



SORAK Development Agency

Registered NGO: No: 8726

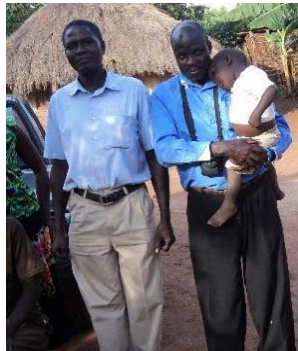
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“HOME OF HOPE PROJECT” IN MUBENDE DISTRICT, UGANDA -A Home for Abandoned Children-

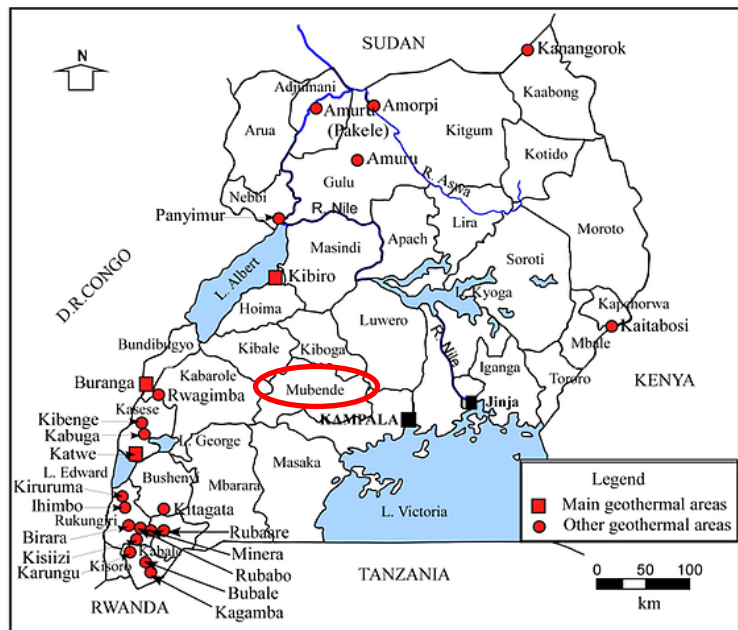


An increase in child abandonment and a lack of assistances in the Mubende District of Uganda has increasingly become a serious problem. ‘Home of Hope Project’ proposal intends to create a program that supports Uganda’s most vulnerable children.

Uganda is located in East Africa, bordered by Kenya, Sudan, DRC, Rwanda, and Tanzania. Our project site Mubende is a district in the Central Region of Uganda. The town of Mubende is in the Central Region of Uganda,160 km west of Kampala the capital. Please see the red circle in map below right.



Maps of Uganda and
Mubende District





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Child abandonment is mainly a result of children losing their parents due to illnesses such as (HIV/ AIDS and/or malaria) or the result of poverty associated with single parenthood related to the commercial sex trade. Mubende district, being a transit point going up to DR. Congo, has many sex workers along the roads, such as highways; these sex workers, who are making a living from prostitution, often do not have the necessary resources to raise their children. In addition, many women do not know the fathers of their babies, and often end up leaving their babies on streets or religious centers, such as churches and mosques. Also there are babies born from mothers who suffered from psychological illness, and who become pregnant through rape. In some cases, the relatives of the women take care of the babies, but such cases are rare.

Mubende district probation officers have reported that 12 children were abandoned (5 girls, 7 boys) in 2016, 16 children (6 girls, 10 boys) in 2017, and 19 children (12 girls, 7 boys) in 2018 as of June in the district. These numbers are only the cases that the government received. Therefore, the actual numbers of children being abandoned is presumed to be much higher and assistance for them has been desperately lacking. Thus, SORAK¹, a Ugandan local NGO, established in 2003, decided to tackle this problem and save the lives of children left on the streets.

In order to ascertain the extent and seriousness of the problems of abandoned children, SORAK conducted a survey in Kibalinga Sub-county and Mubende Municipality with a senior community development officer of the district. The results of survey are followings:

Three case studies:

1. The case of Kisakye Mercy

A one-month-old baby boy was found near a hotel in a slum area in the Kibaati-Mubende Municipality. The baby was named Kisakye Mercy by a caretaker who found him. The caretaker is a single mother with a 13-year-old son. They temporarily lived together in a single rented room in a slum, as the caretaker received temporary custody by the district government. The baby is approximately four months old now.

“Please help me and take care of this baby, I fear that people can come and steal him from me and may never see him again”

As mentioned above, the caretaker expressed an urgent need for support and protection of the baby for SORAK as she is worried about that the baby will be kidnapped for the purpose of trafficking or child labor.

¹ SORAK is working under the vision, to have an improved quality of life among vulnerable persons in Uganda and to actively contribute to sustainable community and national development.



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Photos of a SORAK Staffs, community-based volunteer, the caretaker, and the abandoned baby

2. The case of Shamim

Shamim is a 3 and a half-year-old girl. She was delivered by a woman suffering from psychological disorders.

The caretaker explained that

“One rainy morning, I found a mad woman with a baby in the cold. And this suffering baby needed protection from the mother. And now, this mad woman has produced another baby, and I also feel my responsibility to protect the baby again from her for safety.”

Due to the poor prospects the baby faced, the caretaker, was granted permission to take care of the baby from her husband and the village leader. The caretaker received an authorization document from the district government to foster the child and she has lived with the baby for three years. Now the caretaker is looking for educational assistance for Shamim and requested the help from SORAK. Moreover, the mother of Shamim delivered another baby, and the caretaker of Shamim would like to take care of the new born baby due to the risk of child neglect and or abuse.



Left: The 3.5-year-old girl Shamim who was born from a woman with psychological disorders

Right: The foster mother at the meeting with community development officer-Mubende district Local government.
The women on the left side is the caretaker



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3. The case of Miracle Ahimbisibwe

Another boy, aged 3, was abandoned seven months ago in the woods. He currently lives with the village leader, Mr. Tukahirwa Christopher and 10 family members in a house with two bedrooms. The caretaker has received limited social support from the local government in the form of a bed mattress, soap, and bed sheets. The assistance is provided only once, at a time of the caretaker accepting responsibility of the infant. These materials are provided for the baby, however often are used by other family members.

Mr. Tukahirwa Christopher expressed urgent need for support. First, by providing social support in the form of basic necessities. Second, taking care of the child with the support of a baby home. At the baby home, social care would be provided as a search for relatives and or possible foster parents. The government and SORAK understand that the family members taking care of the baby are left with the economic burden. At Christopher's home, material support provided to Miracle does not benefit him. This is because whatever the district provides, it is shared with other needy children in the hosting home.



Above are the photos taken by household members
There are caretakers, SORAK and a community volunteer, the Community development officer.



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The district has only one orphanage for abandoned children, however it is already at capacity and incapable of providing shelter to the increasing number of abandoned infants. Based on the research and above information, this project proposes to establish the *Home of Hope*, a safety home for abandoned children. This home project will address both the root causes of child/baby abandonment as well as its resultant effects.

Empowering vulnerable women and income generation

In general, women are more economically and socially vulnerable in many cases than men. Especially adolescent mothers, single mothers and mothers working as sex workers are vulnerable because they do not have support from others (partners, family members, and communities) and do not obtain safety net to support their lives financially and socially. Therefore, many of them do not have capacity to raise their children and their children are often abandoned.

The home will also incorporate an important activity of economically empowering women through skilling in food processing (breads and cakes) and craft making (accessories, soaps and candles) and create products for Home's income generation. The home will serve as a training and entrepreneurial incubation center that will continuously train women in fast to learnt entrepreneurial skills.

We believe that empowering such women who are suffering from poverty would solve fundamental problems of child abandonment. In order to support such mothers and assist them to be independent to make their living, we are going to provide vocational training mentioned above. Through sales of products created at the Home, we aim to generate income for such mothers as well as sustaining the operation of the Home.

“Home of Hope” Project Description

- **The goal:** to establish a “*Home of Hope*” a safe environment and shelter for abandoned, vulnerable children by securing children's wellbeing. In an environment with care and support from staff, infants and children will develop trust and healthy bonds with peers and adults.
- **Locality targeted:** Mubende District, Uganda.
- **The Targeted population:** The Home will focus on receiving children who lost their parents during infancy due to illness, or who were abandoned by their parents, or who were born to vulnerable mothers such as PWDs (persons with psychosocial disability etc.)
- **Operation**
 - For this project, SORAK will work with the **Global Bridge Network (GBN)**², and accept a maximum of up to 40 children at the home. At the initial stage, a small number of

² GBN is a non-profit organization registered in Japan in 2016 that aims to bridge people in the world by promoting cross-cultural communication, international support and global social business.



children will be admitted. The Home will be managed by 8 care mothers (One of them will be a manager of the Home when 40 children were admitted. One care mother will take care of five children. According to the advice from Mubende District probation officer, one mother can adequately take care of five babies. These mothers are required to obtain qualifications/certification/experience in social work, administration, and early child development. The children will be brought to the home by the Mubende district government after officially being identified and registered as abandoned.

- The Home will establish several guest rooms for receiving visitors (international/ national volunteers/ students, visitors who come to learn about and/or participate in the activities of SORAK.) The Home will accommodate them and receive an accommodation fee to run the Home.
- The home will also establish a vocational training groups for women. Women will learn how to process foods and add values such as snacks, doughnuts, cakes, breads, among others and create crafts such as accessories, soaps, and candles. These products will be marketed to earn income to the home’s operation as well as supplementary provided to improve children’s diet at the Home.

➤ **Roles of the “Home of Hope”:** The home will provide infant care and serve as a transition shelter where children will stay during a short period of time until SORAK can determine their immediate relatives, family members, legal guardian or adoption and secure the safe living environment for children. When relatives and foster families are not found, children will stay with SORAK for a period no longer than 6 years. SORAK will send the children, who fail to get foster/adoption parents by age of 5, to *Precious Child Learning Center* run by SORAK for primary education. After seventh grade the children will be sent to a vocational training school. SORAK believes that basic education and vocational skills will help the children develop life skills critical for their economic livelihood and survival. SORAK will strive to find foster parents as well as adoption parents through a network with other organizations. Grown children will be connected with other organizations providing social care. SORAK will also work with the government to undertake reintegration, fostering or adoption processes.

➤ **Process planned:**

Process 1:

- 1.1 Receiving approval for architectural design from the district physical planning unit.³This is an office mandated to approve building plans at the district local government.
- 1.2 Arrange building materials and local contractor and fit-outs: including electricity and water.
- 1.3 Construction of the facility as per approved architectural plan including bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, shower and laundry rooms, guest room etc.
- 1.4 Purchase of furniture, daily goods and necessities to run the home
- 1.5 Hold official opening ceremony of the Home.

³ The office responsible for approving building plans at the local district government



Process 2:

- 2.1 Procure Procuring and install play/ educational materials for children.
- 2.2 Conduct children/baby medical checkups and regular supply of basic necessities.
- 2.3 Hiring care mothers and other staff who will work at the home.

Process 3:

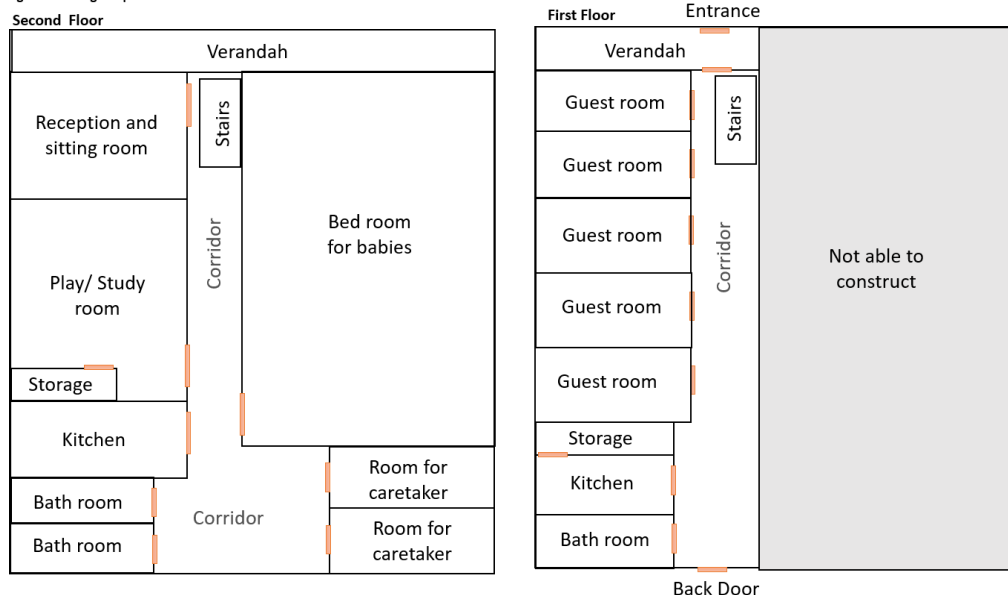
- 3.1 Work together with the local government to locate immediate relatives and potential foster parents for children
- 3.2 Conduct Early Childhood Development (ECD) training for caretakers of children aged two and above
- 3.3 Conduct income-generating activities to sustain the operation of the Home.

➤ **Expected Outcome:**

- Build a two-story building that can accommodate a maximum of up to 40 children aged between 0-5 years old and several rooms for care mothers and guest rooms.
- Manage guest rooms for volunteer workers, local and foreign visitors.
- Hire care mothers and other staff and provide children with furniture, clothes, daily goods, food, toys, and others necessary materials to run the home
- Provide social and psychological care to children: art therapy, group therapy etc.
- Find immediate relatives and foster parents for infants and children.
- Provide access to early child development and learning skills to children.
- To create a financial system to run the Home sustainably

➤ **The design of building “Hope of Home”**

The design of building “Hope of Home”





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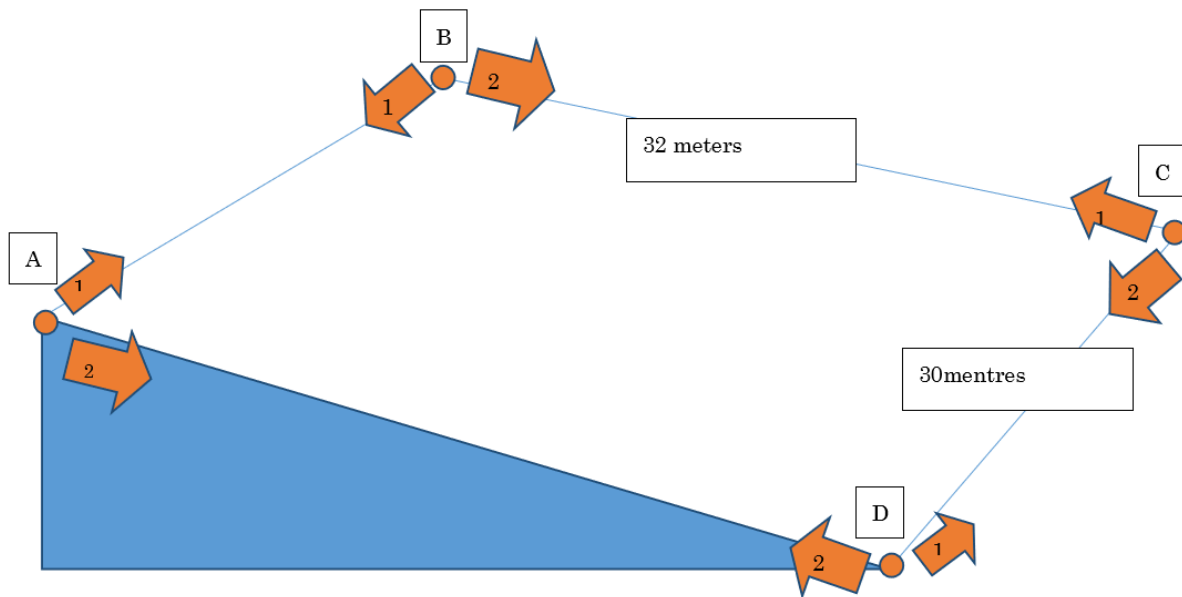
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This building will be built on a slope. Due to this condition, there are no rooms in the half of the first floor.



D2



D1



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A2



A1



B1



B2



C1



C2



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➤ **Security of the Home**

In order to ensure security, a fence with a parameter wall is necessary. The Home’s gate and surroundings will further be safe with security guards, employed by the project. Further security precautions will be taken by retaining constant contact with the police office in the area located within a short distance from the Home.

➤ **Sustainability of the project**

- **Financial sustainability:**

SORAK will secure financial sustainability based on 1) Support of goods from the district government (bed mattresses, soap, food etc.,) 2) donations/ grants from international/ local NGOs, individual persons, 3) profits from income generating activities, 4) income from paying guest rooms at the Home. 5) Food for children will be mainly sourced from SORAK’s agricultural fields. 6) Establish a women’s group participating in vocational trainings such as food processing (donuts, cakes and breads) and craft making (accessories, soaps and candles) and these sales.



Training bakery in progress: Mothers at the home will be introduced this activity for income generation.



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- Operational sustainability:
SORAK will be responsible for all operations, day to day management of the house and the control of care mothers. Direct supervision of the house operation and assurance that staff meet their required role will be under SORAK supervision. The early childhood education centre will also be under the direct management of SORAK.

Background of the Implementation Partners

- SORAK Development Agency (SORAK):**
SORAK is a Ugandan local NGO, established in 2003, working with the vision, to have an improved quality of life among vulnerable persons in Uganda and to actively contribute to sustainable community and national development. SORAK aims to fulfill its mission, through the protection of human rights and empowerment of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in Uganda by providing sustainable interventions in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education, environmental protection, capacity building, networking, advocacy, and partnership development.
- Global Bridge Network (GBN):**
The Global Bridge Network (GBN) is a non-profit organization registered in Japan in 2016 that aims to bridge people and communities around the world by promoting cross-cultural communication, international support, and global social business. GBN builds a win-win relationship between people by promoting understanding, amongst different nations and their cultures, as well as providing support to each other. GBN has been partnering with SORAK to implement the following projects, 1. Improvement of school environment to combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) challenges to stop adolescent girls’ school dropouts in Uganda and 2 Environmental protection through expanding lemon grass growing and education in Uganda. In addition to these projects, GBN and SORAK are going to launch this Home of Hope project.

The budget for the project

Construction fees		(USD)
1.1	Building plans and approval from district physical planning unit for the design	1,300
1.2	Building materials, construction labor fee, and furniture	26,000
1.3	Holding official opening ceremony of the home.	860
1.4	Installing play/ study materials	4,700
	TOTAL	32.860

Operation costs of a half year

2.1	Monthly regular checkup for children	257
2.2	Costs of Medical fees (consultation, medicine, and other goods)	686



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2.3	Costs regular supply of basic necessities (clothes, foods, daily goods etc.) and utility costs	5,994
3.2	Labor fees (salaries of care mothers, guards etc)	4,286
3.3	Cost to establishing confectionery making section	7,000
3.3.1	Purchase of oven	2000
3.3.2	Purchase of cooking utensils	2000
3.3.3	Startup assorted flour	1500
3.3.4	Startup cooking oil	1000
3.3.5	Startup energy saving stove	500
	TOTAL	18,223