

Mama Ruth

Uganda

A photograph of a woman, Mama Ruth, sitting on a colorful patterned mat. She is wearing a blue headwrap with white polka dots and a grey sleeveless top. She is holding a young child in her arms, who is smiling. In front of her, two other children are sitting on the mat, looking towards her. To the right, another woman is sitting on the mat, looking towards the group. The background is a wall made of reddish-brown mud bricks. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a community gathering or a family moment.

IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

April | 2024



Overview of this Children's Home

Background & Mission

Mama Ruth is the newest caregiver in the 92hands network, who is dedicated to serving and looking after children. She joined the 92hands foster care program after recognizing a pressing need to care for children, which aligns with her passion. The home provides food, clothing, care, and shelter for the children, many of whom had been without a home for a long time. The home was established six months ago after the 92hands team took in five children from various challenging backgrounds. Mama Ruth's dream is to nurture these children in the ways of the Lord by addressing their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, along with the necessary support. Currently, there are six children at the home, with the youngest being 3 years old and the oldest 10 years old.

The mission of 92hands 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 responsible individuals that will be accountable for their actions in the future. Additionally, they seek to help provide a home free from chronic diseases and full immunisation to fight illnesses and infections in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle for all the children. 92hands envisions a literate generation where all children are enrolled in school, receive quality education, and are well equipped with scholastic materials. They believe every child has a right to quality education.



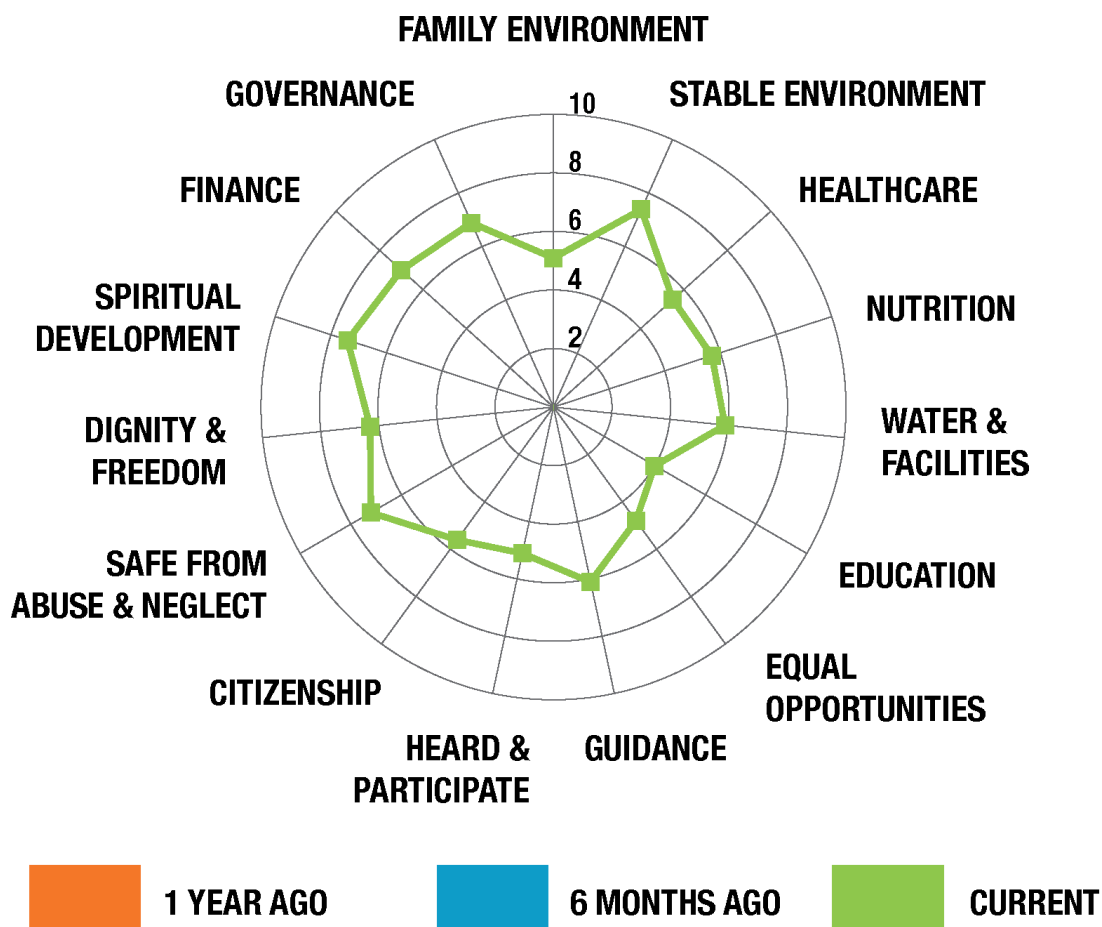
The Thrive Assessment

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

EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

PROJECT SUMMARY	Four children in Mama Ruth's home do not currently have access to attend school. The cost to send them to school is \$36 per month for each child and \$108 per month for three children.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	399,600 UGX per month \$108 USD per month

BEDROOM CONSTRUCTION & EXPANSION

PROJECT SUMMARY	To solve the problem of limited space, bedroom construction and expansion is needed. This requires careful planning, budgeting, and execution to ensure that the new or extended space meets all necessary requirements and is functional, safe, and comfortable.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	5,000,000 UGX \$1,328 USD

IMPROVE NUTRITION

PROJECT SUMMARY	There is a need to enhance the nutritional quality of meals at the home. The goal is to acquire proteins, fruits, and vegetables to create wholesome, balanced meals for the children. Additionally, there is a plan to employ a nutritionist who can provide basic nutritional education to both the caregiver and the children.
INITIAL ANTICIPATED COST	5,625,000 UGX \$1,500 USD



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Ruth serves as the dedicated caretaker at a small residential home in Lusaze, within the Kampala district. As a full-time caregiver, she devotes all her time, day and night, to the welfare of the children, with no days off. Currently, she is responsible for five children, the oldest being 10 years old and the youngest 3 years old. These children have no known relatives to visit, as their family connections remain unidentified. However, the team at 92hands is actively working to explore and possibly establish these connections. In addition to her caregiving responsibilities, Mama Ruth and 92hands are planning to participate in specialized training to enhance her understanding of trauma. This training is crucial as it will provide her with the skills and knowledge needed to better support and nurture the children, especially considering their potentially complex emotional and psychological needs.

- Provide trauma trainings sessions for the caregiver.
- Create a family tracing and reintegration process with a well trained social worker.
- Create a safe environment for the children.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Ruth, along with the 92hands support staff, collaboratively establish the home's rules and guidelines. Mama Ruth enforces clear and straightforward penalties for any rule infractions, ensuring all the children understand the consequences. In her home, mutual respect and love are paramount, and using demeaning nicknames is highly discouraged in order to foster the children's confidence. Even during downtime, Mama Ruth provides a safe environment to emphasize the children's safety, both inside and outside the home. Currently, she has no days off, as this is a crucial time to spend with the children and requires her full attention and involvement as they adjust to their new home.

- Emphasize more bonding time between the children and the caregiver.
- Create a safe space for the children to interact with one another.
- Hire a specialist to train the caregiver in different behavioral techniques to help with the children.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Currently, the home lacks a medical emergency fund due to financial constraints. The home does not have any children with disabilities or special needs. The children brush their teeth once a day under the supervision of a caregiver. The 92hands support staff is planning to carry out training sessions with Mama Ruth in order to assist adolescent girls in understanding menstrual health and management. The children do not receive annual dental or vision exams, except in emergencies. They do not have a first aid kit at the moment, but the 92hands team is diligently working to provide one. Additionally, there is no dedicated pediatrician for the home, but children are taken to see a doctor when they need medical attention.

- Provide annual health screenings for all the children.
- Identify a pediatrician for treatments and any kinds of emergencies.
- Purchase a first aid kit for the home.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The children in this home do not receive sufficient calorie intake, highlighting the need to purchase protein products for meal preparations. Mama Ruth makes significant efforts to maintain a clean and pest-free food storage area to ensure it is safe and out of the children's reach. However, Mama Ruth also needs training in food preparation and safety from a professional nutritionist. Additionally, the kitchen requires renovation to ensure it is free from toxic substances and has proper food storage. Despite these challenges, Mama Ruth prepares tasty meals for everyone in the home.

- Purchase more protein products for a proper balanced diet.
- Hire a professional nutritionist to train Mama Ruth.
- Repair and renovate the kitchen area.



Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home currently lacks smoke alarms and sink faucets. Instead, the children use traditional methods such as washing in basins and carrying water from a well to jerrycans. There is no emergency plan in place for situations like fires or floods. Mama Ruth ensures the children drink safe water by diligently boiling it to remove chemicals and germs. In case of a power outage, candles are used for lighting. The outdoor area of this home is unsuitable for young children, putting them at high risk and exposing them to various dangers in the surrounding community. Additionally, several facilities in the home, including the toilets and bathrooms, need renovation to meet government standards for a proper home.

- Renovate the toilets and bathrooms.
- Develop an emergency plan in case of any fire outbreak.
- Obtain alternative lighting solutions.



Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In Mama Ruth's home, only one child attends school, while the remaining four have not yet joined due to a lack of available funds for school fees. The tuition costs \$36 per child, totaling \$144 per month for the four children. Currently, these children lack access to the internet and computers. Additionally, not all children in the home can read and write, highlighting the need for charts and books to help them reach developmental milestones. The 92hands team is developing plans to improve housing and secure funding for these needs. A tutor is also needed to help the children who are not yet able to attend school.

- Obtain a sponsorship package for all the children in the home which may cost \$144/month.
- Purchase reading materials for the children.
- Provision of computers and internet in the home which costs \$550.

Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Ruth's home currently lacks resources to accommodate disabled children and therefore, there are none residing in the home. Space is limited within the living quarters, preventing the children from having personal areas for their belongings. Instead, all items are currently stored communally. Bedrooms are shared among all the residents as well, but they are all girls. The 92hands team is developing a transition plan for each child.

- Construct extra bedrooms for children to enhance privacy.
- Provide mentors and role models for the children.
- Create a home that addresses the needs of disabled children in case disabilities are identified.



Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

There is a well-written job description for the caregiver which outlines her roles and responsibilities within the home. Rules and regulations are clearly displayed on the wall for everyone to see and are explained to the children to ensure understanding. There are plans to discuss sex education, puberty, and adolescence with all the children, and to engage them in therapeutic sessions conducted by trained psychologists from Makerere University. Due to the diverse backgrounds of these children, they exhibit various challenging behaviors. However, Mama Ruth and the 92hands support staff are diligently working to guide and groom them properly.

- Emphasize more of the home rules and regulations with the children.
- Provide trainings about basic life skills and appropriate behaviours.
- Emphasize more sex education amongst the children.



Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Children are encouraged to express their needs to the caregivers, but currently, their needs are often not met. Both children and caregivers have ample opportunities to learn about and discuss healthcare matters. Additionally, comprehensive individual development plans are in place for each child and are regularly updated as progress is made. Leadership is greatly valued in Mama Ruth's home, where many children exhibit this trait and strive for improvement every day.

- Acknowledge the children's needs better.
- Involve children in decision making activities and leadership roles.
- Work on the individual development plans for each child.



Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Not every child has a birth certificate or other official documents. As caregiver, Mama Ruth receives training on guiding children in learning their responsibilities. Household chores are assigned by age, with younger children not permitted to wash utensils until they are older. Mama Ruth is instilling a culture of celebrating and observing all national holidays as a family. Children participate in sports and games at home and engage in community service, such as cleaning and sweeping communal areas. Additionally, members of the home join church members in door-to-door evangelism. The caregiver, together with the support staff, are working on finding suitable mentors for each child.

- Obtain birth certificates and documents for each child in this home.
- Train children about respect and practice responsibility.
- Allocate mentors for each child to work with as their role models.



Right to Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home security needs improvement due to the high incidence of drug addiction in the neighborhood. All girls share a single bathroom, with usage staggered over time. Currently, there is a need for additional space as one room serves as a shared bedroom for all the girls. A policy is in place to protect the children from abuse and exploitation, with corresponding penalties for violations. Furthermore, a qualified teacher is assigned by the caregiver to supervise the girls during any outings outside of school.

- Improve bathroom facilities.
- Expand the children's living quarters to enhance privacy.
- Improve home security by constructing a residential fence.



Right to Dignity and Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In Mama Ruth's home, children share beds with each other. Additionally, there is a lack of sufficient clothing and undergarments which necessitates daily washing by the caregiver to ensure the children have clean clothes to wear. The children are bathed twice a day. Unkind comments, demeaning nicknames, and disrespect towards others are strictly prohibited. Although the outdoor play area is not entirely safe, especially for the infants, the children are able to play under the caregiver's supervision.

- Provide individual beds for children.
- Provide additional clothing and underwear for the children at the home.
- Create a safe environment and space for the children.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The caregiver is working hard to instill Christian values with the children, who attend and fellowship at a nearby church in the community. At church, they often participate in activities such as drama and music. They learn about religious holidays like Christmas and Martyrs' Day, as well as their meanings. They also read religious books at church, where there is a variety of materials that help them understand Bible stories and remember verses better. Having more spiritual books at home would encourage them to participate more in Sunday school activities. There is also a need to create a safe space for fellowship, prayer, and meditation for the members of this home.

- Purchase religious books for the children.
- Emphasis prayer time and fellowshiping together as a family.
- Create a safe space, quiet for prayer and meditation.



Financial Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

A qualified accountant assists the household by tracking monthly income and expenses, as well as maintaining records, which enhances accountability. Receipts from purchases are submitted to the accountant. Currently, Mama Ruth's home has not yet established an annual budget as it is still new, but the support staff is working on creating one. The staff strives to meet the basic needs of the home and prepares detailed budgets in advance for any upcoming events or projects.

- Hire a qualified auditor.
- Establish an annual budget for this home.



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Mama Ruth does not take vacations or leave because she is a full-time mother that is dedicated to the children in this home. Surprisingly, she prioritizes the children's well-being even before the organization instructs her to do so, and she finds joy in their happiness. Meetings are routinely held between the caregiver and the 92hands staff to resolve any misunderstandings and to enhance processes. A clear job description is always established for the caregiver. Additionally, the 92hands staff and the caregiver conduct annual training sessions on child development and attachment, which contribute to the growth of the home. All documents related to the caregiver are kept securely at the 92hands offices.

- More staff and training Child development for the caregiver.
- Schedule breaks and time off for the caregiver.



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/.



**A CHILD'S
NOPE**
FOUNDATION