



Annual Report 2024

As we close the year 2024, LWERUDES0 pays gratitude to our development partners Lwengo Kids Foundation who largely donated funds that were directed towards LWERUDES0 annex, vulnerable children's home, dental chair, staff quarters, school pavers, school compound, school renovation, school gate, school furniture, computer installation, Easter, IDDI and Christmas packages for sponsored children, package for Mulema Fred, Ssempebwa Henry and Namuyiga Florence and others which are still ongoing. We thank Pieter and Marga for making this happen through Lwengo Kids Foundation.

A lot of money spent was realized from sponsorship and donations and this was used for a number of activities in health, education and child wellbeing and we have continued to realize community transformation and improved livelihood in the community we serve.

Gratitude is also extended to C&U, DOOINGOOD, PEACECORPS, EWB, and NEU-USA, volunteers, staff and community for their commitment and Lwengo District Local Government who provided continuous guidance and support to us.

This year the organization has performed well in different sectors.



### **THE SCHOOL PROJECT.**

This academic year closed with 570 pupils from special needs class, Nursery to primary seven.

38 candidates completed primary seven while 89 Top class pupils were successfully promoted to primary level.

Our school has a well-trained and qualified staff to equip children with the required knowledge for a better future. The school provides quality education for all children regardless of their origin or religious background.

The school has put up a strong gate for security, paved compound for hygiene, well painted classrooms for a convenient learning environment of pupils.

The school has safe dormitories to cater for boys and girls from distant places to stay at school during school time.

The school grooms children in basic computer skills right away from primary four to primary seven to prepare them for the advancing globe.

### **Special needs children**

In a long time in Lwengo still no much attention has been given to children with disabilities however, this year LWERUDES0 has put more effort on such children to enable them access equitable education and in this we have constructed an annex to cater for 50 deaf children and 50 children with various disabilities starting the year 2025.

During December, a team from school carried out mobilization and many children with disabilities were found in the community, and we believe they will benefit from this project.

### **Vocational/co-curricular skill development**



The school has continued to develop vocational skills amongst children to enable them develop their natural talents in addition to current education system that provides for more class work than practical duties. This year, children practiced craft work like making local hats, table mats and bracelets. These were exhibited on speech day to encourage parents work with the school to develop children's talents.

This year we conducted inter-house MDD and sports competitions and all children participated in this exercise. Again Houses involved were Rotterdam, Utrecht, Gent and Amsterdam and Rotterdam emerged as the winner in sports while Utrecht was the winner in MDD.

### **Agriculture**

Children are equipped with basic agriculture skills like crop growing, poultry and animal rearing to enable them fit in their home societies while not at school.

The children also learn how to use little space to practice modern farming for

great results. These projects at school are successful for instance the dairy project has provided 40 liters of milk (one cow) which is served to children in porridge for better nutrition. The animals delivered in November 2024 but one animal died leaving a young one.

### **Gardening**

This year we have grown matooke, Cassava, maize and beans. We harvested 20 bunches of matooke, 37 sacks of cassava, 739 kgs of maize and 953 kgs of beans.

### **SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

The number of vulnerable children being sponsored for education has risen to 257.

All primary seven candidates under sponsorship last year (2023) were enrolled to secondary one. We had 20 of them 6 first grade), 14(second grade), and all went for secondary level.

### **Child monitoring**

This year, sponsors Pieter and Marga monitored sponsored children twice and had a successful program and they visited children at school and others in their homes. It was unfortunate that in the midst of the program, Marga fell sick and needed medical attention. It is good that she recovered gradually from the sickness.

**Under this program, this year we have a number of beneficiaries who had stories to tell.**

- 1. Namuyiga Florence.** She completed senior four in 2023, however, she could not continue because she was already pregnant. The project stood in for her and facilitated all her needs, looked after the baby and now she will join seamstress course at st.Kizito technical in Masaka next year 2025.
- 2. Ssempebwa Henry.** A product of special needs class completed leather works course and this year the project has availed funds to get him a startup tool kit to enable him practice what he learnt and also earn a living.
- 3. Katongole Ronald.** He completed senior four 2023 and joined his dream course of electrical installation at st.Kizito technical college where he has completed the first year.
- 4. Najjoba Esther.** She completed senior four 2023 and joined nursing where she has completed her first year.
- 5. Mberenge Marvin.** After senior four he joined journalism where he has completed his first year. Great thanks to Lwengo Kids foundation who went ahead to purchase all the required items like a camera, smartphone

and necessary accessories for Marvin. A lot of money was spent to enable Marvin achieve his dream.

- 6. Mulema Fred** is currently employed at LWERUDES health Centre and earns a living to sustain his family. Soon he will be joining school to upgrade his studies still under sponsorship program. Lwengo Kid's Foundation has gone ahead to provide funds to support him construct a house for his father who has no home of his own.
- 7. Lwere Hussein.** He is a product of special needs class and by 2023 he was being prepared for his exit. This year he was provided with a dairy cow which he looks after while at home. The cow produced and now the family gets milk for home consumption. We believe in future they will be able to sell the milk and earn an income.

### **Primary seven /S.4 candidates**

This year 17 candidates under sponsorship program completed primary seven and wait for their results to get ready for secondary education and 7 students completed s.4 and await for their results. S.4 results will determine where these candidates will go for further education.

### **Festive packages.**

Every year we are blessed that Lwengo kids Foundation provides funds to support the vulnerable community celebrate festive seasons through LWERUDES.

#### **a. Easter/IDDI**

This year we are once again grateful to Lwengo kid's foundation for providing Christians funds to celebrate Easter and Muslims to celebrate IDDI. We were able to purchase cows and rice for the beneficiaries and the moment was remarkable.

#### **b. Christmas package**

This year every sponsored child and over 30 working staff received a hen and rice to celebrate Christmas.

### **VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.**

This year we have been blessed to have a team of 6 Dutch interns as social workers and nurses for a great memorable period of 10 weeks.

The purpose of this internship was to provide hands on experience in our social and clinical setting in relation to the interns' education and foster cultural integration.

### **a. Participation at school.**

- At LWERUDES primary school, all interns participated in educative sports with the children from lower to upper classes. They participated in different games like football, races and this was a way of uplifting their talents.
- They participated in teaching children personal hygiene like brushing their teeth, washing their hands, cleaning their clothes, bathing.
- They assisted the administrator with organizing the school store.
- The interns engaged in teaching Nakyenya secondary school students about dangers of teenage pregnancy, proper use of family planning, STDs and STI management.
- Interns participated in art and craft lessons with special needs children and managed to make baskets, and local mats with them.



- Great appreciation to the interns for the kind heart for the special needs children and providing for them with items like wheel chair for Rihanna, school uniforms, the speaker for audio learning, school bags, food and water containers, tooth brushes and tooth paste. This gives more hope to them and their families.



## **Participation in community home visits**

We visited a number of individual homes and the focus was on the families with special needs children.

Within the homes, interns freely participated in home-based activities like sitting on local mats, peeling local food (matooke), cleaning homes, fetching water with family members, it was a very exciting experience to people in the community.



With the use of local materials two dish racks were constructed in the community and a kitchen was built in one of the special needs child in the community with.



At Rihanna's home, interns participated in making a local bee hive with local materials. This is one of local income generating activities in homes. Rihanna is a physically disabled but a very happy girl at our school.



With support from the medical staff at Lwerudeso health Centre, interns organized very good topics to share with women's groups in the community.

With the women's groups, interns learnt how to make local mats, local baskets using local materials and hands. They also supported women by buying their items.



In the community, interns also participated in environmental conservation activities like building wood saving stoves in various homes.



## **The Medical interns**

The interns practiced in LWERUDES health Centre and Lwengo health Centre IV and worked in various departments including Medical wards, Maternity wards, surgical wards, OPD (Outpatient Patient Department). Within these departments, interns;



- Were assisted with procedures like vital signs
- Engaged in patient education
- Observed maternity and surgical procedures
- Surgical tool sterilization
- Dump dusting
- Participated in system development for proper entry of patient's medical data.

- Conducted health talks in local schools and communities promoting health awareness and education.

Through this experience, the interns demonstrated compassion and commitment to community service, gained insight on social determinants of health.

## **General community health.**

Great thanks to the interns who did a tremendous work by donating items for promoting clean and safe water for drinking. These were jerry cans and soap for 55 identified vulnerable families. Interns went on ground to distribute these items and had an insight on how people live and how happy they were while giving out the items.



## Items bought for distribution

## Distribution team



Great thanks to ROC College for allowing the interns to come to Uganda for the 10 weeks internship period and the interns for the resilience, patience, commitment and the love for our community that has grown and we pray it grows forever.

### **The Health Center Project.**

The health Centre has this year made it to its fourth year since 2020 and a number of activities have taken place this year.

This year we carried out four outreaches which took place at four different places that is Nakiyaga, Kawoko , Lwengo and Nyenje. In these outreaches we tested and treated people in the community at low costs with the aim of providing basic treatment to people and marketing the health facility as well.

We received the dental chair in September and it was successfully installed with all its accessories, then it begun working in December with the dentist.

Dental services like tooth extraction, scaling, and root canal and cementing /filling are provided in the dental unit at the facility.

We received a slide warmer in the laboratory this year and this has reduced the time for drying the blood smear for tests.

The maternity ward was opened in February this year and we started having successful deliveries and clean environment hence having health babies without birth injuries.

We labelled the whole facility starting from the outpatient department to the inpatient department for easy identification of each department. This provides convenience to the facility staff and patient.

Tap stands were constructed this year, they enable proper supply and supervision of water to the facility and the community at large.

The GSK system was introduced to properly manage the facility drugs and finances, we use it to monitor drugs and financial flow at the facility.

The immunization section, we get vaccines from the government facility (LWENGO health center) and safely keep them in the facility fridge then immunize the babies and children.

### **UWEZO learning assessment**

#### **Volunteer Training**

The assessment started on 29/7/2024 when volunteers from the 15 Enumeration areas (EAs) reported for training. This training took place for three days and was carried out at LWERUDES health center. This was after a refresher training for the District Coordinator (DC) and the Village Coordinator (VC) which was facilitated by a trainer from UWEZO.

30 volunteers attended the training and was successful.

The training was facilitated by Azam Mulikiriza a representative from UWEZO, Jjuuko Anthony, the Executive Director LWERUDES, Tuham Francis the DC and Bwanika Douglas the VC.

#### **Meals and accommodation**

The meals were sufficient and delicious from day one to the last day.

Due to the fact in Nakyenzi there are no provisions for accommodation, volunteers were accommodated at unique guesthouses in Mbirizi town.

#### **Actual assessment**

The assessment started on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 and ended on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in 15 selected enumeration areas in Lwengo district.

A number of schools were visited with questionnaires prepared by UWEZO and these were to identify what could be the possible challenges why children are not learning properly.



300 households were visited and children of ages 4-16 years were assessed in Mathematics and English. This was primary two class work prepared to assess the competence of children.



The assessment was a successful one as the Executive Director facilitated all activities and steps until the end of the assessment.

The volunteers, the VC, the DC did their roles tirelessly to accomplish the assessment.

The assessment tool was easy to adopt and learn by the volunteers and the supervisors.

Most volunteers were provided with motor cycles ( boda boda) to go to the field for assessment. This mostly applied to volunteers from Nakyenya to distant EAs. Volunteers with their own motor cycles were provided with fuel.

### **Challenges.**

The selected enumeration areas were distantly located and so monitoring was very difficult in the three assessment days.

Volunteers reported opposition from some homes who had been interviewed by census team. However, after a long and clear explanation we were allowed to interview them.

- a. EAs like Kinoni middle zone gave us hard time as the chairperson refused us to assess without a direct notification from the district security team. This was later resolved by DC moving to the district for approval.
- b. Someday it rained and caused delays in accessing the EAs.
- c. Volunteers complained of the little facilitation and so did the chairmen.

### **Recommendations**

- a. For the next assessments, there is need to organize 3 village coordinators to be more efficient in regard to the time always allocated.
- b. Need for at least four days to complete the assessment instead of three.
- c. The organization needs a main hall for such and other major events.

### **Vulnerable children's home.**



The home was inaugurated on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. The Executive Director, the Community Engagement worker, the Administrator, one teacher and some health workers celebrated together with the children.

## **Lwerudeso Annex**



Lwerudeso Primary school annex near completion