

CUCMUK UK Newsletter March 2021

(Church of Uganda Children's Ministry (U.K))

I was disappointed that because of Covid I was unable to spend time in Uganda this year, but am thrilled that the Church of Uganda still sees the work of Children's Ministry as a priority.

In Uganda today, youth and children outnumber adults. 49% under 15 years, 56% under 18 years.

- 11.3% are orphans, 8% vulnerable, 43% moderate
- 62% children living under poverty
- 1 of 19 children dies before his/her first birthday
- 33% of children under 5 years are stunted
- 37% of children make it to Secondary School
- 20% of females and 13% males over 6 years have never had formal education.
- 70% drop out in primary school and the main causes for girls are early marriage/ pregnancy

Source : National Action Plan for Children Well-Being 2016-2021



This last year has been a very difficult time in Uganda as schools and churches remained closed for most of the year and so children have been at home. Poverty has increased with many families having little food and minimal survival means. There has been an increase in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, child marriages, child labour and neglect have all become an enormous challenge.

However Children's Ministry work has continued:

In April, Children's Ministry became involved in the national radio and ministry, broadcasting a series on how to encourage children and young people to thrive despite the challenges of COVID 19. These sessions have been accepted with tremendous support and the message has been well received.



Another important initiative has been the publication of the Positive Parenting manual, that was launched in October by Archbishop Stephen Kaziimbi.



Bishop Paul Masaba Launching Positive Parenting in Sebei Diocese



Bishop Paul Naimanhye Launching Positive Parenting in Busoga Diocese

Through the support of CUCMUK, Children's Ministry has been able to reprint copies of the SMART Schools and Chaplaincy manuals so that all participants training at Diocese level are able to have a copy. Training sessions have continued to be held in many dioceses for clergy, teachers and parents, prioritising safeguarding and protection of children in Uganda.

So the church has continued to remain a voice of hope amidst this despair and continues to engage with other stakeholders to build a safer society safe for children and young people and their future.

We need to continue give them sufficient attention by transforming them in all areas of life, and thank God for all the blessings of life.



Head teachers gathering for the Church of Uganda Heads' conference in February 2021



Training the trainers for Positive Parenting



SMART Schools Initiative with Children and Teachers in Kigezi Diocese



Family Life

Richard and Grace and their three children Joshua 11, Joel 8, and Jonathan 18 months, have remained safe. They have especially enjoyed their family prayer and worship times which is live streamed every Sunday for 40 minutes, allowing friends to join from around the country; Joshua leads the music and Joel plays the piano!



Please pray as Children's Ministry continues to aim to:

- Train and equip teachers, leaders and parents in churches, schools with knowledge and skills for teaching young people for Christian holistic living.
- Train chaplains and School ministry teams and promote child friendly school environments
- Set policy guidelines and publish curriculum for children's ministry use in churches, schools and homes.
- Raise resources and work hand in hand with government agencies, non government organisations and local communities on matters that concern the welfare of children, and the youth.

Thank you for your continued support for CUCMUK

God bless

Rosie

Chair of CUCMUK