



# Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

## How Does Buyamba Evaluate A Child's Need For Help?

The social workers are an integral part of the administration at God Cares School. Overseeing the needs of hundreds of families and over 1800 students is a big job, and we have constructed a solid team to carry that out. The social worker position goes beyond checking kids in and out of school and processing the paperwork. It is their job to determine sponsorship eligibility. Every application for financial help that goes through the Buyamba program at GCS involves prayer, research, and compassion.

Each family fills out information about their current living situation, and then there is a home visit to determine the extent of the need. Sponsorship eligibility is only approved if there is a dire need. Many children come from different slums around both schools, or they might live in better housing but still have difficult family situations. The need is great in Uganda, and we want to support those that genuinely need help. Almost half of Uganda's population is children from 0-14, and at 46 percent of the general population, that represents one of the youngest populations in the world (World Bank, 2021). According to UNICEF, **2.7 million** of Uganda's children are orphans. Many children are forced to live on the streets due to poverty, disease, water-borne diseases, and abandonment due to the death of their parents (primarily due to HIV/AIDS). It is not uncommon to see children begging or doing manual labor jobs such as splitting rocks for construction or forced into a life of desperation on the streets. Life in the slums is not easy. Buyamba is called to children in these circumstances.



Many of our students live with widowed mothers, helpless grandparents, or even village neighbors who have taken them in. Some have lost their mothers, some their fathers, and others both. There is a great need in Uganda for orphan care. When these children are not cared for, they are often exploited, and orphans are frequently put in positions to care for and lead other orphans. When a child is taken off the street and placed in school, it is a life-changing decision that offers what Ugandans like to call "a bright future."

# How Does Buyamba Evaluate A Child's Need For Help?

The social workers' office is a busy place at both schools as they are responsible for working with each family entering the school. Angela Dongo is the head of the social workers, working closely with the high school and primary school administrators. Angela works hard with her team to assess which families need help and why they qualify for financial assistance. One of our students, Viola explained her need, "There was a time when my daddy was not financially stable, and I had to leave school for some time. I was afraid of being a school drop-out, but I thank God that this was the time that God Cares High School gave me a second chance through the Buyamba program."

One of the social workers at the high school, named Mercy, is an alumni student from God Cares primary and secondary school. Mercy started GCS in P5 (5th grade), went through both schools in the Buyamba sponsorship program, and completed African Renewal University with a degree in social work. She loves the students and treats all with care and respect. She was once one of these children who was given a chance to live a life above her circumstances, and now she is beautifully giving back to the students of God Cares School.

**Mercy**



**Angela Dongo**  
**Lead Social Worker**

## ←←←←← Moses Ssewanyana →→→→→



Meet five-year-old Moses Ssewanyana. He is in Baby class at God Cares Nursery and Primary School. Moses' mother passed last year to mental illness. His father also suffers from severe mental illness, and his whereabouts are unknown. Moses is the third born of four children and currently lives with his 84-year-old grandfather in one of the Kampala suburbs with a family of 13 members.

Moses' mother was the family's sole breadwinner before she passed away. His grandfather did not have any hopes of his grandchild ever going to school because he did not have a stable source of livelihood, given his age. Moses' siblings were all sent to the village because their grandfather could not support all of them with school and basic needs.

Fortunately, Moses was identified by one of the social workers and was taken in and registered with Buyamba. He was excited to be placed at God Cares School in the nursery program. He is happy, well fed, and healthy. Moses has learned about Jesus in his short months at the school and already loves him even though the rest of his family members are Muslims. Moses' future is bright, and he can now dream big.