



**The Balinda Children's Foundation**

**2024**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



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# About The Balinda Children's Foundation



## ***Education, health, and livelihoods for a brighter future.***

The Balinda Children's Foundation (BCF) supports orphans and vulnerable children in Kyarusozzi, Uganda, where poverty, disease, and loss have left many without parents or stable care. Most families rely on subsistence farming or low-wage labor, offering little hope for a better future.

We provide school fees, uniforms, and supplies to help children access education—an essential step toward breaking the cycle of poverty. Many of our students have completed vocational training, secondary school, or university, building brighter, self-sufficient futures.



# A Letter from Our Founder



I am Joseph Balinda, Founder and Executive Director of BCF. Thank you for your dedication to freeing children from poverty and empowering them toward brighter futures. This legacy has brought meaningful change to many children and youth in Kyarusozi.

## **Our Mission**

We provide life-changing support to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and vulnerable youth in Kyarusozi, Uganda. This includes essential needs like food, shelter, healthcare, education, and sustainable income opportunities. Your support has been crucial in transforming these children's lives, offering them hope and a brighter future.

## **Personal Connection**

As a Kyarusozi native, I deeply understand these challenges first hand, in the very community we serve. My childhood had similar hardships. At a tender age, I worked odd jobs to fund my education, fueling my passion for helping our children reach their potential.

## **Our Achievements**

Since 2017, we've supported over 70 children, many graduating from vocational training and college. We established a community library, launched business and agricultural programs, and empowered 1,900 youths with trade skills. Our sponsorships enable higher education, and health interventions reduce disease prevalence. We run 11 Village Savings and Loan Associations for financial stability. Girls are staying in school, gaining skills like basket weaving and hairdressing.

## **Looking Ahead**

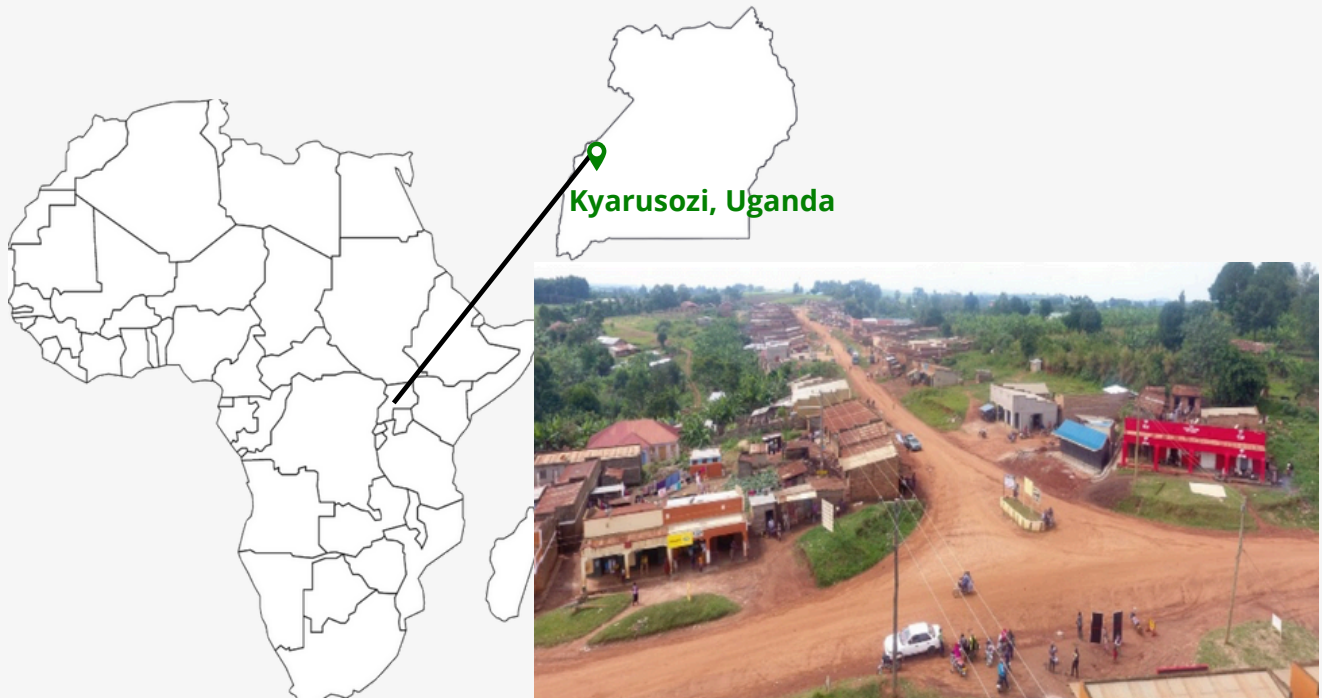
We aim to expand our sponsorship program, increase bursaries, and equip youth with practical skills. We will broaden the Village Savings and Loan Association model, complete our facilities, and improve technology access.

Together, we transform lives, offering hope and brighter futures. We invite you to continue this journey with us.

With gratitude,  
Joseph Balinda  
Founder & Executive Director  
The Balinda Children's Foundation (BCF)



## WHERE WE WORK



### About Kyarusozi

Kyarusozi community, situated 300 km west of Kampala in Kyenjojo District, is home to a predominantly rural population of 58,000, more than half of whom are children. Among these, 5,000 are orphans, often due to the impacts of HIV/AIDS or malaria.

Kyarusozi is known for its serene environment and tea plantations, offering a rural Ugandan cultural experience and a connection to nature.

Several orphans live in precarious situations, receiving care from elderly relatives, single parents, young mothers or older siblings.

Despite some economic activities, such as subsistence farming and reliance on tea plantations and estates, poverty remains a significant barrier, restricting access to quality education and healthcare. The average household consists of five members, even though women typically have around eight children. Life expectancy in the area is notably lower than the national average, with figures at 46 for women and 42 for men.

With 21% of households led by women and many families struggling to meet basic needs, education and sustainability often feels like an unattainable goal for numerous children. Nevertheless, each child harbors dreams, and through this program, we strive to provide orphans and vulnerable children in Kyarusozi with the opportunity to achieve their full potential through access to education and a brighter future.



# Our Initiatives

## Education

### Challenges:

- Dropout Rates:
  - 43% of enrolled students do not finish primary school
  - 24% never attend due to fees and girls' responsibilities at home
  - 38% of adults are illiterate
- Hidden Costs: School uniforms, meals, and materials are unaffordable for many
- The pupil-to-teacher ratio is 71:1 local vs. 50:1 national
- 40% of teachers are untrained
- Teachers are underpaid, often with delayed overlapping remuneration
- 90% enrollment rate at the primary level but less than 15% advancing to post-secondary institutions
- Less than 1% earn a university degree and beyond

### Our Support:

- Payment of school fees, uniforms, shoes, and school supplies
- Partnership with Book Aid International to create the first community library
- 6 children have graduated from vocational school and are now employed as:
  - Builder
  - Teacher
  - Tailoring (2)
  - Hair dressing
  - Catering
- 6 children are currently enrolled in vocational and universities:
  - Social work (2)
  - Admin
  - Computer networking
  - Electrical engineering (2)





# OUR INITIATIVES

## Health

### Challenges:

- HIV/AIDS: 50% of children have lost a breadwinner to HIV/AIDS
- HIV prevalence rate is 12% local vs. 7% national
- Malaria (40.2%), acute respiratory infections (25.8%), intestinal worms (12.9%)
- Typhoid and other diseases due to poor sanitation

### Our Support:

- Providing antiretroviral (ARV) treatments and nutritional supplements for 7 children with HIV/AIDS
- Collaborating with local health clinics for check-ups and training in nutrition and hygiene
- Running programs on hygiene, sanitation, access to clean water and mosquito netting
- Improved health outcomes for children in our program due to preventative health measures

## Livelihoods

### Challenges:

- The average monthly income for orphaned households ranges from \$6 to \$10.
- 21% of these households are led by women, and many are headed by children.
- 80% of households rely on subsistence farming, focusing on crops like bananas, beans, avocados, and sugar cane.
- More than 80% of households depend on women and children for labor.

### Our Support:

- Introducing new crop varieties to yield higher-value products.
- Assisting families in raising pigs and chickens to enhance nutrition and generate income.
- Offering education on animal care and best practices in farming.





# OUR RESPONSE AND GROWTH OVER TIME

The Balinda Children's Foundation (BCF) is a registered Canadian charity working in Kyarusozi, Uganda since 2017 (CRA Reg. #: 76414 3293 RR0001).

Offset with 20 orphans, including 6 who were HIV-positive, has since grown to support over 70 children. It has seen 6 graduates who are now self-employed, with another 6 currently attending college. BCF's education, health, and livelihood initiatives have effectively guided children through various stages of development, helping many transition into financially independent adulthood.

## **Fostering Pathways for Meaningful Employment:**

A charitable sector-funded initiative to expand youth access to trade skills, self-employment opportunities, and sustainable livelihoods. The program empowered over 1,900 youth and adults with practical training in tailoring, carpentry, welding, hairdressing, marketing, banking, and entrepreneurship, with a deliberate emphasis on empowering vulnerable girls.

During its implementation period, 855 youth and adults benefited from comprehensive training in entrepreneurship, business development, computer literacy, and life skills and went on to start their own small businesses. Additionally, 222 youth acquired hands-on soft skills training, specifically in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Although the initiative has now concluded, its impact continues to resonate across participating communities and beneficiaries.

## **Let Us Move Mountains (LUMM):**

The conclusion of LUMM initiative has ushered in a new chapter of growth and opportunity, as the BCF seamlessly absorbed its programs to continue supporting 23 children and extend its reach. By acquiring two acres of land, two buildings, and a motorcycle from LUMM, the BCF has fortified its resources and expanded its child sponsorship program to connect with new donors.

## **The Annual Sponsorship Drive:**

Aims to provide educational opportunities to over 5,000 orphans in Kyarusozi, engaging churches, businesses, communities, and individuals to rally behind this cause and secure a brighter future for these children. Moreover, the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) initiative, comprising 11 groups with over 200 members, empowers youth and adults through savings and small loans that foster business growth and financial independence.

With a focus on agricultural income-generating small businesses, the BCF utilizes the newly acquired land for training in agriculture and agro-business, equipping families with the skills to achieve self-sustainability and break free from the cycle of poverty. Together, these efforts underscore a commitment to transforming lives and communities for lasting impact.



# OUR RESPONSE AND GROWTH OVER TIME

## Empowering Girls. Transforming Communities:

When you invest in a girl, you invest in the future of an entire community.

In Kyarusenzi, girls face overwhelming barriers simply for being born female like poverty, early marriage, and limited or no access to education. Many are forced to leave school not because they lack ability or ambition, but because their families cannot afford basic necessities such as feminine hygiene products. For these girls, education is not a luxury; it is a lifeline.

School enrolment for girls in Kyarusenzi is historically and currently much lower than boys due to a patriarchal culture which devalues women. Those who enroll don't receive similar support from their families as boys since they are eventually expected to drop out of school destined to get married. Many never finish primary school and get pregnant before marriage increasing their risk of HIV and lifelong dependence. As adults, they often face domestic violence and economic insecurity, the very conditions passed on to their daughters.

Our approach breaks this cycle at its roots. We empower girls with education, skills, and confidence to build independent lives. At the same time, we engage boys, guiding them toward positive role models, healthier behaviours, and respect for women, reducing the likelihood of alcohol abuse and domestic violence in the next generation.

Your support makes this transformation possible. By investing in girls today, you are helping to build safer families, stronger communities, and a future where every child, especially the girlchild has the same opportunity to thrive.

Our programs are designed to keep girls in school and equip them with practical, income-generating skills, including hairdressing, basket weaving and the production of reusable sanitary pads. These interventions provide immediate dignity and long-term opportunity where girls gain skills and economic independence, they are far less vulnerable to early marriage, gender-based violence, exploitation, and HIV. They gain agency, confidence and power to make choices about their lives and futures; and these are the cycles we aim to repeat across generations.

We need to expand our program to support more girls. Our education and employment programs help girls stay in school and gain life skills. For youth in Kyarusenzi, education isn't just important for a brighter future, it's critical to their survival.







## FUTURE GOALS

- Expand our child sponsorship program and increase post-secondary bursaries to improve educational access and lower dropout rates.
- Expand our Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model to create 500 VSLAs community-wide.
- Create additional space for children's programs and install electricity and plumbing.
- Enhance access to technology by actively pursuing donations for tech gadgets, free and wide-band internet access and learning software.





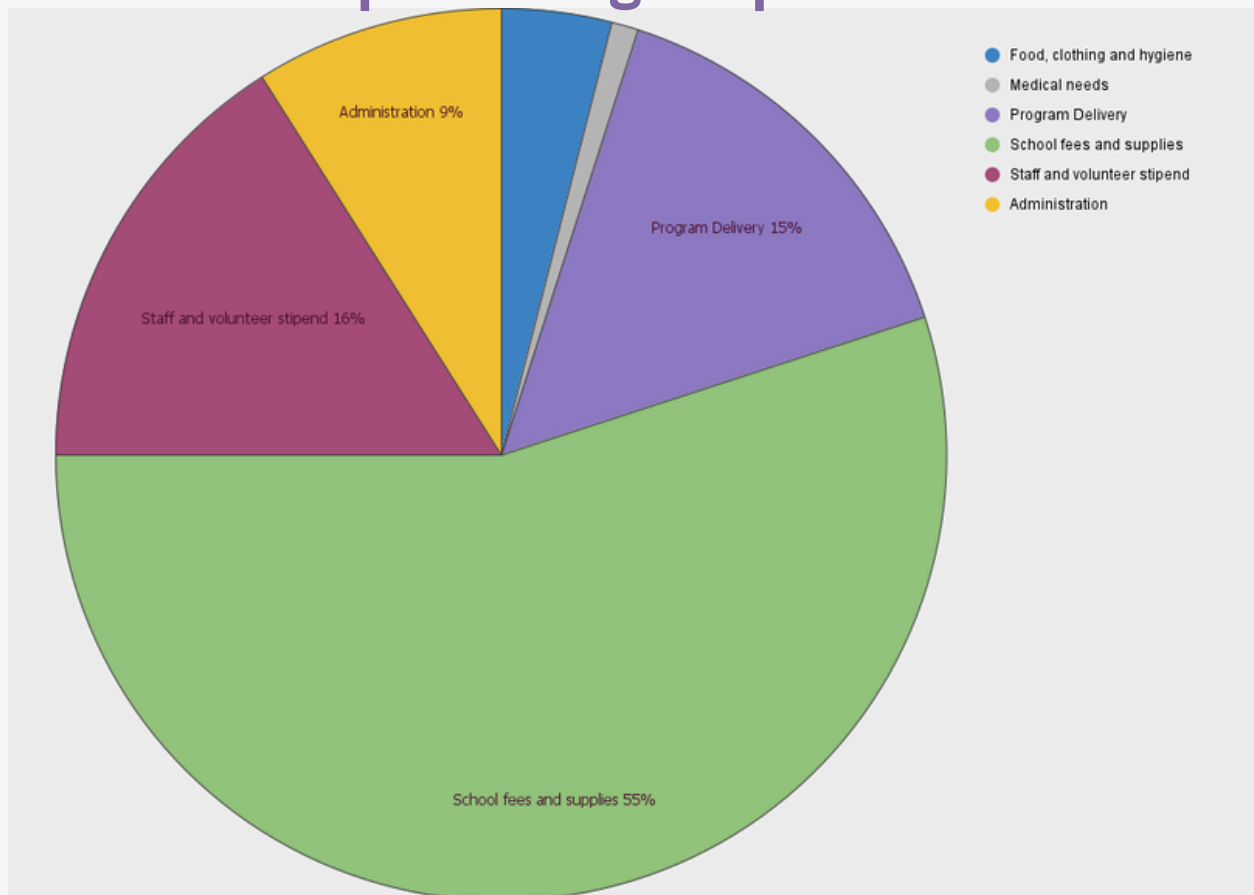
# Operating Revenue

100%

of revenue received in  
2024

was from  
individual donations

# Operating Expenses



\*ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES ACCOUNTING, MARKETING, OFFICE COSTS, AND ONLINE DONATION PROCESSING FEES. THESE ARE ESSENTIAL EXPENSES THAT SUPPORT FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNICATION, HELPING TO FACILITATE AND SUSTAIN PROGRAM DELIVERY IN UGANDA.

\*PROGRAM DELIVERY INCLUDES HOME VISITS, SCHOOL VISITS, AND MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE, ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES THAT ENABLE US TO REACH BENEFICIARIES, MONITOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, AND ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES.

# WE NEED YOU

## The Balinda Children's Foundation (BCF): A Collective Effort for Change

Dedicated to improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children, but we cannot achieve this alone.

Your support, whether through donations, partnerships, or advocacy, enables us to fulfill our mission. By enhancing the family, health, and education systems that are vital for these children, we help them realize their maximum potential.

By investing in their early years, you contribute to building a brighter future, ensuring they develop into healthy, educated, and productive members of their communities.

*Together, we can create a lasting impact.*



[DONATE TODAY](#)

## Contact Information

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# OUR FAVOURITE MOMENTS

