



*...hope for children  
with special needs.*

**MUKISA FOUNDATION**

# 2023 Annual Report

# Letter from the CEO



**In 2023 we lost 31 children who sadly passed away. This Annual Report is dedicated to them. May their souls rest in peace.**



Dear Mukisa Angels, friends, and well-wishers,

Warm greetings from the Mukisa Foundation!

Reflecting on the past year, 2023 presented us with a multitude of challenges, both personal and organizational. Despite the adversities, we are immensely grateful to report that we have not only weathered the storm but emerged stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Undoubtedly, one of the most profound challenges we faced was the impact on health, affecting not only our staff members but also their loved ones. Regrettably, we mourn the loss of 31 precious children—a figure that deeply saddens us and underscores the fragility of life. However, in the face of such adversity, we discovered our collective strength and unwavering determination to persevere.

Amidst the trials, there were also moments of triumph that lifted our spirits. We are thrilled to share that we forged new partnerships and were honored to receive an international accolade—the "Fight for Fairness Award" at the Segal Family Foundation AGM in Rwanda. This recognition not only validates our mission but also crystallizes our identity as an organization dedicated to championing fairness and equity. In every endeavor we undertake—be it providing essential services, advocating for the rights of parents and children, or fostering economic empowerment—we are, at our core, fighting for fairness. Our steadfast commitment to ensuring that every child and family we serve is afforded a fair chance at realizing their fullest potential remains unwavering.

Yet, none of this would be possible without your unwavering support, boundless faith, compassion, and generosity. Your presence alongside us through the highs and lows of this remarkable journey has been nothing short of invaluable. As we look ahead, we earnestly hope that you will continue to stand by our side as we persist in our mission to fight for fairness until every child with disabilities in Uganda receives the support they need to thrive.

Furthermore, I am thrilled to present to you the 2023 annual report, a comprehensive overview of our achievements, challenges, and aspirations. Your feedback and questions about any information in the report are highly appreciated, as they guide our ongoing efforts to improve and innovate. Wishing every blessing in 2024,

Florence Namaganda,  
Founder/ Director  
Mukisa Foundation

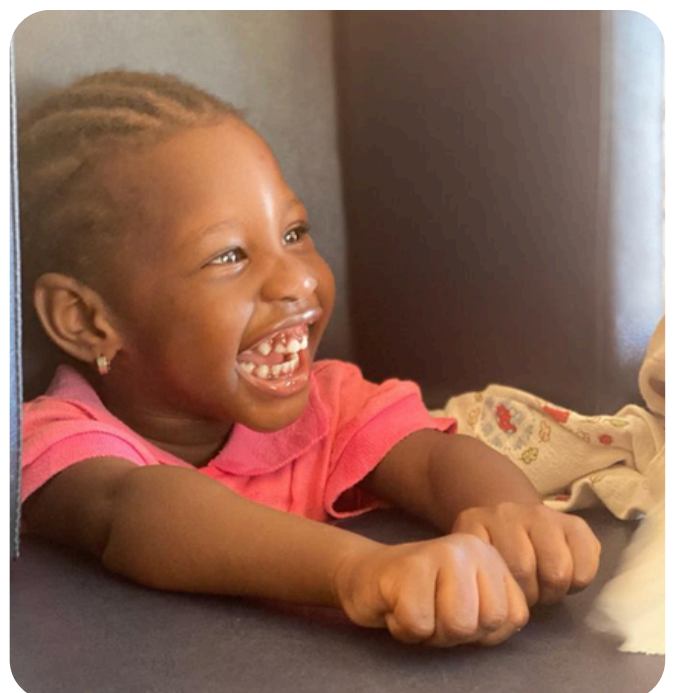
# Disability in Uganda

**Approximately 15% of the global population lives with a disability (WHO, 2011), 93 Million of whom are children. In Uganda, 19–24% of the population has some form of disability (UBOS,2014) with an estimated 3–4.5 Million being children.**

Compounding the issue is the fact that people affected by disability are the most marginalized in accessing basic services needed to live a quality life. Only 5–15% of people with disabilities have access to basic services including Healthcare, Education and assistive devices worldwide (WHO 2011). This has significant consequences on the persons affected including high mortality rates, unemployment, sexual abuse, stigmatization, discrimination and endemic poverty. Most children with moderate to severe disabilities do not reach their 10th birthday (UNICEF,2014). The caregivers of children with disabilities are often isolated and left with the heavy duty of taking care of their children single handedly and without any support.

The lack of adequate service provision for people with disabilities is attributed to negative attitudes and beliefs, lack of awareness about the needs of persons with disabilities, limited skills and capacity of service providers and professionals, fragmented and uncoordinated efforts of CSOs and, inadequate resource allocation, poor policy implementation and low commitment by the government. In the last forty years, the government has taken steps to address the service provision gap in the disability space including the creation of legal frameworks and policies such as the Constitution, the Disability Act and the ratification of different international charters and conventions such as the UNCRPD and SDGs. The private sector and Civil Society Organisations have also grown in terms of the number of entities that are working directly and indirectly with persons with disabilities.

These efforts by the public, private and development sector although commendable is largely inadequate quality, uncoordinated, small and fragmented. This has left out a significant portion of would-be beneficiaries and for those that are reached, the fragmented nature of services rendered fails to have a meaningful impact on their quality of life. There is a need for a holistic approaches that not only address the multiple root causes of the problem but also provide all the basic services needed by persons with disabilities under one roof.



# About Us

## Vision

Children with disabilities thriving in strong, resourceful, and resilient families.

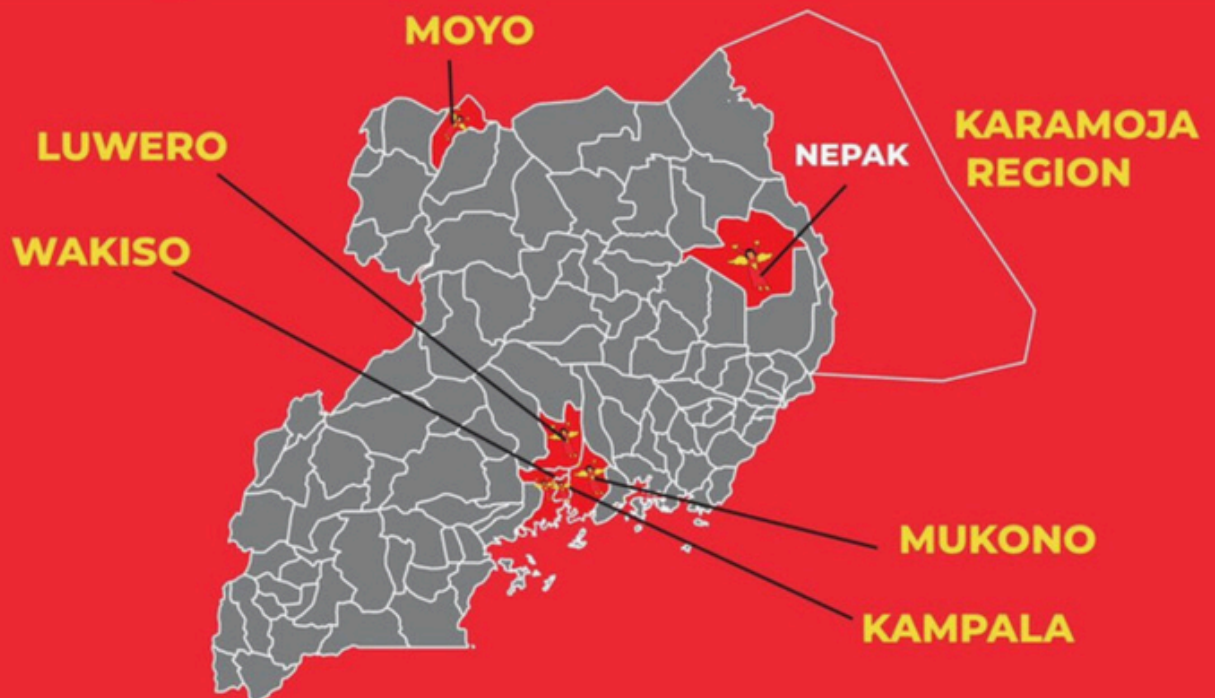
## Mission

Empowering families and communities to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for children with Disabilities to live purposeful lives to their full potential.

The Mukisa Foundation is a non-governmental organization [NGO] based in Kampala Uganda, that enables families with children who have disabilities to provide a nurturing and supportive environment so they can lead full and purposeful lives. Mukisa Foundation uses a holistic child centered 360 model that includes Health, Education, Family empowerment, Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Awareness programs.

Mukisa Foundation was founded in 2006 as a small drop-in centre with 8 children but now serves over 5000 children in Kampala, outreach locations and through partnerships with other organisations in rural and hard to reach areas.

## Where We Work



# Our 360 Approach

Mukisa works with over 5000 children and families using a comprehensive and holistic child centered approach, which is in line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) CBR model. The 360 model comprises 5 different components/programs, as highlighted below:



# 2023 Highlights

## Health

**2,858**

Children received therapy, medical, nutrition services

**676**

Children received assistive devices



## Education

**321**

Children with disabilities were reached this year with our education interventions



## Financial Empowerment

**543**

Parents trained in hair dressing, financial literacy and self help groups

**>\$9500**

Saved by parents under their Kwagalana Savings Group



## Capacity Building

**340**

Teachers and Community leaders in Kampala, wakiso and Kanungu trained on early identification and screening of children with Disabilities, classroom strategy and behaviour management



## Advocacy & Awareness

**1st**

We created and launched the first ever online service directory for disability services in Uganda.

[take a look at our disability guide here](#)



# Health

The interventions include the provision of therapy services, medical care and medicine refills for children with chronic illnesses, referrals and support towards surgical interventions, nutrition and assistive devices. Our health team comprises therapists, nurses, midwives, doctors, a pharmacist, a sonographer, a medical laboratory technician and Orthopedic technicians.

## Therapy program

We conducted therapy on 987 clients/ children from January to December, these benefit from Physio, Occupational, Speech and Language Therapy from all our centres in Lungujja, Bussi, Berakhah and Outreach locations in, Luwero and Masaka. Parents are encouraged to participate actively in therapy to learn what is to be done at home on those days they don't report to the Centre or when they join the home visit program.

## Medical support

A total of 625 children received medical support. We also organised medical camps at our Mukisa Centre where our medical team carried out assessments, investigations, prescriptions and dispensed medicines for both parents and children.

## Nutrition Program

An extensive nutrition program: that includes Nutrition education to families including how to grow food in small spaces for families in urban areas, proper food preparation, how to have a balanced diet within budget, and provision of highly nutritious emergency food for children found to be malnourished.

## Home visits

We reached 594 children during the home visit program, our main goal is to offer therapy services to the children at home but also assess the environment where our children live.

## Community Health Program

We reached 652 clients through our community medical interventions



# Success Stories

Through the drop-in centres in Kampala, Bussi Island, Berakhah Medical Centre and Luwero, children with disabilities are getting Therapy (Physio, Occupational, Speech and language therapies), medical care and nutrition support to enable them to achieve their health outcomes.

## Meet Elisha

Elisha is one of the top celebrities in the Drop-in centre in Lungujja. Whenever he is in the house there is a lot of laughter because of his funny conversations and singing skills.

The team is sad to see him go, but also happy to send him on his way to greater things since his work at Mukisa is done for now! He was born with hydrocephalus which caused him to have a head larger than his body, make it impossible for him to sit, stand or walk independently.

Last year (2022) in July, he was brought to the centre after his operation at Cure hospital. At 3 years, he was unable to do anything independently, but with both physio and occupational therapy, he made so much progress very quickly that he can now sit, stand and walk independently for long distances.

Although not happy to see him go, everyone is proud of him and cheering him on as he plans to join school next year!



# Education

A total of 336 children with disabilities were reached this year, 85 of these attend Mukisa school; 22 in the catch-up class, 63 in vocational class ( 43 at Mukisa Inclusive Village and 20 at Mukisa Centre), while 251 attend 5 Kampala capital city inclusive and special schools that benefited from the distribution of 8 wheelchairs, 35 tables, 35 chairs, 1 standing frame, 2 therapy mats and 166 assorted play and learning materials

## Parents' meetings:

We had parent meetings, these are termed engagements with parents/ caretakers where we discuss the children's progress, performance and challenges. During these meetings that happen once a term, we inform parents about the ongoing school activities and open discussions about taking care of our learners, behaviour challenges and child protection policies. We then invite them to tour classes and hold one-on-one discussions with the children's teachers and therapists.

## Siblings Days:

To celebrate Siblings' Day, we organized an event on the 8th of September for the brothers, sisters and any other child involved in raising children with disabilities aged between 4 and 17. These days provide educational activities that promote understanding, tolerance, empathy, as well as methods of coping with the challenges faced by them on a daily basis. The end result was to empower siblings to be supportive, advocate and care better for their siblings with Disabilities. We provided a comprehensive program for 149, children 119 and 30 mothers in May and 91, children 81 and 10 parents in September, these were trained in disability management through both oral presentations and practical therapy sessions.

## Home visits

Our teachers conducted home visits in 37 homes, the purpose of conducting home visits is to assess the home environment, social and economic status of the family and their effect on children's education. This helps the teachers to come up with individual strategies that will help enhance the children's performance in school and their general well being.



# Success Stories

## Meet Kevin

Kevin is one of the pupils we reached out to this year. He was born with Spina Bifida, a condition that left him paralyzed from the waist to his feet, and he is unable to feel anything or use his legs at all. Although Kevin enjoys school and has big dreams to become an engineer when he grows up, he was finding it very difficult to keep up with school life and the commute to and from home that his guardian was considering putting him out of school.

His wheelchair was not only too large, but it was also very old and bulky, totally inappropriate for him, he spent most time crawling which led to large pressure sores on his legs which failed to heal because Kevin lacked sensation in his legs and therefore does not feel the wounds as they develop, or when they increase in size.

Kevin received a new appropriate chair through this program which has given him a lot of independence as he can now wheel himself anywhere, participate in any activity with his peers and move around safely. He was very excited when he got his chair and he promised to invite the therapist who fitted him in the chair to his graduation as an engineer!



# Family Empowerment

Through our social and economic empowerment programs, families can understand their child's condition, receive support from fellow parents or siblings through the support groups, learn, start or grow already existing businesses, become able to take care of their family's basic needs and save and plan for the future.

543 parents benefited from our training workshops and seminars throughout the year.

## Home Visits

175 home visits by social workers to follow up and find out the social and economic status of the families living with children with disabilities. Through this exercise, we identified several children and families that need.

We also delivered condolence messages to 31 families that lost their children.

## Pampering Day

On the 29th of June, we celebrated the strength and resilience of all mothers by throwing a special event "Pampering Day" as we do every year. We treated 117 mothers to makeovers that included makeup, massage and new attire. They also enjoyed meals and music.

The treatment was an appreciation for their hard work in caring for their children with disabilities but also to encourage unity among women in the celebration of motherhood.

## Fathers' Breakfast meeting

On the 17th of July, we treated our fathers to a breakfast meeting as a way of engaging them and reminding them of their roles as parents of children with disabilities. The meeting was attended by 34 fathers and they asked questions, shared experiences, and concerns throughout the session.

Taata Aaron a father of three children with muscular dystrophy- was honoured with a hero's award and two million shillings for all his efforts in taking care of his children. He uses the money to restore his business.



# Winner, Mukisa Heroes Award

## Meet Johnson Tumusiime

Tumusiime Johnson (Taata Aaron) received the first ever Mukisa Heroes Award. He is one of our fathers who is the primary carer for his three children with disabilities. This dad lives alone with these children (while his wife is taking care of the rest of the family in a village about 280km from Kampala) and is responsible for the daily feeding, dressing, and carrying as well as running a small charcoal business to help provide for the family. Mr Tumusiime is an ambassador who encourages fellow fathers to stick with their families no matter what as the mothers are not to blame for what happened to their children.

In a generation where families break easily, he has shown that it is possible to honour your commitment to your wife and children against all odds and therefore more than deserves this award. This award was sponsored and presented by a team from Partners for Equity who were visiting us from Australia and New Zealand. We thank them for making this day super special.



# Success Stories

## Meet Percy Nantongo

Nantongo Percy (Maama Angel), is a single mother with two daughters, aged 5 and 2 years old.

She joined Mukisa in the year 2023 when she brought in her daughter Namutebi Angel who is living with Autism.

After the loss of their husband, Percy got a job as a housemaid and luckily her employer understands Angel's condition and often gives her time off to bring her for therapy.

Percy joined the Kwagalana Saving Group, a parent savings and support group where she saves part of her salary and uses the difference to meet her daughters' basic needs.



We are glad to report that Percy acquired a piece of land in Buloba out of her savings and hopes that she will use the next savings to start building their dream home.

Maama Angel's story serves as an inspiration for other members of the savings group who now see first-hand how regular contributions can lead to significant financial gains over time. The group has become even more motivated towards its goal of achieving financial stability and security.



# Capacity Building

We reached 340 teachers and community leaders in Kampala, Wakiso and Kanungu with training on early identification and screening of Children with Disabilities, classroom strategy and behavior management.

## Community Dialogue:

We held a community dialogue with our local leaders in Rubaga Division and Village Health Teams from Wakiso on Child Protection. The dialogue was led by the Child Protection Officer, Rubaga Division who guided on topics of discussion among which was to strengthen links with the local actors and stakeholders by initiating and sustaining dialogue to receive support in managing child protection cases, spread knowledge on Child protection on a wide scale and build trust and long lasting relationships among wider communities and avoid unnecessary grievances and reduce the potential for community conflict.

## Teachers' Training

Our teachers graduated with certificates in Transformational Teacher Training that took place at Dawn Children's Centre.

The team went through a transformational Teacher Training with modules on World View, Philosophy of Christian Education and Methodology that was aimed at helping teachers be effective Christian Education Teachers to ;

- Equip them with skills in communicating biblical truth within the classroom setting
- Equip teachers with knowledge and skills for evaluating the past and present teaching methods according to Christian Philosophy of Education
- Strengthen Christian Faith and recognise the importance of their calling as Christian teachers

We are glad that our teachers can gladly incorporate this transformational teaching into their daily curriculum which gives learners a chance to give their views and ideas about different topics hence improving the methodology of teaching learners.



# Success Stories

## Meet our apprentice Jane Nakawesi

Meet our apprentice Jane Nakawesi aged twenty-one years (21) and a second born of three children. Besides, she is a mother of two boys who are five and 2 years old. In her early childhood, Jane enjoyed swinging, one day while on a swing, she fell off and got a fracture which affected her normal mobility to date.



Jane joined Mukisa Inclusive Village in January of 2022 to fulfil her interest in tailoring skills. Although she did not advance with her studies due to a lack of school fees, Jane is smart and determined to succeed lady.

This was witnessed during her tailoring skills training period at the centre where her performance was extraordinary. She graduated with a certificate and also was hired at the centre as an apprentice to the post of assistant tailoring trainer.

More so, she trained in literacy and numeracy and art and crafts.

Jane is grateful to the Mukisa Foundation for all the opportunities and support rendered to her. "I have not lacked any coin of money in my house since I joined Mukisa Foundation, my children are happy and the people on the island are so proud of me," Jane says.

Jane names herself a success and she lives to inspire other girls on the island that the past is gone and the present matters most. She has a dream to work hard for her children so they can have a full education and become the best in their lives.

We look forward to empowering more families of children with disabilities and young adults like Jane so they can live lives to their full potential.



# Advocacy & Awareness

## Stakeholders' meeting :

The stakeholders' meeting was held to draw strategies for high level advocacy and policy formulation. The stakeholders through our forum, Special Children's Forum then suggested the next steps of Building strong Networks, Resource mobilisation, Training and shared learning, Access to quality services, Access to Employment and Access to justice.

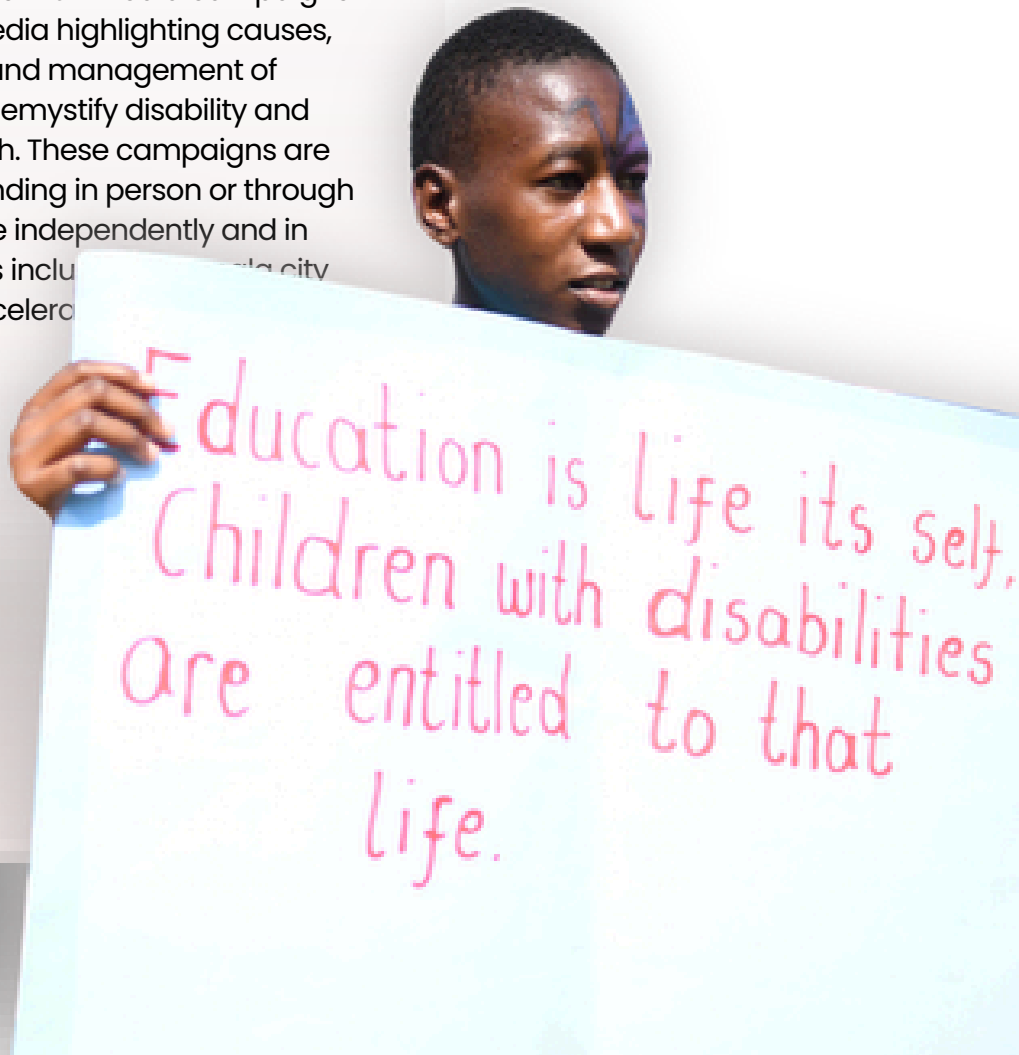
## Disability awareness campaigns :

We have been running disability awareness seminars and workshops for community leaders, teachers, medical and community health workers as well as multimedia campaigns on Radios, Televisions and social media highlighting causes, prevention, available interventions and management of different disabilities. This is helping demystify disability and prevent and improve people's health. These campaigns are targeting thousands of people attending in person or through media views. These have been done independently and in partnership with other organizations including the city authority and the Local coalition accelerator.

## Disability Resource Guide.

Mukisa in collaboration with the special children's trust and the Local coalition accelerator was able to create the first ever online service directory <https://disabilityresourceguide.net/>. This has been piloted in the four districts but hope to increase it to reach the entire country by the end of 2024.

[take a look at the disability guide](https://disabilityresourceguide.net/)



# Berakhah Medical Centre

The Medical Centre offers a client centered approach to primary healthcare and specialized services. Our special passion is maternal and child health with emphasis on the prevention of infant and maternal mortality, early screening, intervention solution and prevention of disability amongst children. We purpose to walk with the young woman of reproductive age, through conception, pregnancy, childbirth, postnatal services all the way till the child is two years old.

Throughout the year, we reached 1,154 clients with our medical interventions.

## Meet Monica Tumukunde :

She is a single mother of 4 children that is to say 2 girls and 2 boys. The father died making her start single handedly taking care of the children including one with a disability.

During the medical camp at Mukisa Centre, where we reached out to both children and caretakers, we reached out to Monica who was diagnosed with a cyst in her uterus. She further went to Bombo military hospital where they confirmed that the cyst was growing, and the pain had intensified. she was put onto a 2 years waiting list for an operation. We intervened and had Monica operated on, the surgery was successful.

Monica is more than grateful for a second chance to live and help rendered towards her health. She had lost all hope of getting the surgery, but Mukisa stepped in and brought her back on her feet which will enable her take care of her children. she only returned to hospital for reviews but otherwise steadily healing well.



# Networks and Collaborations

## Local Coalition Accelerator :

Mukisa Foundation is very intentional about expanding its networks for growth, service and learning through partnerships with other organisations. Currently, Mukisa is part of the Local coalition accelerator which is a 14-member organisation group that works on joint action plans to ensure equitable access to services amongst marginalized groups in the Kampala Metropolitan area which includes Kampala, Mukono, and Wakiso Districts.

Mukisa is the disability technical lead of the group providing training, strategic direction and implementation of services towards children with disabilities and training of member organisations and their stakeholders in issues concerning disability. During this current joint action plan, Mukisa Foundation was charged with the duty of assessing and equipping inclusive schools with learning materials, furniture and assistive devices.

## Africa Disability Collaboration :

Also at an international level, the Mukisa Foundation is part of the Africa Disability Collaboration (ADC) which has member organizations from Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

The ADC organised and executed two well attended events in both Kenya and Uganda this year including the Disability Awareness Day in Fortportal and the African Summit for Early Childhood Care and Education in Nairobi which brought together over 600 people from many African countries and beyond.



# Organisation Update

## Challenges

- Due to the increased cost and changes in the government pay scale, there has been a demand for salary increases for all staff, especially medical workers.
- Loss of funding: The Children At Risk Action Network( CRANE) which has been partially funding our education program and providing transport for the school children will not be able to continue these services due to budget cuts from their funders. Over 80% of the children in our schools are dependent on this transport which will have a significant impact on enrollment, attendance and retention.
- The Karamoja outreach was unable to start as planned due to several challenges with the local partners.

## Successes



# Organisation Update

## Program Update

## Future Outlook

1. Build and equip an operations theatre, maternity, and in-patient rooms at Berakhah Medical Centre.
2. To expand our services to reach more children through additional school partnerships in Kampala district and two more outreach programs in western and Northern Uganda.
3. Expand the operations of the mobility hub to fabricate more devices and link with other international service providers to get more high quality and appropriate devices for our beneficiaries.

# Governance



Peter Galibwa  
**Chairperson**



Daphne.S. Byonabye  
**Secretary**



Nantume Lydia  
**Parent's Representative**



Jeremiah Kungu Mwavu  
**Member**



Alexandra Buecker  
**Member**



Sonja Schulze Dieckhoff  
**Member**



Florence Namaganda  
**Founding Member and Executive Director**

# Thank you!

Thank you to all of our wonderful partners for your generous support towards this vision of children with disabilities thriving in strong, resourceful, and resilient families. We are forever grateful !!!





*...hope for children  
with special needs.*

**MUKISA FOUNDATION**

# Stay Connected

**Phone**

**+256 772 353 020 / +256 705 445 565**



**Email**

**info@mukisafoundation.org**



**Website**

**www.mukisafoundation.org**



**Address**

**ZONE 3, Kalema Road, Lunguja**

