

## WADU 2024

A YEAR OF MINISTRY BLESSINGS!!



### GREETINGS

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, We hope this update report finds you well and flourishing in the Lord.

For two years now, Word and Deed Uganda has sought to meet the spiritual, physical as well as emotional needs of vulnerable Batwa children in South Western Uganda. We take a dual approach in caring for these children whilst addressing the root causes of poverty. We are seeing exciting and lasting fruit as the gospel of Jesus Christ leads the way.

We are glad to share with you our annual report for 2024. We praise God for His grace and provision.. We are blessed to see our Batwa children growing in the love of God

The year started with provision of sponsors to enable 14 Batwa children to join boarding schools and gain a better education. We thank God for this and we hope to see more Batwa children reached, touched and transformed through the sponsorship scheme. Thank you @ [www.christiandevelopmentuganda.org.uk](http://www.christiandevelopmentuganda.org.uk) Thank you too for ensuring that 200+ more Batwa children remain at school thereby accessing education and reaching their full potential. Although many children can attend school, due to hunger they find it difficult to concentrate and do not benefit from their classes. Christian Development Uganda is enabling WADU to close this gap for the Batwa children in Southwestern Uganda.



## Beginning of year WADU retreat.

The year began with an opportunity for WADU staff to pause, reflect and learn to improve their ability to manage and handle the ministry in a more focused direction.

There was an exchange learning visit to Kanungu to the Batwa Development Program founded and funded by the Kellerman Foundation. WADU staff were able to meet with BDP staff, to observe and discuss and learn from the different experiences of those involved in Batwa education and how community involvement has been important.

The visit was designed for the visiting team to gain knowledge about the BDP's work mainly in the rural context and how to address challenges affecting access to quality teaching and learning of the Batwa children.

## Visit to the field by Amos, a Ugandan living in the UK.

On a visit to Uganda to his family Amos Byamukama took time to visit WADU and the supported Batwa children in January. He was greeted with smiling faces of children, eagerly looking to see who had come in the new WADU vehicle. As we proceeded with him to the remote areas of Kabale District, he finally got to meet, play and interact with the kids while the rest of WADU staff did the routine centre day activities. The happiness of the children touched him deeply and he was able to see how at home they felt as they received such brotherly care .

As we left the villages and held an evaluation meeting he was reflecting much on all he had experienced. He was appalled at the absolute poverty that these children live in and he was much overwhelmed by the love and care that WADU is showing to these impoverished children.

Stephen, WADU evangelist explained to Amos:-

“Generally the Batwa in this area have a very hard life, they find irregular jobs to do for other people around to get a little money. When this work is not found, they go hungry.

They live in congestion in their small houses. For example, you find a family of 7 people staying in a single room, children and parents together. Inside their houses, you find neither bench nor bed nor a mattress in the bedroom. Those who do own a locally made bed will scatter grass on it to lay down in place of mattress which they cannot afford to buy for themselves. They marry at a young age as teens after they leave school. Their children attend primary schools but they never go far in their education because of extreme poverty that prevents them paying school fees. They leave very early to engage in small jobs in the neighborhood and in markets to earn a living. Batwa children need regular finances to keep them in school.”



*Amos walking in the hills of Kigezi reaching out the Batwa children in their homes.*



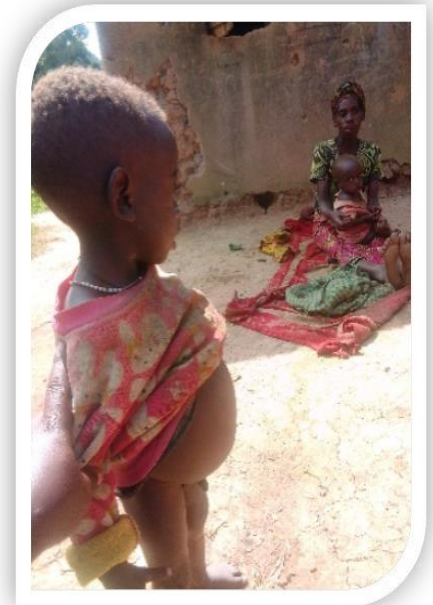
## NUTRITION ASSESSMENT AMONGST BATWA

A main activity for WADU is to fight poverty related diseases amongst all the Batwa children, often fatal. In July 2024, WADU carried out an assessment to check out malnutrition levels amongst children in all the nine Batwa Schools.

Phionah, WADU Nutrition specialist does a routine assessment and we thank God that no malnutrition cases were registered at the beginning of this year. Great thanks to Christian Development Uganda for funding a weekly cup of nutritious porridge to keep bloated bellies deflated and reducing stunted growth among the Batwa children.



*Phionah our Nutritionist holds a one year and 2 months' old baby who is malnourished and now under the Care of WADU feeding programme*



*Phionah WADU Nutrition specialist doing a routine assessment*

## MIGHTY MEALS FOR THE VULNERABLE 200+BATWA CHILDREN



*Kavumaga primary school children gather for their daily meal*

The ultimate goal of WADU is to keep Batwa children in school, healthy and spiritually transformed.

Our school feeding programme is the only meal the nearly 200 Batwa children receive on a consistent basis during school days. Hunger pangs which distract attention from school work are now quelled by a good lunch time meal provided so that the children can concentrate and sickness is kept at a bay.

## DISTRIBUTION OF VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS

WADU distributed vegetable seedlings. Each school received 100 seedlings. One of the major aims is to ensure that the Batwa children learn the need for balanced diet as well as how to practise vegetable growing in their own homes. Each school received seedlings which were planted in the demonstration gardens. We believe for the better outcome in future.



*Precious during food distribution for the Batwa Partner schools at the beginning of each month*

## EVANGELISM

Nothing can change a life so completely like an experience with Jesus Christ. WADU operates under the leadership of Jesus Christ and is committed to making sure the good news is shared among the Batwa in both Word and Action. It's hard to come away from hundreds of beautiful singing children on our centre days as they take part in our evangelism and gospel outreach program. We share the word of God. Also cut their hair and they leave with a bar of soap and a tin of jelly. They are nourished spiritually and physically for the rest of the month.



## EASTER AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



WADU treasures these important festivities as they remind the children that its only through the birth of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate at Christmas and His death and resurrection, remembered at Easter, that the World was redeemed from the bondage of sin.

WADU celebrates with the children as they share eats such as a cake and a bottle of soda and share the gifts of a new piece of clothing for the children .

As the end of year approaches, bringing the Christmas holidays, it is always our pride to make these forgotten and needy children smile during this time of celebration, joy and wonder. We celebrate with the children in all the 9 partner schools with a special Christmas meal and gifts to make the children feel the mood of the joy that Christ brings. Seemingly small, insignificant things can mean a lot to these vulnerable. Children. This way, the children feel surrounded by love and forget their worries for a while due to the excitement and wonder of Christmas.



### United in worship.

The month of June was very exciting and encouraging for the people of Kinyarushengye to have their brothers and sisters from Christian Development Uganda visiting them. The church service began with very uplifting and Holy Spirit filled songs. The visitors enjoyed a rhythm of traditional hymns though they were being sung in Runyankore–Rukiga the native language of the communities. It was another opportunity to share the word of God with the Batwa children from Kinyarushengye Batwa center and also encourage them to keep attending church services and for them to learn about the bible in their native language.





## Gift of Water Purifiers

On top of the hill in Rubanda District, Ncundura Primary School has over 350 students. The visitors from UK were able to present the gift of a ceramic water filter, sent from Stanton Harcourt School near Witney, UK, These school children now have safe drinking water.

Word and Deed Uganda is keen on child health and hygiene and continuous provision of such ceramic water filters has not only reduced on the challenge of children spending the entire school day without a sip on water but also reduced child mortality and morbidity caused by unsafe drinking water in the sub-Saharan Africa.



## A NEW PLACE TO CALL HOME

On a perfect, sunny day the WADU vehicle pulled into the drive ways leading to all the 9 partner schools in order to pick the selected Batwa children on the Rising Stars programme for their first day in a boarding school. The children were amazed at the views on their way to the office and to school. You could see their eyes widen with eager and nervous anticipation. Smiles erupted as they saw the future that lay ahead of them - a safe, secure and welcoming space where they could grow and learn and thrive. Most importantly, a chance to complete their primary education and open up a new future. The first evening at school seemed like heaven!- electricity all around the school compound and many classrooms and dormitories, a community-home away from home. WADU representatives were there at the school to witness the students reporting and ensure they settle in well.



*Batwa Rising Stars start a new life at a Boarding School*



## All is set for a new school year



### *Life in a Secondary school*

Each year we are pleased to see young girls and boys graduate and others enrolled on the sponsorship program. We are happy to report that the first batch of Batwa supported children who successfully completed primary Education were able to join secondary Education on the WADU-Christian Development Uganda Child Sponsorship programme.

The two Batwa Children (Gordon and John) were enabled to start a new school life at Rock High School in Kabale Town where they were provided with all the school supplies, uniform and tuition to enable them complete their basic secondary education.

They were warmly welcomed by their colleagues and are happily settling in a boarding school.





The continuing students were also enabled to report back to school and we continue to thank God for enabling us transform the lives of these children and develop them to their fullest potential.

**Good grades-Davis makes it again.**

Davis was born on 22/08/2004 4th born in a family of 7 children to Gideon and Annet. He was selected on the sponsorship programme in 2020 to join S.1 at Nyaruhanga High School. He was later transferred to Rock High School where WADU felt that he could easily be monitored and mentored. In the recently released Uganda Certificate of Education results, Davis was among the best students at Rock High School scoring grade 1.

He is currently in high school at the same school taking Biology, Agriculture and Geography and wishes to be an Agricultural extension worker to help farmers in the rural setting whom he sees struggling with poor yields and unable to sustain their families and unable to take their children to school. We were thrilled with the good news of his passing and pray that he continues to thrive as we have high hopes in him.

Davis' journey to high school is a proud moment for both the parents, sponsor and Word and Deed Uganda.



*"I am happy that my studies are going smoothly without disruptions due to lack of school fees and other supplies. It has been a nice journey walking alongside Word and Deed Uganda. I know there are many needy children out there who would wish to study but cannot make it. I pray that Word and Deed Uganda reaches out to my brothers and sisters as well".* Davis remarks



**Supported secondary students and Rising Stars retreat**

One of core objectives under the sponsorship programme is to ensure that we develop God fearing children and nurture them both mentally and psychologically.

The theme for this retreat was from Philipians2:15" So that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky".



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS FOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

Sometimes, fear stops many from taking the plunge in transforming the lives of the most vulnerable communities. WADU and its partners Christian Development Uganda face many challenges. Accessing the communities over hard terrains, bumpy and dusty roads is difficult but do not stop us from reaching them where they are as we believe that doing such local missions is our calling which is to do God’s will on earth.



COMMUNITY TOILET CONSTRUCTION



The 2024 visit from a team from Christian Development Uganda enabled another great project. The villages of Murambo and Kinyarushengye were the beneficiaries of this year’s visiting programme as they benefited from a two stance toilet each. The project was initiated and implemented by Mike Peachey with support from Colin Townsend and David Felce who together with Word and Deed Uganda and the Batwa communities erected and completed two toilets in the selected villages within a period of two weeks.



The dilapidated Toilet structure that was used by the community at Kinyarushengye

Every member of both communities was very happy when they learned about this because as there were no latrines in the village, open defecation was the norm. *“We are happy that people in the village and visitors will not step on the “Nails”(open defecation) anymore”* says Bosco, a Batwa village leader.

Work progressed faster than anticipated because the community was so eager to get the latrines once they understood the bad effects of open defecation. Almost everyone in both villages helped and did well right from start to finish of the project. Having the latrines has meant great improvement in sanitation.





## NO PLACE TO CALL HOME



Word and Deed Uganda is so grateful for help given to Gilbert's family. Thank you to all supporters who generously contributed to this cause. Gilbert is pictured smiling in the vehicle at the end of a school term but for him end of term is always a time that brings anxiety and worries because he has no real place to call home.

This ramshackle house was his family home. His mother was also expecting another child threatening to make the dwelling overcrowded hence causing more trouble. His parents are very needy and so we needed to find help to provide him and his siblings a more comfortable dwelling.



WADU with help from Christian Development Uganda have improved the parent's home—see below. A picture also shows WADU staff chatting with Gilbert's grandmother who always tries to take good care of him when he is on holiday. WADU in partnership with Christian Development Uganda is also looking to extend and renovate the grandmothers house.





## WELCOME HOME



The month of May through to the first week of June was yet another period of great joy and excitement to both WADU staff and the partner schools as they welcomed visitors. Trustees from Christian Development Uganda together with a teacher from Stanton Harcourt school were the first batch of visitors to Kabale and these were later joined by Abigail the sponsorship coordinator with her husband David and their two children, Simeon and Miriam.

Word and Deed Staff were delighted with their gifts of T shirts carrying the Christian Development Uganda logo. Special thanks to trustee, Mike Peachey and Julie Peachey for branding T-Shirts given to WADU staff together with other special gifts to staff and their families.



## VISITING WADU PARTNER SCHOOLS

Visitors visited a range of schools that partner with Word and Deed Uganda to provide a holistic education to the Batwa children. This gave an opportunity to the visitors to identify and compare attitude variations between schools. The visiting team participated in a number of activities including speaking at school assemblies, classroom teaching using the donated LCD tablets. Also participating in outdoor sports activities with the children.



All the children were enthusiastic, attentive and cooperative in listening to the topics explained by the visiting teams. The children specially enjoyed interactions with visiting teacher, Mrs. Atherstone, from Stanton Harcourt school.



## Provision of more writing tablets



The use of LCD Tablets was introduced by Word and Deed Uganda with support from Christian Development Uganda to facilitate better learning in these rural and remote communities and also provide a solution to the challenges of writing materials. Hopefully they will lead to improvement in academic performance.

The visiting team was able to bring over 20 more LCD Tablets, an addition to the already donated tablets. Word and Deed Uganda wish to see every Mutwa supported child in lower primary with a writing tablet to boost their learning abilities.

## VISIT TO FUTURE GENERATION SCHOOL

Word and Deed sponsored Rising Stars currently attend Future Generation Nursery and Primary school. The Rising Stars were selected from outstanding Batwa children attending the 9 partner schools in Kabale and Rubanda Districts. The visiting team together with Word and Deed Uganda were able to visit the supported Rising Stars and spent the whole day sharing with the children the joys, progress and challenges. The Rising Stars and their colleagues at school were able to entertain the visitors and gifts were distributed to the children from their respective sponsors.



It was also a great opportunity for Simeon one of the youngest sponsors to meet his sponsored child Saturday and the duo had a wonderful time of getting to know each other in person.



*Gifts of Sportswear make a huge difference.*

Financial barriers including provision of clothing affects children’s participation in sport. The gift of sport uniform from Stanton Harcourt School means WADU supported children can feel comfortable and are encouraged to keep engaging in sport.

Sports activities are an essential ingredient to keep these children active.



WADU is so appreciative to Mrs. Catherine Atherstone for her enthusiasm for such programmes and for giving her time and resources to enable these Batwa children to feel loved.

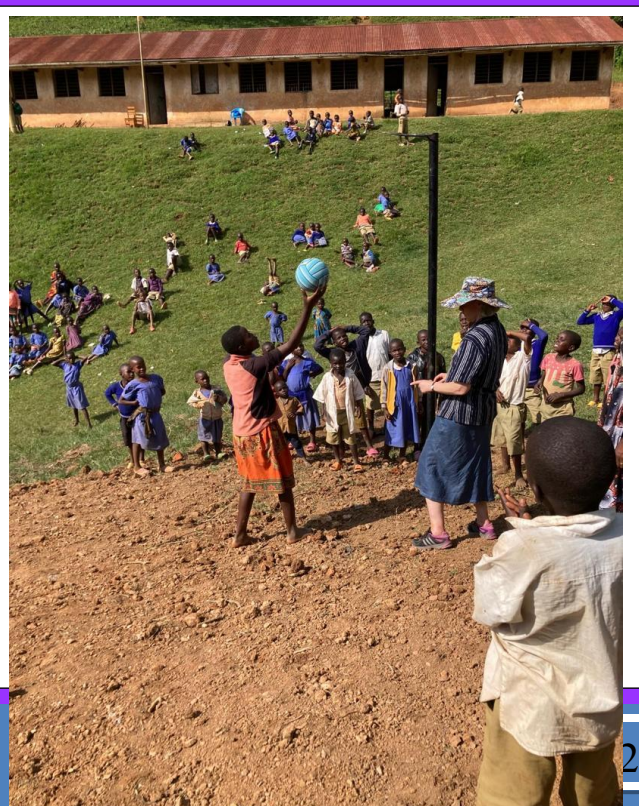


As part of their end of term retreat the children had a chance to visit Macro Hardware one of the largest Hardware shops in Kabale Town. They received a gift of 2 Balls (one for Netball and the other for Foot Ball) and were encouraged by the proprietor’s message of hope that he shared with the visiting children.

*Children visit at Macro Hardware*

## Netball rings

Funded by Christian Development Uganda WADU were able to start an exercise programme to improve the physical, mental, and psychosocial wellbeing of the girls in the partner schools . This was the delivery and installation of netball rings in the 4 primary schools of Kaato Mukitojo, Kagooma and Ncundura Each school received a pair of netball rings enabling girls to participate in netball and so to increase their physical, mental, and psychosocial wellbeing. This initiative also contributed to increased levels of motivation to attend school.





## CDU Sponsorship Coordinator visits the children in their homes

In Uganda, school visitation day is a family event where parents show love to their kids and express how much they are missed at home. Some parents also bring goodies for their children that they rarely consume at school. For our sponsored children, WADU always ensures that every child feels happy and loved – especially for those whose families don't always come to visit. Imagine seeing everyone sitting with their family for a talk and a meal while you sit alone!

Naturally, when students are not visited, they feel really bad and deserted. It was so good, therefore, that our visitors were able to visit all the secondary school partner schools to check on WADU sponsored children and they were able to deliver special gifts sent by their caring sponsors.



Our Batwa children often face significant challenges and hardships, lacking the stability, nurturing, and resources that a family provides. They are in great need of compassionate individuals and communities to step up and provide for their basic needs, education, and emotional well-being. Offering assistance, caring and simple acts of kindness, from providing school supplies to organizing recreational activities are some of what WADU can do to help them develop into capable, productive, and compassionate adults.

We dare to imagine a world where all children have the foundational tools for success. Special thanks to sponsorship secretary Abigail Felce, for always corresponding with the sponsors to ensure that these children always have a smile on their faces.





## ALTERNATIVE GIVING MISSION 2024



Poverty prevents the enjoyment of basic human rights, security and wellbeing of the community. In an effort to fight the vulnerability of Batwa children, the due attention to basic education WADU has given has resulted in a substantial increase in primary school enrollment and retention. However, it was found out that they still sleep in uncomfortable places which make them prone to jigger infestations and other infections caused by unhygienic conditions.

Through WADU-Christian Development Uganda Alternative giving programme, a distribution of better bedding items was conducted in Murubindi Batwa center where all the 14 households were gifted with a mattress, blanket, clothes and other sanitary items.

This did not only bring joy to the faces of the children but their families too because to most households, it was their first time to welcome a new mattress and blanket in the entire homestead.

## GIFTS OF JUMPERS BRING A SMILE

The joy of receiving knitted goods isn't just in the warmth it brings; it's being reassured of love and care from committed women back in the UK who spend time knitting the jumpers and baby sweaters for our Batwa communities. You're not only friends in the freezing mornings but also allies in the cold evenings.



*Women and children from Murubindi Batwa center after receiving the knitted jumpers and other clothes.*



## Gift of a sheep



The gift of a sheep not only improves the family status but also keep the children busy tending to the sheep when not in school.

We continue to uphold all those who generously give such gifts which enable the Batwa families become self-sufficient and not to always look at handouts as a means of survival.



Last year, Word and Deed Uganda embarked on the project Ending Poverty One Village at a Time by distributing livestock to Kinyarushengye one of our Batwa communities. We continue to believe that as the children develop small successful economic projects, they can then give to other children the means to start their own projects.

WADU assists children, families and communities to raise their heads above the clouds, honour family and community stories of survival and contribute to very real positive changes in their lives.



## PLAY, RELAX AND LEARN



On the WADU retreat the stars were able to relax and play in an environment they rarely find in their communities. A gift of a bicycle can only be dreamed of.





## Rising Stars continue to rise to Superstars

WADU continues to demonstrate how to keep and retain the children in school and nurture them in an environment that deepens their understanding.

In partnership with Christian Development Uganda, WADU seeks to create a respite centre for the Batwa Rising Stars providing levels of care to match the requirements of each child.

We also intend to equip capable hands with vocational skills as we look at the emotional and social developments of all the Rising Stars children. WADU staff always tend to the emotional and social as well as physical needs of the children so that they are able to focus on their education.



*Batwa children with Marion in the Radio studios of K-Town Radio in Kabale Town*

***“It’s remarkable to see how much these children grow over time. We have had children who started out on the programme with challenges at home but it is gratifying to see how they have coped with life at school”*** Phionah—WADU Sponsorship coordinator.

The children on the Rising Stars programme have had an opportunity to engage in a Radio Talk show, watching TV and visiting new places around town like churches, stadium, hardware shops and the post office. All new experiences which their friends in the communities know nothing of.



**What a fun ride back home!**

*WADU Rising Stars en route to home after successfully closing the school term.*







## **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A PURPOSE**

Waiting, longing, hoping is all what the Advent season is all about. Just as the people of Israel waited and longed for the coming of the Messiah, so too are many Batwa children waiting, longing and hoping for rescue. Christian Development Uganda, together with Word and Deed Uganda, continue to be a channel for the fulfillment of their longing. Jesus is their hope and you too can help them encounter Him .

Through our generous supporters, we are always ambitious in our commitment to surround Batwa children with a complete support system. Because we know that every child deserves all the basic human rights, love and care, we were able to supply Christmas packages to all the Rising Stars with supplies like rice, maize flour, beans, ground nuts as well as sanitary items like soap, jelly, toothpaste, shoe cream and all the essentials they need in their everyday life so that they don't feel neglected during this festive season. Special thanks to their sponsors for enabling the children live a life of joy and celebration.

## **CONCLUSION**

WADU continues to make a difference in the lives of the young people .The testimonies from our students confirm the significant difference the sponsorship programme has made in the lives of the vulnerable children in Uganda. At Word and Deed Uganda, we give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the sponsors that have continued to make a difference in the lives of the young boys and girls in Uganda. We give thanks too for all the support that enables 200+ children to attend the rural schools and for community aid.

Your generous giving has made this journey of making a difference in Uganda much easier. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the vulnerable children is fulfilling and affirming that they are not forsaken but valued.

Together, we are investing in the future of the young enthusiastic Batwa children who are ready to learn and change their lives holistically.

We rejoice with all our supporters as we experience the Lord's blessings.

We continue to appreciate all the kindness and generosity extended to WADU ministry and the endless support that Christian Development Uganda has for the vulnerable communities in South western Uganda.

We look forward to seeing how the Lord enables these children and their families to be transformed and reach their fullest potential.

Your love, care and support enable us to reach out to these communities reflecting on our motto  
"Holy souls in healthy bodies"