

# TENDER MERCIES INTERNATIONAL



Annual Newsletter - 2021

PARTNERS



# TENDER MERCIES INTERNATIONAL

Uganda



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When 2021 started, we hoped it would be better than the previous years but that wasn't the case. The Covid-19 pandemic continued to scar our education, well-being, and economy and led to children enduring what has been classified as the longest lockdown of schools in the world, and the crises it caused. Domestic violence, early teenage pregnancies, poor mental health, and school dropout rates were all at an all-time high during this period.

There is now a pressing need to assist children in recovering from the challenges they encountered during this time.

At TMI, our efforts to ensure that children and their communities are empowered are only getting stronger, with Christ at the center of it all.

We express our gratitude to our sponsors that have stayed committed even in such a trying and difficult time like this one. We understand that the epidemic affected us all, and it's wonderful that you've continued to convey your love and care to the orphans. God bless you abundantly!

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We also thank the TMI team for a job well done. Because of your efforts to ensure that each project was a success, TMI had a significant influence on the children and the communities in which they live.

## 1. PROJECTS

### 1.1 FRIEND IN NEED - HOME VISITS

This is a door-to-door project where we visit all the children sponsored by TMI.



#### PURPOSE OF VISITS

- Find out Children's living conditions
- Assess physical, spiritual, and mental health
- Get updates about the orphan's guardians e.g employment, and well-being

#### ORPHAN'S CHALLENGES

- Several days of hunger
- Several sicknesses
- Many children sleep on the floor
- Homes are affected by floods
- Social injustice e.g domestic violence
- The children do not have Bibles.
- Guardians are jobless
- Children and guardian mental health crisis

#### VISITATION PERIOD

1-Oct-2021 to 1-Nov-2021

#### IMPACT

90 families



## HOME VISIT - RELIEF PACKAGES

Every family received a food package. However, the sleeping package was donated to only a few as funds allowed. Below are the details:

	ITEM	IMPACT
<b>SLEEP PACKAGE</b>	1. Mattresses	20 FAMILIES
	2. Mosquito nets	
	3. Bedsheets	
	4. Blankets	
<b>FOOD PACKAGE</b>	6. Beans	90 FAMILIES
	7. Rice	
	8. Salt	
	9. Bar of soap	



When the children received their packages, they were ecstatic, and they expressed their gratitude to the sponsors for making their lives better during the pandemic. From being worried about whether or not they will eat a meal that day, to having plenty for the next few months. From sleeping on the cold floor to getting a warm and restful night's sleep. Everything has changed. Thank you!

## 1.2 CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

During the rainy season, many households are affected by floods. From the visits, we realized that many of our children were affected too.

From our analysis, all the communities had one thing in common: **PLASTIC POLLUTION**. All the drainage systems were blocked by piles of plastic bottles, polythene bags and snack wraps.

### Dangers of floods

- Damages property
- Loss of life
- Destroys livelihood
- Leads to an increase in diseases e.g cholera and malaria

WHEN IT FLOODS, WE ARE SURROUNDED BY WATER. THE FLOODS ENTER OUR HOUSE UNFORTUNATELY SO EVERYTHING GETS WET AND WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR LONG FOR IT TO DRY. – Gertrude 12 years old TMI student



TMI launched a video campaign to raise awareness about pollution and its role in Uganda's floods and climate change, which are destroying livelihoods and risking the lives of children. The video was viewed by 10,000 individuals across all social media platforms.

It is important that we act now, as inaction will only exacerbate the issue over time. The organization is conducting research on long-term solutions to the flooding problem.

### Video Campaign Snapshot

Join us in speaking out against [#plasticpollution](#), in light of the fact that it contributes to the occurrence of floods, which endanger t... See More

Whenever it rains, the lives of



countless children in **UGANDA** are put at risk due to **FLOODS**

OPENS IN MESSENGER

Join TMI in speaking out against [#plasticpollution](#), in light of the...

Send message

TMI

### 1.3 SICKNESSES CHILDREN WERE DIAGNOSED WITH IN 2021

#### COMMON AILMENTS

- Malaria
- Typhoid
- Cough/Flu

#### OTHER AILMENTS

- HIV/ AIDS
- Bullous pemphigoid
- Depression and other mental instabilities

#### CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN WHEN ILL

- Unable to afford medical Attention
- Late diagnosis of illnesses



Bullous pemphigoid is an autoimmune skin condition that causes fluid-filled blisters all over the body and in the mouth.

Jane (alias name) was diagnosed with it in October 2021 and is currently undergoing medication.

According to the doctors, it has no cure but can be managed



Her mother could not afford the hospital bill so despite suffering from it since Dec 2020 she was diagnosed 10months later.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

1. That 200 girls are infected with HIV/AIDS in Uganda every week? How can we change this?
2. Malaria is the leading cause of death among children and their guardians in Uganda.
3. Many children in Uganda are not open to talking about their Mental Health?

**With your support, TMI continues to provide both medical attention and counseling to all children.**

## 1.4 SKILLING THE YOUTH

Vocational skills make the youth employable, improve self-esteem, encourage creativity and connect communities.



**SKILLS TAUGHT :** Crochet and Hairstyling  
**PARTICIPANTS :** 10  
**PERIOD :** 2 months  
**FEEDBACK :** The participants enjoyed the experience and were quick learners



From this, two participants decided to take on the full course of hair and cosmetology that will take two years. The skills listed were chosen because they require inexpensive raw materials and encourage self-employment.

### OTHER SKILLS TO CONSIDER



Soap Making



Tailoring



Carpentry



Computer Skills

## 1.5 DIALOGUE WITH THE YOUTH

TMI is committed to ensuring youth perspectives are taken into account. It is vital for youth to have the opportunity to meaningfully participate and voice out their thoughts on current events and their communities. We have to regard young people as partners and leaders. That way, youth will also feel a greater part and ownership of what is happening in society.



### PURPOSE OF DIALOGUE

- Emphasize the value of education.
- Speak against early teenage pregnancies
- Remind them to stay strong in Christ

### IMPACT

- Reached out to 50 young adults

### ISSUES RAISED BY THE YOUNG ADULTS

- Injustices within families e.g domestic violence
- Girls can't afford sanitary pads every month
- The youth need a mentorship programme
- The need to teach employable skills





## 1.6 BUILDING PROJECTS

In 2021, TMI made progress on three building projects as listed below;

### 1. High school main building

- a) The high school was painted
- b) Window frames and door frames were Installed



On the left is a picture of the main building before the changes and on the right is the building after.

### 2. Toilets

- a) TMI completed construction and painting of the toilet that has 5 partitions each for both the male and female side, making a total of 10 partitions. Tiles, sinks and plumbing were fully installed.



### 3. Temporary structure for computer and science lab

TMI has built a temporary structure for science and computer lab. The structure has two rooms with a sitting capacity of 50 each.



### 1.7 ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP

NO. OF  
TMI ALUMNI

580

CURRENTLY  
SPONSORED

136

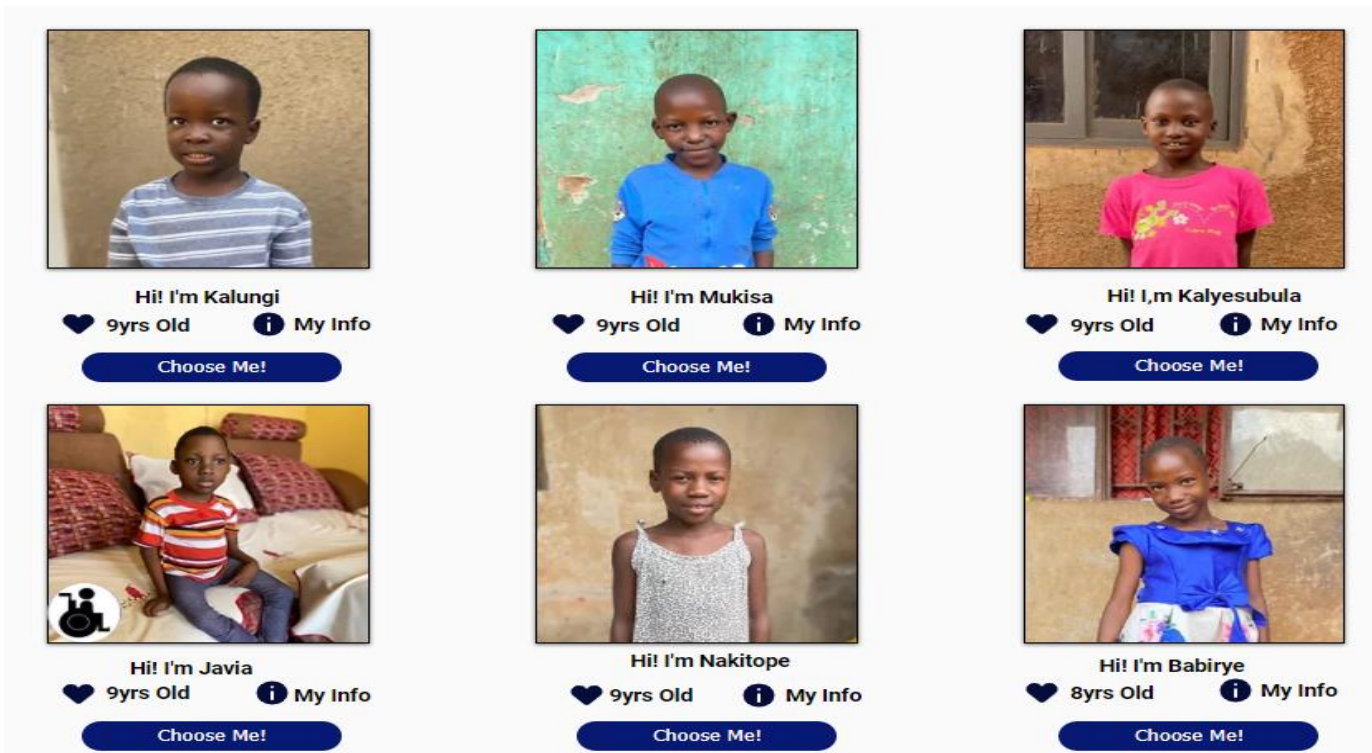
NO. OF  
APPLICATIONS







125

All students attend TMI schools (Blessed Valley Primary School and Omega High School), and those enrolled in vocational studies attend other approved vocational schools. TMI is dedicated to providing quality education to orphans and destitute children because it is the most powerful way to eradicate poverty in Uganda.



In 2021, we received 125 applications for orphans and destitute children that needed support. Find them at <https://www.tendermercies-international.org/available-children>



 <p>Hi! I'm Kalungi ♥ 9yrs Old ⓘ My Info <a href="#">Choose Me!</a></p>	 <p>Hi! I'm Mukisa ♥ 9yrs Old ⓘ My Info <a href="#">Choose Me!</a></p>	 <p>Hi! I,m Kalyesubula ♥ 9yrs Old ⓘ My Info <a href="#">Choose Me!</a></p>
 <p>Hi! I'm Javia ♥ 9yrs Old ⓘ My Info <a href="#">Choose Me!</a></p>	 <p>Hi! I'm Nakitope ♥ 9yrs Old ⓘ My Info <a href="#">Choose Me!</a></p>	 <p>Hi! I'm Babirye ♥ 8yrs Old ⓘ My Info <a href="#">Choose Me!</a></p>

## 1.8 PAD PROJECT TMI

Pad project TMI is an initiative to maximize the African girl's potential by enabling her to have access to sanitary pads, menstrual hygiene products, good sanitation, and balanced mental health so she can concentrate on school and study. Many girls in Uganda are ashamed of their periods because of the stigma attached to them. Girls are typically seen as "unclean" and some tribes believe them to be a curse to the environment and those around them during this time. During their periods, some girls spend their days sitting in the house over rugs.

Many more cannot afford sanitary pads, so they must either stay at home or rely on unsanitary, unpleasant items such as dried banana leaves that also endanger their health.



In Uganda over 30% of girls skip school and some drop-out, making them significantly more likely to marry young, have early teenage pregnancies, and practice activities such as prostitution so that they can afford to manage their periods.



*“The blessing and sacrifice of being a girl.... may these beauties have joy in the middle of it all”*  
Angie Wiersma

From interaction with the girls, the best solution is **reusable pads and menstruation cups**. If used properly, these last one year and the girls do not have to worry about incurring a monthly cost.

If we can get people to support us with sewing machines and materials, the organization can embark on teaching communities how to make reusable pads and also start producing them so that the TMI girls and those in the communities can have access to them.

### **TMI GAVE OUT A TOTAL OF 100 PADS**

*“Wow, I’m just so happy. I am happy to receive my pads. In the next two months, I won’t buy. The money that I would have used to buy pads, I will use to buy food for me, my little sisters and aunty,” Maria, a 16 -year-old, said.*

## **1.9 TMI SPORTS**

Growing up in humble homes, many children have no access to sports. Their parents are struggling to make ends meet and lack the financial means or time to enroll their children in sports.

Sport brings people together, instills a positive mindset in children by training them to be self-assured and confident. We can use it to help underprivileged children, particularly those living in rural areas, grow up in better conditions and have equal opportunities in life.

Also, these activities assist children in developing life skills such as trust, cooperation, collaboration, emotion management, and responsibility. Young people are meaningfully involved in sports activities and sessions by taking an active role and leading. TMI aims at having sports such as soccer and netball, with both boys’ and girls’ teams.



### **a) Soccer team**

TMI soccer team is now fully equipped with all the gear needed. The organization is now working round the clock to see that the children are exposed to all the opportunities it offers. So far it has had a couple of friendly matches. The children are talented, hardworking and so grateful that they get to play their favorite sport. They are being trained by TMI’s sports coaches.

## 1.10 END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

### a) Party

To end the year, TMI organized a children's day out where they played games, ate food, and had a dancing competition.

TMI prepared food for 200 children to be served to both TMI kids and those in the community. It also bought presents like toy cars and dolls.



## b) Clothes giveaway

Many children in the community have torn clothes and no shoes. TMI gave out clothes to 50 children.



## 2. CHALLENGES

### 1. Insufficient funding for projects other than educating the children.

With education as our primary focus, we have overlooked addressing the various challenges that children face. For the past two years, TMI has been trying out different projects, such as pad projects, youth skilling, and dialogues. These projects, however, have been carried out on a very modest scale due to a lack of funds that would allow us to make a significant impact. The majority of these tasks were undertaken in the spur of the moment.

Moving forward, the organization must adopt a broader perspective to improve children's lives and recognize that education only solves one component of a larger problem. Strategic plans, yearly themes, and budgets will also be used for better planning.

2. There is no funding for the healthcare of the children. When children fall sick, their guardians cannot afford the medical bills so they miss out on classes for so long. Girls also miss school while on their menstruation!
3. Some children drop out of school due to a number of reasons.

## 3. TARGETS

### 1. Expand TMI impact to other vulnerable areas in Uganda.

Since its inception, TMI has operated within Kampala. However, we have realized that since there are other areas especially rural ones that have high levels of illiteracy and poverty, it is time we stepped out of the comfort zone.

### 2. Carry out more community dialogues

It takes a community to raise a child so if the community is holding on to primitive beliefs, injustices and bias, our children will not thrive. Dialogues are important as they help us address issues such as domestic violence, family planning, mental health and many more.

### 3. Partner with more local organizations

In order to provide the children and community with a wholistic package to stir change in their lives, TMI will partner with local organizations that offer solutions different from its own. As the organization aims at expanding its reach, we will need organizations knowledgeable in finance, medicine, mental health, people with disabilities, technology and many more topics.

### 4. Set up a computer and science laboratory

To encourage and support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) among our children.

## 3. CONCLUSION

Here we come 2022, and we are ready! Through us, may God restore hope, joy, love, and peace in the children. May the communities in Uganda no longer be enslaved by poverty. Wherever you send us God, we shall go. Not by our might but by your spirit! Looking forward to an amazing year!

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for  
one of the least of these brothers and  
sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40

End