

# The Orphanage in Kampala UGANDA

In spring 2022 we received an emergency call regarding 75 children in Uganda who lost all financial support because an organization could no longer fulfill its commitment. Arken mission ensured that these children received food, rent and school education paid for through emergency interventions.

In October 2022 a team from Arken went to Uganda to follow up on the life situation of these children. They had good conversations with the leaders of the orphanage in Kampala Isaiah and his wife Prosperity. They gained insight into what it's like to take care of your marriage and at the same time be responsible for 75 children without regular financial support. Isaiah himself grew up as a street child and when he was saved the longing ignited in his heart to help these lost children and that is why he started a home to help vulnerable boys and girls.

The team from Arken visited a village outside Kampala where the leaders bought a piece of land and started building an orphanage. The location is fantastic, but construction has been at a standstill for 2 years due to lack of money.

Today 75 children live in the current orphanage, and most of them come from the streets. The children sleep up to 4 in the same bed, most of them didn't have a mattress but slept on the floor on some clothes. The authorities have pushed to close the orphanage and leave the children in a very vulnerable situation. Now the team had a meeting with the mayor's secretary and talked about ways to cooperate for the children's good.

The team bought toys, mugs and plates, food, and fresh fruit for the children. From various donors in Sweden, they brought sheets, clothes and nice teddy bears with home-knitted clothes, which were distributed to the children. They beamed with joy when they received these toys. The team interviewed each child and learned their life stories. It was very touching. Most of them had no

contact with relatives, several of the children were born on the street after prostitution or rape and have since been abandoned. They have lived in the water canals under the bridges in Kampala city where they had to pay rent in money or drugs to older children to avoid being beaten. Although the orphanage is cramped and almost lacking hygiene areas, the children were happy that they now have a home, that they are loved, have adults who care, food and opportunity to go to school.

## Great need for sponsors and financial support

We will continue to support this work, which is a great challenge, but God has placed the children upon our hearts. We need sponsors for all the children (at least 40 more). After the visit in Uganda Arken mission sent out money so that new toilets and showers could be built. We have also contributed so the building has been purchased.

## Other needs:

- \* Right now we are investigating the possibility to digging for water and build a well, costing roughly 60 000 SEK (6000 US \$).
- \* We need to start renovating the home approx. 75 000 – 100 000 SEK (7500 – 10000 US \$)
- \* We want to buy the plot of land for approx. 90 000 SEK (9000 US \$)



*The leaders of the orphanage in Kampala Isaiah and his wife Prosperity.*







*One of the toilets before the renovation.*



*New toilets and showers have been built during October and November 2022.*



*The children are playing football with the team from Arken.*



*The girls are happy to have a home and loving and caring adults. Their former "home" was under the bridges in Kampala city.*