

HOFFNUNG FÜR UGANDA E.V.

Bahnhofstrasse 11, 76669 Bad Schönborn

www.hoffnung-fuer-uganda.de



Dear sponsor,

we want to thank you for your faithful support of our mothers and children in Uganda. Your support has had a giant impact on their lives, and we want to give you some updates on what happened in the last year of 2024 as well as a brief outlook on 2025.

The most significant milestone of 2024 was our school graduation in August. We celebrated the achievements of 10 women from our previous sewing class and 11 more women who completed training this year in sewing and organic agriculture. Honored guests from the village attended the ceremony, where the graduates proudly wore dresses, they had sewn themselves. The event concluded with a feast. We celebrated over two years of training and hard work! Since graduating, seven women have secured employment at a local garment factory, and one has earned a tryout job with AfriPads. Two women remain at the center while undergoing chemotherapy, and another, who has autism, continues to receive support at the center.

Sadly, our sewing teacher, Rahuma, was diagnosed with stage 1 ovarian cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. We are grateful the cancer was detected early, as ovarian cancer can be aggressive. We remain hopeful for her full recovery.

We are grateful for the ongoing support for medical needs. We have been able to pay for the treatment of cancer, typhoid fever, malaria, dental problems, ear infections and even one gunshot from a robbery.

In 2024, we also trained 20 women through a six-month Street Business School program. This initiative equips women with the skills to start a small business and better manage their businesses. At the Lilly Avenue store in Semuto, participants have already shown improvement in organization, planning, and saving for crucial expenses like taxes and license fees due each January.

Unfortunately, our agricultural efforts faced setbacks. Excessive rain caused the ginger crop to rot, and the sweet potato harvest was poor. While we have yet to achieve profitability, we continue to cultivate bananas, avocados, and passion fruit as commercial crops. The passion fruit has just begun to yield fruit, and we've sold some bananas, but it will take several years for the avocado trees to mature. Despite these challenges, the program has employed 10 local families during times of seeding and harvest, providing them with much-needed income.

Last year, we sponsored 63 children in school, with one graduate among them. However, we are urgently seeking new sponsors, as 12 of the children currently lack regular funding. The school fees were raised in general and as fees for older kids are higher anyway. Therefore, we had to increase the child sponsorship cost for new children now to 40€ per month. While temporary donations help, long-term sponsorship is essential to sustain this program. Important: *There is no overhead! 100% of you sponsorship donations go directly to the schools of the children.*

In addition to school sponsorships, we supported 30 local families with seeds to grow their own food. These families are learning sustainable farming practices, which empower them to improve their nutrition and reduce food insecurity. By helping families grow crops like corn and beans, we're fostering independence and long-term resilience in the community.

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In December, we again hosted a one-week Vacation Bible School. This time 120 children were registered and 260 showed up. The program included singing, crafts, and lessons on God, friendship, honesty, forgiveness, and loyalty. Many of these children come from impoverished families and they arrived hungry. Most of the budget went toward meals, ensuring the children left both physically and spiritually nourished. We hope to hold this event twice a year in the future. Someday I would like to see 100's of kids attending regular youth group activities at the center. Maybe also including sports and music programs or tutoring in math and English and Bible studies.

Looking ahead to 2025

Looking ahead, we are launching a washable sanitary pad give-away for 400 girls in early 2025. In Uganda, thousands of girls miss school monthly due to a lack of menstrual hygiene resources. Our sewing school produced washable sanitary pads that can last over two years, providing a simple impactful solution to this issue.

In 2024, we partnered with Cool Bricks, which will begin construction of two small staff houses in February 2025. Thanks to prior donations, these homes are fully funded. Providing free housing is our way of supporting staff who receive very modest salaries. Additional donations would allow us to build two more houses (€15,000) or a new workshop building (€25,000).

Thank you,

Amy and Juergen Heymann, Suubi Teen MOPS Uganda

(below is a picture from the graduation party)

