

Kyanninga Child Development Centre



Reimagining the
futures of children
with disabilities



Our Story

By implementing a multisectoral, holistic approach that includes healthcare, rehabilitation, education, and social inclusion, Kyaninga Child Development Centre (KCDC) has revolutionised the care of Children with Disabilities (CwDs) in Uganda over the past nine years and gained national recognition. An estimated 13% (2.5 million) of children in Uganda have a disability, with limited access to healthcare and rehabilitation, which puts a strain on families financially and widespread stigma makes them reluctant to ask for assistance.



Our founders' personal experience, whose son Sidney was born with severe epilepsy and developmental delay, served as the inspiration for everything that has been achieved so far. After struggling to find any appropriate care in Uganda, they felt compelled to act – not just for Sidney but for families in similar situations, often shunned because of widespread beliefs that disability is contagious or caused by witchcraft, and who were in urgent need of help. Together with paediatric physiotherapist Fiona Beckerlegge, they founded the Kyaninga Child Development Centre in 2014. To ensure that these children are no longer neglected and can reach their full potential, KCDC's holistic approach generates solutions at multiple levels.

KCDC Areas of Support

**ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT**

**INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION**

**ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY**

**THERAPY
& REHABILITATION**

**DISABILITY ADVOCACY
& AWARENESS**

Child Centred Provision





Therapy and Rehabilitation

Our mission

Serving more than 1,000 km² of rural western Uganda, KCDC promotes functional independence, family strengthening, primary school enrollment, and a 25% improvement in quality of life (PEDSQL).

Amidst adversity, KCDC shines as a beacon of hope, providing vital services to children with diverse disabilities. Their transformative work challenges misconceptions and empowers lives, demonstrating the power of compassion and dedicated support.

\$26 gives hope, health and happiness

It provides holistic, multi-disciplinary community rehabilitation for a child with disabilities in Uganda to help them and their families access education healthcare and social inclusion.

Reaching the community

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is an empowering community development strategy launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) to uplift the lives of individuals with disabilities (PWDs) within their own communities. Over the past 9 years, KCDC has been dedicated to implementing CBR across 7 districts, forming impactful partnerships with 25 local health centres. Through monthly clinics, KCDC has significantly improved accessibility and community engagement.

KCDC has forged strong relationships with individual family members, communities, local health centres, schools, and district governments. Our work in delivering CBR has brought positive transformations, ensuring that persons with disabilities are fully integrated into their communities, living fulfilling and enriched lives.



How you can help:

\$2,000

gives 3 children therapy for 1 year, including assistive devices

\$100

pays for 5 individual therapy sessions

\$25

buys a gardening starter pack for a child with malnutrition

Our impact so far...

- Total number of children seen - **6,500**
- Total therapy sessions - **58,544**
- **25%** increase in caregiver Quality of Life following programme engagement
- **1247** caregivers have completed Street Business School training and are now more financially secure
- **600** children supported through the community epilepsy clinic, attaining 60% improvement in seizure management
- **685** teacher trained in engaging and inclusive teacher strategies
- **63** Educational advisors trained in Excellence and Inclusion programme
- **150** undergraduate trainee teachers completed Disability Awareness Training
- **45,780** children impacted by engaging and inclusive teaching methods
- **15%** increase in enrollment and retention of children with special educational needs and disabilities
- **50%** increase in positive attitudes and expectations of parents of children with disabilities

Together we can change the future

Within 3 years we will:

- Construct a Disability Centre of Excellence
- Support 3,000 additional children through community-based rehabilitation
- Build a specialist school to provide education for children with disabilities
- Give 1,000 caregivers financial security through Street Business School
- Complete the Kyaninga Mobility workshop building
- Produce 300 wheelchairs and adaptive aids

Kyaninga Inclusive Education Hub was born in 2020 to address the alarming reality that only 9% of Ugandan CWDs attend primary school. While the two year ‘Excellence and Inclusion’ modular programme trains headteachers and teachers to become the trainers and leaders of inclusive education; the Education Hub’s community outreach team overcomes negative attitudes towards disability and helps individual children with disability (CwD) gain access to classroom learning. Coaching and mentoring is then provided to teachers to ensure these children participate in meaningful learning appropriate to their needs.

An integral aspect of The Education Hub is Kyaninga Inclusive Model School (KIMS) which provides children with complex and profound disabilities, once deemed ‘unteachable’, the chance to learn alongside children without disability in an inclusive environment. Crucially KIMS is a Teacher Training School delivering a sustainable solution by providing the training ground for local Ugandan teachers to become experts in Special Educational Needs.



Miracle’s story

Miracle is an example of one of the children at KIMS. She was born with Spina Bifida and her parents were told she was ‘unsuitable’ for school. Miracle was left to sit by herself, day after day, with little stimulation or engagement with the world around her. When Miracle was told she could join KIMS, her face lit up with a brilliant smile. She knew that this would change her life and her chances of happiness. With its inclusive ethos, KIMS is perfect for Miracle. However, many KIMS children like Miracle live in poverty and have no means of paying for her education.



How you can help:

\$1,500

trains 20 teachers to be more inclusive, improving outcomes

\$100

per month to pay for a child with disability to attend KIMS

\$25

buys a school starter pack for a child with disability

Making the everyday possible

Established as the Assistive Technology arm of Kyaninga Child Development Centre (KCDC) in 2020, Kyaninga Mobility is a not-for-profit initiative set up to manufacture and supply locally produced and adapted wheelchairs and other mobility equipment to KCDC and the wider Ugandan and East African markets.



Our three central goals are to:

- Produce wheelchairs, mobility equipment and prosthetics for current KCDC clients
- Create an additional revenue source for KCDC by supplying mobility equipment for the East African market
- Provide a source of employment for an underdeveloped market and employ people with disabilities



“For most of us, technology makes things easier. For people living with disabilities, it makes things possible...”

How you can help:

\$60

produces a standing frame from locally available materials

\$450

buys a locally made and terrain appropriate wheelchair

\$100

supports an engineering apprenticeship for a young person with a disability



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Help us change the
futures of children with
disabilities in Uganda...