoor areas may not be completely secure for the children, particularly the infants, they are safe under the watchful eye of the caregiver. The premises have been deemed safe for electrical setups. Although candles serve as an alternative source of light, solar energy is being considered as a safer and more reliable option for the home. Currently there are no smoke alarms or sinks used in this home.

- Provide a safe alternative source of electricity, like solar energy, to increase the safety of the children.
- Install a home water source (water tap) for emergencies- estimated \$500 USD.
- Create an emergency fund for the home.

Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In Mama Brenda's home, the majority of the children are actively attending school, with a participation rate of 80%, except for two who remain at home. There is an 11-year-old who has acquired the ability to read, write, and perform basic arithmetic, matching her peers' academic level. As of now, the home has not housed any children with disabilities. There's an expressed need for additional age-appropriate reading materials and educational resources for the children. The absence of internet and computer facilities at Mama Brenda's home is a significant gap, as these tools are essential for imparting valuable skills. Additionally, tutoring services are necessary to assist children with lower academic performance and to offer extra educational support.

- Hire a well trained and dedicated tutor for extra education support, most especially in poorly performing subjects- \$137 USD per month.
- Provide age appropriate reading materials for the infants.
- Purchase a computer and internet access for the children to practice- \$400 for a computer, \$67 for monthly internet access.

Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children currently share a single room, necessitating the construction of an additional bedroom to accommodate separate sleeping areas for boys and girls. Acquiring new bedding, pillowcases, and small cabinets for personal belongings is also needed to ensure equal opportunities for all. Current plans include creating individual transition plans for each child, which will be reviewed and updated annually. There are mentors from 92hands who serve as role models, providing counseling and motivational sessions whenever they interact with the children. A few reading materials are provided for children with learning disabilities, but there's a need for a tutor to assist with challenging areas of study.

- Plan and update an individual transition plan for each child.
- Expand and provide another room for extra space for the boys and girls- estimated \$1000 USD.
- More reading materials are needed for children with learning disabilities.

Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

At the commencement of each caregiver's contract, they receive comprehensive job descriptions to guide their work, in addition to undergoing an extensive training program. The caregiver, mentors, 92Hands staff, and therapists collectively bear the responsibility for children in this home. All parties also actively contribute to the children's education, adhering to designated roles and home regulations. Discussions on child sexual behavior are conducted with children aged 10 and above, with one child currently being introduced to this educational process.

- Formulate a life skills program for the children to participate in.
- Initiate more education regarding sexual behavior for the adolescents.

Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children have the autonomy to choose their activities during leisure time, except for the infants who are constantly supervised by their caregiver for safety. About 80% of the children's expressed needs are met by either the caregiver or the support team from 92Hands, with work underway on individual development plans. Leadership activities are particularly promoted within the home, with Mama Brenda delegating various responsibilities to each child weekly, encouraging them to take the lead.

- Involve the children more in decision-making through guidance and supervision.
- Create more games that actively engage the children and promote bonding.
- Create more leadership activities for the children to participate in.

Right to Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Brenda resides in a slum community with the children. The location is prone to high crime rates and abuse, which pose potential risks to the children's safety. Despite these challenges, she diligently ensures their protection from any harm that could arise within their surroundings. Bathrooms and toilets are utilized in scheduled shifts, similar to the bedrooms while dressing. This highlights the necessity for construction of an additional room to enhance privacy. Additionally, as caregiver, Mama Brenda receives training on identifying and preventing abuse, which equips her with the skills needed to safeguard the children effectively.

- Create more bedroom space for privacy.
- Hire an assistant caregiver to create more quality time with the children, especially during the holidays- \$200 USD per month.
- Construct a bathing area- \$200 USD.

Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The majority of the children lack access to their birth certificates, but under the guidance of Mama Brenda, they are taught to understand and exercise responsibility. All holidays are recognized and celebrated by the members of the home. Additionally, engaging outdoor activities such as games and sports are organized to facilitate bonding among the children. Furthermore, at Mama Brenda's home, all the children participate in a children's church program, which includes engaging in community service activities.

- Work on obtaining the remaining birth certificates and documentation for all the children.
- Help the children learn and practice responsibility.

Right to Dignity and Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The caregiver bathes the infants, whereas the older children bathe independently under Mama Brenda's supervision. Promoting kindness and care for each other is a core value in the home. Due to the rapid growth of the children, there is an ongoing need for additional clothing. Children are motivated to engage in volunteer work, but it is emphasized that they do so willingly and at their own pace, without coercion.

- Purchase more clothing for the children.
- Encourage freedom of speech among the children.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In Mama Brenda's home, all the children participate in Sunday school at a nearby community church. At church, they engage with peers, learn new concepts, and memorize Bible verses. The home also sets aside time for communal prayers in the morning and evening. Most holidays are observed as family occasions, during which the children have the opportunity to read Bible stories, share the word of God, and perform in plays.

- Purchase more spiritual and religious materials for the children to use and read at home.
- Allocate a warm quiet space for prayers and meditation.



Financial Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

92hands has appointed a professional accountant to manage and monitor the home's financial activities, including income and expenses. This assistance enables Mama Brenda to efficiently oversee home operations and maintain accountability with monthly financial reports. Additionally, an annual budget is prepared, facilitating straightforward reconciliation with the home's bank accounts. An external auditor conducts biannual financial reviews, though there is a growing need for these audits to occur on a quarterly basis for enhanced financial oversight.

- Hire an external auditor on a quarterly basis to review the home's finances- \$1,000 USD, four times a year.



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The premises of Mama Brenda's home are safeguarded against problems such as unauthorized personal gain or the risk of being sold without notification. Meetings to discuss various issues are regularly convened with both the caregiver and the staff of 92hands. Additionally, at the beginning of their employment, caregivers are furnished with a document outlining the terms of employment along with a job description, which is stored securely. Moreover, caregivers undergo consistent training in areas of attachment and child development.

- Train caregivers more often about child protection and care.
- Emphasize the board meetings with the caregivers involved.



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.



Makerere University

Makerere University is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Africa. Located in Kampala, Uganda, it was founded in 1922 as a technical school and has grown into a major public university offering a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across various fields, including the arts, sciences, education, health sciences, business, and law. Makerere University has played a significant role in the education of many of Africa's leaders and has contributed extensively to research and development in the region. The 92hands team has partnered with the school of psychology to offer therapy services to homes from intern students who are doing a tremendous job in changing the narrative in these children's lives.



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

