Thank you to the families, community volunteers, government officials, partners, staff, volunteers, and supporters for making our work possible.

Goodwill Ambassadors in Uganda
Lucy Bunyenyezi
Phionah Bizu

Ambassadors in the UK
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Sam Rowe-Beddoe
Greg Nasmyth
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Deborah Francis-White
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Special thank you to our photographers Benjamin Nsubaga and Mark Andrew Nsubuga.

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Registered in England and Wales as Child’s – I Foundation. Charity Commission Number 1126212, Company number 6674427. Registered in Uganda an International NGO no. 4780, permit no. 6335.
As the newly appointed Country Director, I feel incredibly honoured and profoundly grateful to share this impact report with you. It not only showcases the significant strides we've made at Child's i Foundation but also reflects the journey we've embarked on together.

At the heart of our mission is a deeply rooted belief in every child's right to thrive in a safe and loving family.

As you turn these pages, you'll find yourself immersed in the uplifting stories of numerous children whose lives have been irrevocably transformed by the relentless efforts of our team, the invaluable support of our partners, and, crucially, the unwavering generosity of people like you.

Our journey, dedicated to securing brighter futures for children at risk of separation, is laden with challenges, but our resolve has never wavered. Our various interventions – whether it's reuniting families, providing foster care, or strengthening communities – have made a significant, tangible difference in the lives we touch. The true impact of our work, however, transcends statistics and data. It's captured in the joyful laughter, the renewed hope, and the bright futures of each child with whom we have come into contact with.

None of this, I must stress, would have been possible without your belief in what we do. Your support, whether it's through donations, advocacy, or simply spreading the word, is the lifeline of our organisation. It ignites our passion and drives us forward in our quest to create a world where every child is thrives in a family.

Our mission at Child's i Foundation is paramount. We're not merely addressing immediate needs; we're tackling systemic issues, advocating for policy changes, and reshaping societal attitudes towards child care and protection. It's about creating sustainable, long-term solutions that empower not just individuals but entire communities.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for standing with us, for sharing our vision, and for being an integral part of the Child's i Foundation family.

Here's to continuing our journey together, creating ripples of change that will resonate for generations to come.

David Adoke
Country Director
Advancing care reform in Wakiso District

As we forge ahead with the care reform journey in Uganda, it’s truly inspiring to see the milestones we’re achieving together. A standout moment in this journey is the recent success in Wakiso District, where we’ve seen some exciting progress.

The district launched its very own Alternative Care Panel, a big leap forward in changing how we care for children. This panel has an important job: to approve foster and adoptive parents who are ready to give children the loving homes they deserve. It’s a huge step away from the old way of doing things, where many children ended up in institutions, and moves towards a more family-centered approach.

The panel’s recent meeting was a milestone event. They approved 18 foster and adoptive families, and each of these families represents a new, loving home for a child in need. One of the people approved is Joanita, a young woman of 26 years who has an incredible story. Joanita grew up in an orphanage, and her experience there inspired her to become a foster carer. She said, "I grew up in an orphanage, I want to give a child the chance that I did not get, the chance to grow up in a family."

Joanita’s story really highlights the impact of what we’re doing. She was worried the panel might think she’s too young to care for a child, but now she’s overjoyed to be approved and is looking forward to being matched with a child. Her enthusiasm is exactly what this initiative is all about.

This panel isn’t just a group of people making decisions; it’s a sign of the real change happening in our care reform efforts. Led by the Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, the panel is made up of professionals who carefully check if potential foster or adoptive parents can provide a stable and loving home. Their main goal is to ensure children grow up in families, not in institutions.

The success in Wakiso District is a big deal. It’s not just about numbers; it’s about changing lives. Each of the 18 families approved means a child will have a chance to grow up in a nurturing environment. This is more than just a step in the right direction; it’s a leap towards a future where family-based care is the norm, not the exception.

Every child matched with a family is a testament to the progress we’re making. It’s about creating a better future, one where every child has the love and stability of a family. This achievement in Wakiso District is a shining example of what we can accomplish when we work together for the welfare of children. It’s a powerful reminder of the positive impact we can have, and it sets the stage for even more progress in our care reform efforts across Uganda.
The Alternative Care Panel is an essential part of the child protection and welfare system, especially in the areas of fostering and adoption. It’s an independent body, headed by the Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, making sure that its work aligns well with the overall goals of caring for children and supporting their development.

This panel is made up of a team of professionals from different backgrounds, like child welfare experts, psychologists, social workers, and sometimes legal experts. This mix of expertise is crucial because it means the panel can look at potential foster or adoptive parents from all angles, ensuring a thorough and balanced assessment.

What the panel does is really important: they evaluate people who want to foster or adopt children. But this isn’t a quick check; it’s a detailed look at many things that add up to a good home environment. They consider the potential parents’ backgrounds, their understanding of what children need to grow up healthy and happy, their emotional and financial readiness, and their reasons for wanting to foster or adopt.

The panel’s focus is on the idea that children thrive best when they’re in a family. There’s a lot of research backing this up, showing that being in a family gives children a sense of belonging, stability, and the personal attention they need for their emotional and psychological growth.

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Forever home, forever love: James’s heartwarming journey with Fred and Norah

Fred and Norah, after more than a year of caring for young James, were radiant with happiness following their approval for adoption by the Wakiso district alternative care panel. When we spoke to them shortly after their approval, their joy was palpable.

“We are ecstatic to be able to care for James permanently. The past eighteen months with him have been transformative for us all; we’ve watched him blossom into a cheerful and healthy boy,” they shared with evident emotion.

James came into Fred and Norah’s lives when he was just one year old, carrying the weight of early trauma that had significantly impacted his development and health. “When he first joined our family, he was quite shy and often kept to himself,” Norah recalled. “But what a transformation we’ve seen! He’s come out of his shell and is truly thriving now.”

"With the official adoption approval, our dream is to be there for James as he grows. We’re committed to giving him all the love, care, and attention he needs for his continued development and growth,” Norah added.

It’s heartwarming to see James find his permanent home with his adoptive parents, Fred and Norah.

Their story is a testament to the power of love and care in transforming lives. We are excited to see James continue to flourish in the nurturing environment provided by his loving family.

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Your impact in numbers: May - November 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>Young people reached and supported by trained wellbeing champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354</td>
<td>Families supported with food, medical, education, and other assistance to ensure they stay together</td>
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<tr>
<td>838</td>
<td>Community volunteers trained and active in their communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Foster carers trained to provide a safe and loving home to children in need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7267</td>
<td>Children reached and supported through Community Development Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Children moved from orphanages and placed in safe and loving families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Foster carers approved by the local government to provide a safe and loving home to children in need</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Institution supported to transition into a community hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Children placed in adoptive and foster families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Community Development Networks monitored</td>
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Empowering Grandmothers to strengthen families and communities for at risk children

This year, we have taken significant steps to expand our impact through collaborative learning and strategic partnerships. One of our key initiatives involves teaming up with Nyaka, a dedicated community organisation in Uganda. Together, we’re working to extend the reach of Nyaka’s highly effective Grandmothers Project in Mpigi District, a project supports children at risk of being separated from their families.

It’s more than just a program; it’s a community-based support network that offers a lifeline to these children. We’re enhancing this network by providing peer support and advocacy training to the grandmothers. This empowers them to establish and manage village savings and loan associations, creating a platform for them to save money and access small loans. These resources are critical in helping them support their families more effectively.

These remarkable grandmothers often find themselves as the primary caregivers to their grandchildren. Despite their unwavering commitment, they face significant challenges due to limited resources.

This reality can sometimes lead to children being placed in orphanages, not out of a lack of love, but out of necessity. By focusing on the root causes that can lead to family separation – such as the lack of basic services like education, health, sanitation, nutrition, and shelter – this project aims to provide a sustainable solution. We are not just addressing immediate needs; we are also working with the grandmother to build the financial and economic skills they need to create stable, nurturing environments for their families.
A Grandmother's love

Margaret, a resident of Mpigi District, embodies strength and resilience as she embraces the role of caregiver for her five grandchildren. Following the heartbreaking loss of her daughter, she stepped in to fill the void, ensuring that her grandchildren continued to receive the love and care they needed.

Her journey led her to the grandmother’s group in her community, a place she learned about through friends. “Joining this group has been life-altering,” Margaret explains. “It’s more than just a meeting place; it’s a community where we grandmothers can share, catch up, and most importantly, support each other. I’ve formed new friendships here, which have been incredibly uplifting.”

Margaret’s participation in the group has brought practical benefits as well. She proudly shares that, through the group’s savings scheme, she has accessed a loan that’s been instrumental in supporting her family. “I’ve been part of the group for three months now and was able to take out a loan. With it, I bought five chickens, one for each grandchild. My aim is to instil a sense of responsibility in them from a young age. They’re all in primary school, and I believe this is the perfect time to teach them about care and accountability,” she says.

Her youngest grandchild, she tells us, returns from school early to help feed the chickens. This daily routine after school, where each grandchild tends to their chicken, is something Margaret cherishes. Her hope is to eventually sell the mature chickens to help pay for school fees and enhance the family’s income.

It's more than just a meeting place; it's a community where we grandmothers can share, catch up, and most importantly, support each other.
I have learnt that good leaders must first become good servants.

- David Adoke
Q&A with our new Country Director
David Adoke

We are delighted to welcome David Adoke as our new Country Director. Read about his journey at Child’s i Foundation, starting as a senior social work practitioner to his new role, and his ambitious plans for care reform in Uganda.

Tell us a little bit about yourself

I am a social work professional with over 15 years of experience in the field, child protection and safeguarding. I also have seven years of experience in project management and community development and nine years of experience in medical social work and community-led responses to ensure empowerment and resilience of vulnerable communities and families.

You have risen through the ranks at Child’s i, from being a Senior Practitioner, project manager in Tororo then to Makindye to being the Program Manager and now country Director, what has been your journey like?

This journey has been life-changing, humbling, and extraordinary. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such passionate people and I am incredibly proud of the impact we have made together. Through this journey, I have come to understand the different challenges and opportunities that each role presents.

Every member of our team contributes significantly to our collective vision. Moving from being a practitioner to guiding and achieving through the team has been a rich experience that provides valuable insights into how we can improve as a team and what informs our best practices.

Who or what has influenced you the most in your life?

My life has been mostly influenced by the experiences I have had. I have learned to accept both positive and negative experiences and use them as lessons to grow. The sacrifices my parents made for me have also influenced the level of sacrifice I make for my family and the families we work with.

What have you learnt about yourself through this journey?

Through my experience, I have come to realise that working with families and making a positive impact on their lives brings me a great sense of fulfilment. I have learned to appreciate every positive impact that I make and to take each day as it comes. Additionally, I have learned that creating sustainable change requires a collective effort from everyone involved.

What is the best advice you have ever received or read anywhere?

Through every dark night, there is a bright day after that... So always remember that there is a brighter day after a dark night. You should be optimistic enough to think positively.

What do you do during your downtime?

I love listening to music, reading a good story and spending time with family.

What’s the most profound thing you have learnt recently?

I have learnt that good leaders must first become good servants.

Child’s i is about families, what are your best memories of growing up in a family?

I have fond memories of my childhood, especially the family gatherings we had during festive holidays. Our uncles, aunties, and their families were all a part of these celebrations. I also remember how every Sunday, my siblings and their families would come over after church to spend the afternoon with our parents. This tradition continues to this day and holds a special place in my heart.

What is your message to the Child’s i’s team, supporters, donors and partners?

I would like to thank all our supporters and donors who have made this work possible. Your contributions have a significant impact on the lives of the families and children we work with.

Our work is a positive force for future generations and helps heal the trauma experienced by some children and young people. We urge you to continue supporting families and children that need it most.

We are grateful to our government and civil society partners who collaborate with us, guide us, and ensure that we are making a meaningful impact. The Child’s i team is the most amazing, selfless, resilient, and dedicated team I have ever worked with.

Thank you and keep up the excellent work. One day, every child will thrive in a safe and loving family.
Community members coming together to protect children

The adage "It takes a village to raise a child" perfectly encapsulates the essence of a community development network. These networks are the heart of our work, bringing community members together with a common purpose: to safeguard and nurture children.

We’ve invested in training these networks, providing them with the essential skills, knowledge, and resources they require to support families effectively. This empowerment enables them to prevent family separation and to educate families about the significance of children growing up in family environments, rather than in orphanages.

One of our dedicated community volunteers in the Mpigi district network is Tendo. Reflecting on his decade-long experience, Tendo observes a positive shift in the community’s approach to child care. “Families are now more committed to their children’s education and overall well-being,” Tendo notes. “The training and education we’ve provided to parents have encouraged them to care for their children at home. This shift is significant compared to the previous reliance on orphanages. Tendo adds, "I take immense pride in the progress we’ve made in caring for children in our community. It’s heartening to see how our efforts have fostered a nurturing environment for our children, right here where they belong - in the heart of the community."

This transformation in Mpigi district is a testament to the power of community engagement and the profound impact of collective action in ensuring the well-being of children.
Creating agency for care-experienced young people in Uganda

Mental health challenges in our communities are often compounded by stigma and fear, leading to silence on these critical issues.

Through our partnership with the Uganda Careleavers’ Association, The Ubele Initiative, and with support from the British Red Cross, we’re working to foster open discussions about mental health and wellness.

We’re empowering peer well-being champions with leadership and community mobilisation skills, enabling them to lead a youth-driven, community-focused mental wellness initiative.

This approach aims to break down the barriers surrounding mental health conversations.

Grace Atim, a Clinical Psychologist, underscores the importance of this program. "Many youths with care experience have faced trauma. We’re helping them understand and process their experiences, equipping them with vital mental health knowledge," she notes.

These youths are passionately driving change by organising meetings to enhance understanding, reduce stigma, and offer peer support. Their efforts are transforming the way mental health is discussed in our communities, making it more accessible and relatable.

This initiative marks a significant step towards a society that embraces mental wellness openly and supportively.
Join us in our commitment to ensuring that every child in Uganda grows up in a safe and loving environment. The success of our mission hinges on the support of generous individuals who believe in making a difference.

Every donation, no matter how small, contributes significantly to the lives of children growing up separated from their families.

Your small act of kindness can spark a wave of change and bring immense joy and stability to a child’s life. There are numerous ways you can be a part of this transformative journey. From organising a running challenge with your friends to making donations while shopping online, each action you take helps us move closer to our goal. You can also engage in philanthropy, contributing directly to the vital work we do.

Remember, it’s not just about the amount you give; it’s about the heart and intention behind it. Each contribution, big or small, plays a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for children in Uganda. Your support enables us to continue our work, reaching more children, and providing them with the love, care, and security they deserve.

So, take that step today. Whether you choose to donate, fundraise, or simply spread the word about our cause, know that your involvement is invaluable.

Together, with your support, we can create a world where every child experiences the warmth of a loving home. Let’s unite to make a lasting impact on the lives of children in Uganda.

### Donate in Uganda

A gift of 10,000 shillings a month can go a long way in supporting a family to stay together when they need it most. Over time, it can place a child from an orphanage into a loving family, where they belong. It can transform a community so that children get the opportunity to enjoy the childhood they deserve. One donation can make a world of difference.

Giving in Uganda is easy. Simply, sign up with your bank, or give monthly via mobile money.

- **Standard Chartered Bank**
  - Child’s i Foundation
  - Account Number:
    - USD: 8702840986400
    - UGX: 0102840986400
    - GBP: 2802840986400

- **MTN Momo Pay**
  - Merchant Code: 626650

- **Airtel**
  - Merchant Code: 1253756

### Donate globally

Join the Giving Circle by signing up to give a monthly gift and become part of a community committed to the belief that children thrive best in families, not orphanages. Your contributions make a lasting difference, fostering immediate and sustainable change for children’s futures.

Not ready to give monthly? Make a one-off donation instead.

- **£10** could pay for a visit from a social worker to support a family at risk of separation
- **£50** could identify and train a foster carer who could go on to provide a safe family home for a child
- **£100** could support a young person transitioning out of care to start their independent life and start a business

### Find out more

Find out more about how you can get involved and make a difference.
Donate your birthday
By donating your birthday, you will help more children spend this special day surrounded by their loved ones. Set one up on Facebook, it takes seconds!

Host a bake sale
Show off your baking skills by organising a school or office bake sale. Get your friends and colleagues involved to see who can raise the most and pick the best bake.

Become a fundraising superhero
Put the fun into fundraising by becoming a superhero for children! Fly, climb, run – take on a challenge you have always wanted to accomplish and change lives by fundraising for us.

Fundraising to help children grow up in loving families has never been more fun. Tell us about your fundraising idea and we will get you set up for your mission to make a difference in the lives of children in Uganda.

Sign up now