

FEBRUARY 2025 UPDATE REPORT



MINISTRY GREETINGS

Word and Deed Uganda in partnership with Christian Development Uganda continues to protect and nurture the children so they can learn, grow and thrive. As Word and Deed Uganda, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters and sponsors for the unwavering commitment you demonstrated in the last years.

As Word and Deed Uganda, we believe that **“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world”**. James 1:27

Word and Deed Uganda supports 200+ Batwa children in both day and boarding schools and we continue to commit ourselves to surrounding the children with a complete support system.

We are deeply appreciative of your efforts and support for the year ahead of us knowing that every step we take brings us closer to realising our fullest potential.



MEETING WITH UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY STAFF

WADU wishes to continue working with other like-minded organisations to share resources and network more effectively.

WADU team was able to meet with Uganda Red cross Society staff to forge a way of supporting the Batwa teenage girls and also projects that aim at holistic transformation and help the Batwa youth participate in the Protection Gender Inclusion program.

Red Cross Staff pose with WADU team in front of WADU offices

WADU BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVES

As the new school year approaches, the excitement of returning to the classroom is palpable. However, for the Batwa children in South western Uganda, the prospects of returning to school brings a different set of challenges. These children often face challenges that can hinder their academic success and overall being. At WADU, we recognize the critical role that back-to-school drives play in supporting these children and helping them overcome these obstacles.

The Batwa children are always facing challenges of returning to school due to the community influence brought about by the long holidays and thus becoming challenging for all the children to report in the first week of the school term.



Word and Deed Uganda is always thrilled to provide education and care to the vulnerable Batwa children but we are also deeply saddened by the harsh reality they face. As the school term began, it was a time for Word and Deed Uganda to gear-up for the new school term. Placing the children in different specific schools and Procurement of school requirements and supplies was the main activity for the month of January.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DELIVERED ON TIME



We believe that having the right school supplies is directly linked to academic excellence. Children who are well prepared for schools are more likely to complete their home works, stay organized and maintain a positive attitude towards learning.

Through the support from Christian Development Uganda, WADU is able to provide essential supplies that alleviate the financial stress from the already vulnerable Batwa parents.

A New Term, Anew Year: Embracing the journey ahead for the Rising Stars



The Rising stars like any other child in Uganda had a long holiday and thank God that they were all able to return to school. As the children put behind the holiday season, they were eager and thrilled to embark on a new term filled with fresh challenges and exciting learning opportunities.

All the rest are now at Rise and Shine Preparatory and are happy with the new school.

We hope this will act as a respite Centre for the Batwa Rising stars providing levels of care to match the requirements of each child and make them have a feeling of one big family where we believe that this home-based model will strengthen the program.



We continue to pray for wisdom as we tend to the emotional and social as well as physical needs of the children so that they can be able to focus on their Education.

TIME FOR PRAYERS



Word and Deed Uganda believes that fulfilling Christ's command to make disciples of all nations begins at home-with their children. Few experiences bring greater joy to Christian parents than seeing their children come to faith in Christ. WADU wishes to give children in its care good childhood memories. We believe that through an evangelistic invitation to the Batwa children, they will positively respond, and learn to follow Christ, love their brothers and find God's plan for their lives.

On Sundays, the children are taken to the churches around the school so that the children learn to enjoy Christian fellowship and hear Bible teaching.

We believe that while menstruation is a normal and healthy part of life for women and girls, in many societies, the experience that menstruators continue to face is discriminatory. The resulting lack of information about menstruation leads to unhygienic and unhealthy menstrual practices and creates a misconception and negative attitudes which motivate shaming and bullying in schools.



CHILD GUIDANCE SPECIAL DAYS



In order to keep the girls safe and healthy, Marion the WADU Youth and Women affairs coordinator speaks to the girls on menstrual health management once per week.

THE TREMENDOUS GIFT OF BOARDING SCHOOL

Word and Deed Uganda has been helping the disadvantaged Batwa children in destitute Batwa communities since 2022. We firmly believe that education is the remedy to poverty and allows communities to be self-reliant. Sponsorship not only provides for the child's basic necessities but also makes education possible through paid tuition, school uniforms and supplies and its an investment that yields life-changing benefits for the child.

Pamela 15 is one of the Batwa orphans who have been sponsored by WADU staff in a boarding school.

She is looking for a sponsor to continue to be able to enjoy the tremendous gift of education Since the children in a boarding school are provided safety and an assurance of three complete meals a day, it is an environment that is conducive to learning and spiritual growth.



Nelson

Ready to change the game

Normally the beginning of year brings news to both the parents, children and their guardians as the results from the previous year's exams are released by the ministry of Education and Sports especially to those finishing some education levels.

To Nelson, acquiring basic education was a dream that he thought would never come true.

Congratulations to Nelson for performing well in the recently released form 4 exam results.

WADU MAKES TEENAGE GIRLS ATTAIN SKILLS

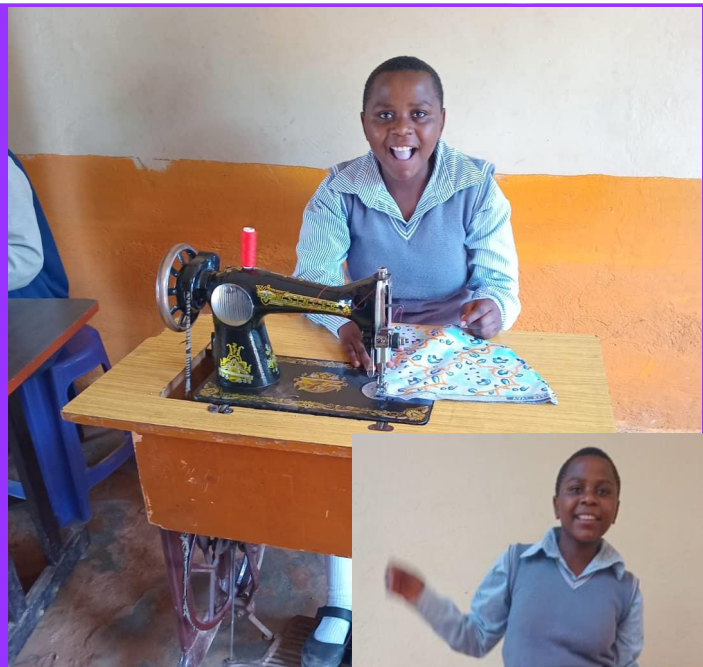
Susan was picked at the age of 5 and she attended Rwamahano primary school which Marion our current Youth and Sponsorship coordinator was heading. Her parents were addicted to alcohol and subjected to cheap labour in the villages. This really affected how Susan was looked after and so she was taken up as one of the Rising Stars with Word and Deed Uganda.

Susan is quite a grown-up young lady from a family of 7 children WADU would always see some potential in Susan and she was the first child to be sponsored through Word and Deed Uganda. After failing to continue with formal primary education because she was over aged, WADU decided to divert her to vocational training where she has finished a one year course in Tailoring and Fashion design. She will be offered a start-up kit to enable her cope up with life after her training.

Sponsorship of Susan enabled her family to turn around their lives. They had at one time held the visitors' boat hostage in 2019 because of too much alcohol but the interest and love we showed the family made them stop drinking and kept on encouraging Susan to move on with vocational training that has helped her become a tailor.



Susan receives her gift from Abigail the UK sponsorship coordinator



Susan displays her unique tailoring skills



Susan displays her unique skirt she made for herself

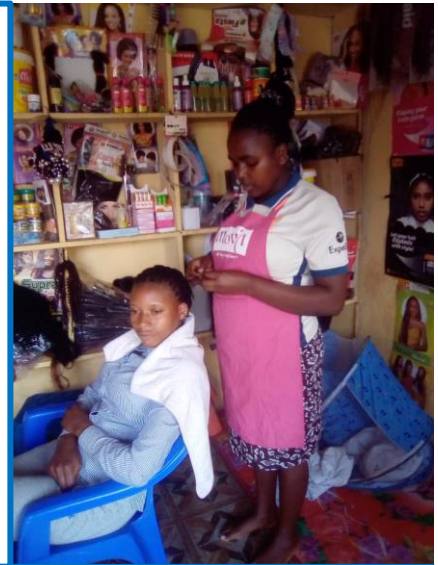
ADELLA THE TRUSTED COSMETOLOGIST



Adella a third born in a family of three children was abandoned by her mother at the age of two and was taken care of by her late grandmother.

Adella was picked on the CDU sponsorship program when she was just 15 in S.2 and has been under the generous sponsorship for the last 6 years.

She completed her course in Cosmetology and body therapy from African College of Commerce and Technology and is currently providing for her basic needs and has started her own saloon business in Kisoro Town.



Special appreciation and gratitude to the Sponsors that made Adella able to sustain herself and be able to survive.

MEET MOUREEN THE GRADUATE SCHOLAR THAT PAYS BACK

Moureen is one of the graduate scholars that has benefited from the Word and Deed Sponsorship program. She graduated with her skills in Tailoring and fashion design and has started sewing uniforms and other outfits for the WADU Rising stars children as an opportunity to empower her and bring hope and dignity to our graduate scholars.

We asked Moureen where she sees herself in the next five years and she responded that she wants to be *“a powerful tailor in this town with my own place to live and have a tailoring training centre”*





Uniform for the Rising stars that was made by Moureen the WADU graduate scholar

CONCLUSION

Word and Deed Uganda supports the Batwa children in the specific areas of teaching, feeding, nurturing, empowering, strengthening and delivering. We are highly indebted to all our supporters for enabling the ministry to reach out to these children as gateways for poverty reduction.

As we start the Lent season in the Christian calendar, we pray that you may continue holding the ministry in prayer and consider supporting a child in attaining the above growth requirements.

“Holy souls, Healthy bodies”