

Mama Harriet's Home

Uganda

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, walking together in a village setting. The boy is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt with a floral pattern and blue denim shorts. The girl is on the right, wearing an orange dress with a colorful pattern. They are holding hands and looking towards the right. The background shows a wooden fence and a building with a red door.

IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

March | 2024



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

1. All children have fully engaged in ongoing therapy sessions, which has consistently shown results with their behaviour changes around fellow peers.



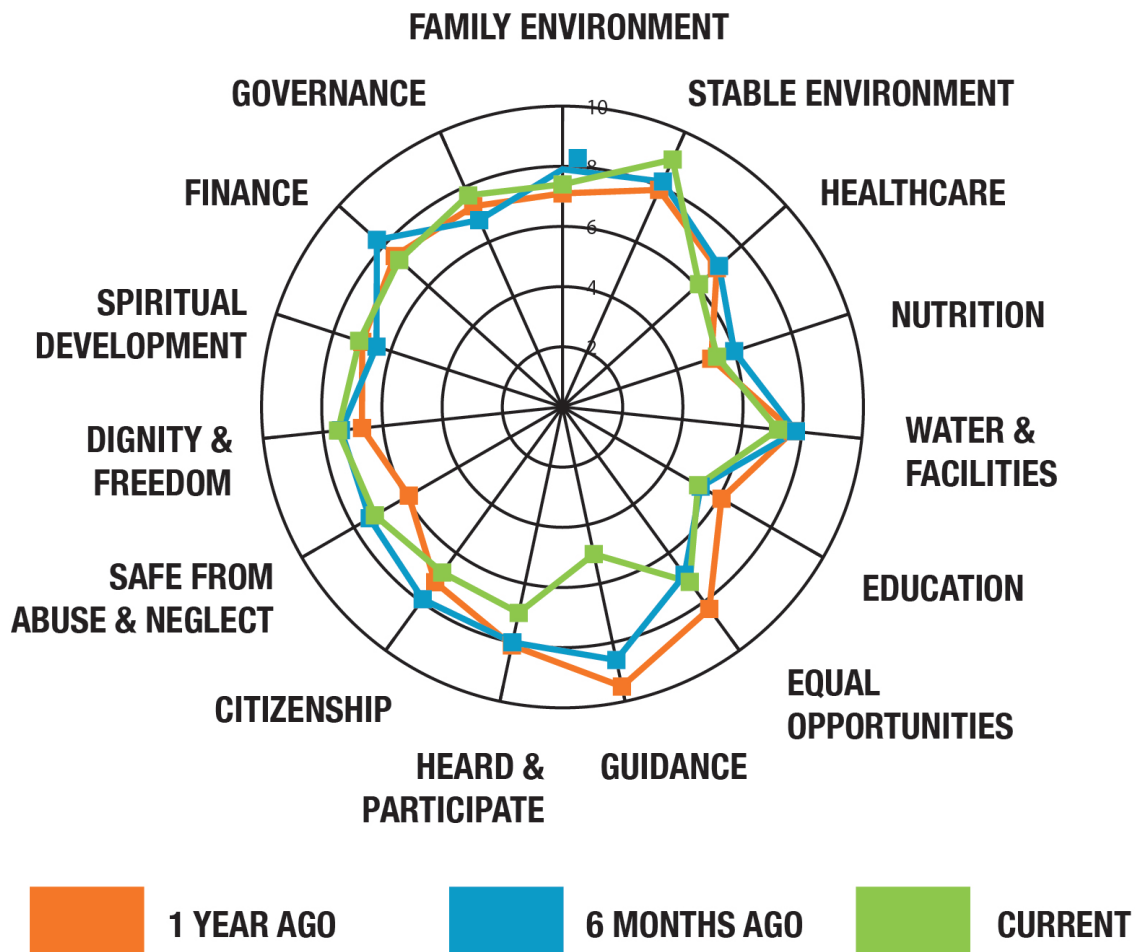
The Thrive Assessment

What is the Thrive Assessment?

In 1989, 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



Strategic Initiatives

RENOVATE THE KITCHEN

PROJECT SUMMARY	Renovate the kitchen and purchase some kitchenware at \$600.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	2,220,000 UGX \$600 USD

PURCHASE CLOTHING

PROJECT SUMMARY	Purchase clothings for the children at \$150 each, \$900 for 6 children.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	3,330,000 UGX \$900 USD

HIRE A TUTOR

PROJECT SUMMARY	Hire a tutor for 6 months for \$600.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	2,220,000 UGX \$600 USD



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Harriet dedicates her time as a caregiver, currently nurturing six children. The household possesses background information on each child, although the details vary in completeness. Social workers and other team members are actively filling in the gaps through ongoing research. Mama Harriet is engaged in extensive training on trauma and childcare, aiming to enhance the well-being of these children during and after their stay in the home.

- Conduct more research about the children's families and backgrounds.
- Encourage more caregiver interactions during the trainings on trauma and child care.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

House rules have been established, printed, and displayed in a communal area for everyone to easily see and use as a reminder. The caregiver continually motivates the children to adhere to these rules to avoid consequences, helping to maintain their good behavior. Furthermore, each child in the home is addressed by their chosen name, avoiding any derogatory terms, as outlined in the house rules. Despite her busy schedule, Mama Harrie as full-time caregiver manages to find time to rest during school days. Children need more private time with their caregiver.

- Emphasize house rules more to create a safer environment for the children and everyone else.
- Create more one on one bonding time between the mother/caregiver and the children.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children in the home do not undergo scheduled annual wellness checkups or exams. Instead, they receive medical attention at a nearby clinic in the event of illness or an emergency, where various health assessments are performed to determine their current health status. At present, there is no specific pediatrician assigned to the children. Girls in the home are provided with guidance and education about body changes and menstrual cycles, emphasizing the importance of ongoing education to build their confidence. The home is equipped with a medical kit, which requires monthly restocking and inspection. Additionally, there is a recognized need to establish an emergency fund to cover unforeseen medical emergencies and treatments, enhancing the overall well-being of the children.

- Create a well detailed medical file for each child with their medical history and reports.
- Restock the home first aid kits- \$150 monthly.
- Create a medical emergency fund.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In this household, there isn't a strict tracking of calorie intake. However, the children consume proteins, fruits, and vegetables weekly according to the meal plans organized by the caregiver. Food preparation takes place in an environment that is meticulously maintained to be clean and safe, minimizing any risk of contamination that could potentially harm the children. However, the kitchen's ventilation system is in need of renovation, along with some other food safety improvements, which are estimated to cost \$600 USD, including the purchase of a few kitchenware items. Mama Harriet ensures the meals are delicious and appealing, often choosing dishes based on the children's preferences. The absence of a nutritionist in the home presents challenges for the caregiver in consistently providing nutritious and healthy meals every day, highlighting the need for additional food preparation training.

- Renovate the kitchen area- \$600 USD.
- Hire a well trained nutritionist to train both the caregiver and children on how to prepare healthy meals- \$200 per session.
- Increase monthly food budget to purchase more fruits, vegetables and proteins for the home- \$300 per month.



Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The residence ensures the availability of safely boiled water for consumption, supplemented by a water purifier. For other domestic tasks, well water is utilized. The bathroom, toilet, and hand-washing stations are all equipped with a functional light bulb, ensuring adequate lighting. Measures are taken for the appropriate disposal of waste to avert the risk of water pollution. An emergency response plan is established to address potential incidents, including fires, power outages, floods, and other crises. The children have uninterrupted access to clean drinking water. The electrical system is securely installed to prevent short circuits and electrical accidents. Although the home is situated adjacent to a slum, potentially jeopardizing the children's safety outdoors, Mama Harriet has implemented protective strategies to ensure their safety during outdoor activities. In anticipation of power failure, alternative lighting sources like lamps and candles are available. However, there's a pressing need for a solar power system to enhance safety further. The house also has several leaks that require fixing to safeguard the children's well-being.

- Fix the drainage system of the home and all leakages- \$200 USD.
- Set up a private home water source for domestic use- \$200 USD.
- Installation of the solar power system- \$300 USD.



Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Among the six children at Mama Harriet's home, two are unable to attend school full-time because they only have partial bursaries, which hinders their academic progress. However, all children aged seven and older can recognize each letter of the alphabet, articulate sounds, and perform basic arithmetic operations like addition and subtraction. There is a significant need for internet and computer access in the home to further develop the children's computer literacy and skills. Mama Harriet strongly advocates for tutoring to provide the children with additional instruction, particularly in subjects where they struggle, emphasizing the importance of assigning a dedicated tutor for the children's educational support.

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

Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Harriet's household now has an extra bedroom where boys and girls are able to have separate bedroom areas and space to keep their personal belongings, thereby providing a minimum individual space. Despite facing certain challenges that impact their education, all children are entitled to attend school, and currently, a transition plan is being developed to guide them towards independent living. Each child benefits from personalized interactions with their mentors from 92hands, who serve not only as role models but are also available for counseling and various activities within the home. To support children with learning disabilities, educational aids such as charts and other materials are provided, highlighting the ongoing need for a tutor to further assist in their educational journey.

- Update and work on the transition plan of every child to help prepare them for independent living in the future.
- Emphasize more weekly time and gatherings with their mentors.
- Facilitate support for children with learning disabilities such as hiring a tutor and purchasing more reading materials.



Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The caregiver in this home instills respect in the children by encouraging them to emulate Jesus, who was known for his obedience and kindness. Respect is a fundamental value emphasized in the home, visibly displayed on the wall as a constant reminder. During the recruitment process for foster mothers, 92hands prioritizes candidates who are God-fearing, passionate about children, and possess a nurturing, motherly disposition. The children have monthly therapy sessions to discuss various topics, including puberty for those of age. However, there is a recognized need to increase these sessions to at least two or three times a month to better support the children's emotional and psychological development.

- Coordinate caregiver training on child development.
- Obtain guidance and counseling for children to eliminate inappropriate behaviors.



Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children in the home have the freedom to choose their activities during their free time, though they may be supervised by a caregiver. Additionally, they participate in making decisions regarding aspects such as the food menu and extracurricular activities. Every week, children take on leadership roles in various activities, including leading devotions and assisting in meal preparation. Currently, there isn't an individual development plan for each child, but efforts are underway to establish personalized plans for every child in the near future.

- Create more space for the children to fulfill leadership roles.
- Create teamwork activities to emphasize togetherness between the caregiver and children as a family.
- Establish individual development plans for each child.



Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

At Mama Harriet's, not all children currently possess a birth certificate or official documentation, but efforts are underway by 92hands to rectify this. Each child is taught to be responsible and to set a good example for others. Tasks and chores assigned to the children are age-appropriate and engaging. The home observes and celebrates all holidays, with activities planned both indoors and outdoors. Additionally, the children actively participate in community cleanliness drives, which focus on hygiene, sanitation, and contributing positively to the community.

- Emphasize a clean home free from litter or any other broken objects.
- Engage the children more in community outreach and work.
- Observe and celebrate local and national holidays with the children at home.



Right to Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Harriet's home is situated in a slum area, often posing safety risks for the children. While she vigilantly ensures their safety and guidance during all outdoor activities, there is a the need to construct a fence and gate around the property for enhanced security. The home has limited private facilities, with amenities like the toilet being shared by all members. Recently, the boys and girls were provided with separate bedrooms, offering them more private and ample space. Committed to safeguarding the children, the home opposes child exploitation and adheres to national child protection laws, which are regularly reviewed and updated to improve the welfare of the children.

- Emphasize more caregiver trainings.
- Emphasize more therapy sessions for children to work through trauma.
- Construct a fence and gate.



Right to Dignity and Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In Mama Harriet's home, kindness and sharing love are fundamental values. The children recently received an additional bedroom to separate the boys from the girls, which has created a need for more bedding and mattresses. Mama Harriet diligently assists the children with their daily bathing and grooming, while the older children often help the younger ones as well. There is also a need to purchase additional clothing for the children, as many have outgrown their current garments, causing discomfort.

- Purchase clothes and beddings for the children- \$150 USD per child.
- Purchase more luganda books to teach the children more about their culture and native language.
- Create more recreational time for the children to play games.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children at Mama Harriet's home are actively encouraged to engage in spiritual communities and activities. Many have become members of the children's church, which has fostered their confidence, deepened their understanding of God, and helped them forge new friendships. Daily devotions are a staple in the home, conducted every morning and evening. Additionally, religious holidays are enthusiastically celebrated, providing valuable family bonding time to express affection, enjoy each other's company, and play games together.

- Encourage the children to pray daily.
- Purchase more religious books for children to access- \$15 USD per book.



Financial Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

An accountant from 92hands meticulously manages fund usage, handles procurement, and maintains expense records for the home. Additionally, 92hands includes Mama Harriet in the decision-making process for purchasing essential items required to meet the monthly needs of each child. Given the prohibitive costs associated with hiring a professional internal auditor, 92hands opts to employ an external auditor annually to verify the financial records of both the home and the organization overall.

- Employ an affordable auditor to manage the home's finances twice annually- \$542 USD.
- Engage the caregiver more in the purchase of food.



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

When she began her contract at the home, Mama Harriet underwent training in child protection. She also received a written Memorandum of Understanding that outlined the responsibilities, rules, and expectations for both herself and 92hands to ensure clear working terms for each party. 92hands support staff make weekly visits to the home to provide support and guidance, helping to facilitate continuous improvement. The home ensures that safe drinking water is available for everyone. Additionally, Mama Harriet has participated in several medical and hygiene training sessions to equip her with the necessary skills to care for any sick children.

- Hold more regular staff meetings.
- 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.



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

