



**Kids Club
Kampala**



Independent Impact Report

2022

Dear friends,

In September 2022, we commissioned an independent external evaluation of our work in Uganda. The aim of this was to examine whether our programmes are making a long-term, sustainable change in people's lives. Thank you to the Brian Mercer Trust for their generous grant of funding to enable this to take place.

We appointed Vashi Impact Group (VIG), an all-women led firm based out of London and Kampala, to be our external evaluator. They specifically focused on examining the impact, coherence, and sustainability of our programmes, to understand which projects are having the most impact and where improvements can be made. The evaluation included focus group discussions and interviews with programme beneficiaries, community leaders and Kids Club Kampala staff and volunteers.

In this report, we have summarised the key findings from the evaluation, along with our future plans to build on some of the results and recommendations. We are incredibly proud of the findings from the evaluation. We hope you enjoy reading this Independent Impact Report and join us in celebrating the impact we have had in children's lives since



we began almost 15 years ago. We have ambitious plans to scale up further to ensure that all children in Kampala's slums have the opportunity to both survive and thrive. I hope that you will continue to join us on this journey.

**Thank you again.
God bless you,**

**Olivia Barker-White
CEO & co-founder**



Independent evaluation summary & conclusions

Our four programme areas of **Feeding, Protecting, Educating and Skilling** work together to provide an overall support environment for vulnerable children and their families living in Kampala's slum communities.

We take a holistic approach to ensure basic needs (food, safety) are met, so children and families are able to fully engage and benefit from education and skills development, to bring about long-term, sustainable changes in their lives and support them to move from surviving to thriving.

The independent evaluation examined the impact, coherence and sustainability of each of our four programme areas in turn.



The overall evaluation findings show that:



1. There has been a significant impact in the lives of vulnerable children and families thanks to the work of Kids Club Kampala.

“There have been improvements in the lives of children for sure.”

- Community leader

2. The programmes work together to provide a comprehensive, well connected, model of care for vulnerable children and families.

“If a family is introduced to one programme by Kids Club Kampala, they also get to learn or become a part of other programmes if they wanted to.”

- Community member

3. The programmes have been incredibly well received by children, families and communities.

“I think it is because they have a clear mission. They are working in line with their mission, which is to bring children into a safer place. A place to play, to learn and to help them develop physically, emotionally, spiritually.”

- Community volunteer

4. Kids Club Kampala's unique community based approach is key to the success of its projects.

“Kids Club Kampala is the only project deeply rooted inside the community.”

- Parent/Caregiver



Feeding

We combat hunger and food poverty for children and families in the slums through our Feeding Programmes. We provide free, nutritious daily meals for children at our Encouraging Education centres and run community food banks providing food parcels to vulnerable families.

The independent evaluation found that:

1. Kids Club Kampala has contributed towards decreasing food insecurity in the project communities.
2. Kids Club Kampala holds an important position in the community as the sole organisation making efforts to reduce food insecurity in many project communities.
3. One of the core benefits of the Feeding Programme lies in its links to other Kids Club Kampala programmes – for example, the Feeding Project has been an important incentive for children to access education.
4. The most significant change that has occurred because of this programme is the direct support that has been offered to vulnerable children and families.
5. Without the support of Kids Club Kampala, children might end up in the same vulnerable state they were in prior to the project.



Kids Club Kampala has really helped. Food every month completely changed us. Kids Club Kampala has helped us for a long time. I have less to worry about now, my children are fed and can attend education classes.”

– Parent/Caregiver



“Children no longer seem malnourished... their health is improved.”

– Community Member

“Without this program, these children will perish. It [the Feeding Programme] is now a very big achievement in changing the lives of those vulnerable children to have a better life.” - Community Leader

What's next?

The biggest challenge for the Feeding Programme highlighted by the evaluation is the increased dependency of children and families on Kids Club Kampala as a result of our support. In the future, we will work to reduce dependency on our Feeding Programme by scaling up our other programme areas.

We will shift our focus to addressing the root causes of food insecurity present in the communities. Continuing to work closely with local leaders and community members will enable us to be there for families' immediate needs and also strengthen their futures.



Protecting

Our Protecting Programmes combine a range of targeted activities for children and teenagers, a community-based abuse prevention approach and an emergency response to safeguard children in imminent danger. We provide emergency care and family reintegration through our Ewafe project, safe spaces at our Saturday Kids Clubs and Teens projects, and work with trained volunteers and counsellors to identify at-risk and vulnerable children.

The independent evaluation found that:

1. The Protecting Programme is making a positive impact in the lives of vulnerable children and is a critical project for Kids Club Kampala to achieve their mission and vision.
2. Protection of extremely vulnerable children has strengthened relationships with community leaders and the accountability of local authorities has been increased because of Kids Club Kampala's involvement.
3. There is a higher number of families being reunited as a result of Kids Club Kampala's efforts.
4. Kids Club Kampala's efforts have been effective and unique in building better child protection support in the communities that they work in.
5. Children who are a part of the Protecting Programmes now have a greater prospect of a brighter future.



“I think also through safeguarding human beings we have really improved the lives of vulnerable children, especially the girls, through counselling. We have seen a reduction in cases of early pregnancies and taking drugs. It has also helped whole families to improve the way they associate and be.” – **Community Volunteer**

“I can't even explain the kinds of things I used to get from the counsellors, they helped me so much. They are giving love to the children every Saturday [at Saturday Kids Club] and at the same time, I'm having counselling sessions with them. I really had a lot of improvements and still, I'm learning a lot from them.” – **Teenage Girl**

“Kids Club Kampala has provided shelter and counselling to children and has taught children basic life skills. Kids have been reunited with their families - tracings have taken place successfully.”

– **Community Leader**



What's next?

The evaluation concluded that of our four programme areas, our Protecting Programmes are the most impactful. This is especially given that we are one of the only organisations in Uganda taking this approach to support and advocate for at-risk children. Therefore, we plan to scale up our Protecting Programmes to help even more vulnerable children.

By expanding these programmes, we will create safer communities by transforming Kampala's slums into safe spaces that prevent harm and protect at-risk children. We will continue to work closely with community leaders and local authorities to rescue children at risk of abuse, and explore partnerships and collaborations with other NGOs to support more children in Uganda.

Educating

We believe all children have the right to a good education. Through education, children and families have the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Our Encouraging Education project and School Sponsorship Programme provide free education access to hundreds of out of school children living in Kampala's slums.

The independent evaluation found that:

1. The Educating Programme is working well in achieving long-lasting impact in children's lives.
2. The Educating Programme has been highly important in providing holistic support to vulnerable families. The programme works together with our other programme areas to build long-lasting change.
3. Children in the Educating Programme report feeling like part of the "Kids Club Kampala family", and report leaving the projects with greater self-esteem and confidence.
4. Students have performed very highly. This is due to the School Sponsorship Programme going above and beyond just providing basic school requirements. The project assists students with whatever they need to excel.
5. The Educating Programmes have led to increased school attendance in the communities. They have also led to increased community and parental engagement in children's learning.



“My wish is that when I finish school, I get a job and then I also can give an opportunity to someone else.” - **Current Sponsored Student**

“I also think with these Encouraging Education children being with us, there is a great success in the relationship between parents and the community.”
- **Encouraging Education Teacher**

“There are so many improvements in the children's lives. They can now read and write and speak English. Even their behaviour has improved, and they have somewhere safe to go to.” - **Community Leader**

“I think the greatest success is when we have delivered hope in the children's life.”
- **Encouraging Education Teacher**



What's next?

We recognise that our Educating Programmes have the biggest potential to build transformational and long-lasting change in our communities. We want to ensure more children are able to access education, so we plan to scale up this programme in the future by expanding our current work and exploring potential partnerships with other local education organisations.

We will continue to raise awareness about the transformative gift of sponsoring a child through their education. By investing in education, more children will have the opportunity to have a brighter future and break the cycle of poverty.



Skilling

Our Skilling Programmes offer free vocational and business skills training to parents, caregivers and young adults to help them generate a sustainable, independent income. Through tailoring, knitting, craft making, carpentry, livestock investments and business skills, graduates gain new skills and are able to generate a secure income, lifting themselves and their families out of poverty – moving from just surviving to thriving.

The independent evaluation found that:

1. The Skilling Programme is key to financial freedom and creating greater independence for parents.
2. There has been a decrease in overall vulnerability as a result of the Skilling Programme. This is key to helping families better prepare for the future.
3. Parents who have been part of the Skilling Programme have expressed how the vocational training courses have helped them support their children.
4. The Skilling Programme has provided opportunities for parents to build their skill sets and find jobs. These projects have supported more people to be financially stable.
5. Increased financial independence for graduates means they are less likely to need continued support from Kids Club Kampala in the future.



I came to these classes in hopes of learning a skill that can get me a job. I thought it would be an easier skill to pick up since I didn't finish school. I have been able to attend these classes, do some repairs and earn some money and have also gained confidence.”

– Current Carpentry Student



“I heard about this project as I am a parent and my child comes to the Encouraging Education project. Having joined the skills project I have been able to make money from it.” – Tailoring Project Graduate

“There have been positive changes seen in the lives of adult women and men through this skilling project who are now able to earn more for their family...” – Community Leader

What's next?

We believe it is important for our Skilling Programmes to be community led, with members having more ownership over the project and how they are taught. With this in mind, we hope to take our lead from communities in expanding our skill areas and incorporate other courses like baking, welding and hairdressing, and call on experts from within the communities to teach the courses.

We hope that with more investment, we can better support our graduates with what

they need to start their own enterprises, like receiving sewing machines or more carpentry equipment when they leave the course.



Our future plans

Our long-term aim is for our projects not to be needed, because poverty has reduced throughout Kampala's slums. We want to move further beyond providing for basic needs and help families to truly thrive, empowering them to get out of poverty for the long term.

The independent evaluation concluded our four programmes work coherently together to create long-term, sustainable, impactful change in individuals' lives.

We know that the route out of poverty lies in education and income generation – with an expansion of projects and increased investment, we'll be able to support more families to move from surviving to thriving.

Over the next few years, we will work to reduce dependency on our Feeding Programme, increase sustainability on our Skilling Programme and scale up our Protecting and Educating Programmes to reach more vulnerable children across Uganda and potentially even further afield.

Why we need you...

One of the biggest challenges highlighted by the evaluation is that our projects cannot continue and grow without donor funding. We have ambitious plans to scale up further to ensure that all children in Kampala's slums have the opportunity to both survive and thrive. **But we can't do this without you.**

We have been on an incredible journey over the last 13 years, from one small project to now supporting over 300,000 vulnerable children and families across 10 communities.

Now, we're looking towards the future. Routes out of poverty take time and commitment, and trust us, we're not going anywhere. We want to help as many children and families in Kampala's slums as possible, and we're not afraid to be ambitious in what we can achieve.

You can be a part of Kids Club Kampala's future.



Donate to be a part of
Kids Club Kampala's future.

www.kidsclubkampala.org/donate



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