



U G A N D A

Hands for Hope



# Annual Report 2016

Ugandan INGO no. 12116 | Supported by LIFT UK Charity no. 1147360  
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We aim to alleviate poverty and facilitate lasting change in the lives of the most vulnerable children and families living in urban slums in Uganda.



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# Introduction from the Founder/Director

The journey of development since our humble beginnings in 2008 is almost unbelievable. We finished 2016 with a vibrant and fun Christmas party for the families and friends of UHfH in our new building which is now home to an additional block of 5 new classrooms.

In 2008 we started with 8 children in a single room and now support over 350 children and their families, most of which attend nursery, primary, secondary or special needs education.

After being lucky enough to purchase our own land, we now host 3 nursery and 5 primary classes within our own school with further construction and development of our new building also continuing at pace.

Our future aim is to provide more school classes in house in order to improve on the quality of education we can offer to the children we support. We also have plans to expand our provision more widely through implementation of vocational training for young people on site. Whilst it is becoming increasingly challenging to find new sponsors, we are hopeful of continuing to obtain new supporters for our work. We look forward to what 2017 has to bring.



***Joseph  
Cummiskey***



# What we do

Uganda Hands for Hope is a registered international non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Namuwongo, Kampala. Our aim is to alleviate poverty and facilitate lasting change in the lives of the most vulnerable children and families living in urban slums in Uganda. This is achieved by providing support through education, health and livelihood programmes as well as for children with special needs.

Our work remains focused on the most vulnerable living in Namuwongo slum and we continue to maintain the personal community involvement that has become the trademark of UHfH. The unique selection/assessment process for children to join our programmes ensures we continue to select those children who are the poorest of the poor and at the lowest levels of the community. Last year we supported approximately 350 children and their families through our different programmes, 292 of which are supported through child sponsorship.

Namuwongo slum is the second largest in Kampala with an estimated 15,000 people living on a floodplain at the bottom of a hill with no sanitation. There is widespread poverty with approximately 90% of the population earning less than one US dollar per day. Over 50% of the population are children. The slum itself is an extremely dangerous place for children: alcoholism is rife, sexual exploitation and prostitution is common and hygiene levels are extremely poor.

# Our Achievements

This year we achieved a significant milestone as we said goodbye to the building where we began as an organisation, and moved all of our operations to our new building, situated on our own land in Muyenga, Kampala. With our increase in scope and impact, the move coincided with upgrading our registration from a community based organisation (CBO) to an international non-governmental organisation (NGO). The new building still remains within walking distance of Namuwongo but will enable us to grow and develop our work over the coming years. We have already begun to do this with renovations of the existing building and construction of a block of 5 new classrooms.

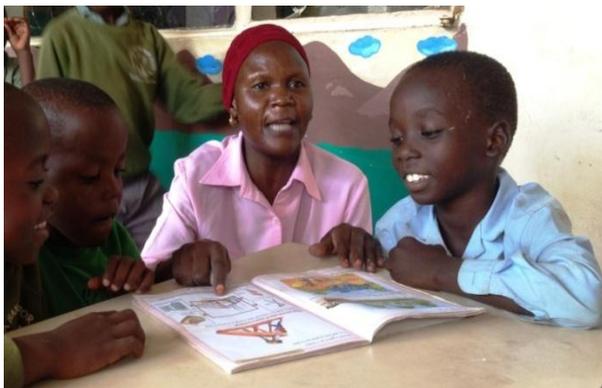
We continued to consolidate our work on improving the lives of those living in Namuwongo. Because of us, more children are going to school, receiving two warm meals per day and basic health care. More women have been socio-economically empowered through small-loans and more young people have been supported to receive basic skills or vocational training. We have also reached out more widely to the whole community through our health club and regular trainings on various topics.



# Project Highlights - Education

In 2016, our education programme has continued to expand in size. All classes are now located on the same site at our new building, with 6 classes from Baby class in Nursery up to P3 in Primary. Our child sponsorship programme included 197 children in primary school, 66 in nursery and 29 in secondary, making a total of 292. In addition, we have continued to support the many children who attend our afternoon programme and special needs classes.

With the support of a long term volunteer, who is a former head teacher from the UK, we have started to track the progress of our students much more closely. Our end of term exam marks are improving and now compare favourably to other local schools. Our library has also increased in popularity with the introduction of a lending scheme for children at our school. In May 2016, we hosted and delivered a child protection training event in conjunction with Crane – a local network of all organisations working with children in Kampala.



# Project Highlights - Health

With the support of our social work team, 2016 saw the launch of Namuwongo Community Health Club. An opening event was held with the local member of Parliament as Guest of Honour and over 100 people in attendance. The health club now runs regular trainings for community members on topics such as malaria, HIV, hygiene and sanitation amongst others.

We have continued to work with 2 local clinics in Namuwongo who act as health partners for children on our programme. Cases successfully treated included burns, malaria, fever, diarrhoea and others. In August, we also ran our annual Health Awareness Day which offered health checks, useful information and other activities for the whole community.



# Project Highlights - Livelihoods

In vocational training, young people attend training and study to learn a relevant skill within a specific occupation that they can use to make a living in the future. Several of our children who were attending vocational training finished in 2016 and have now graduated in the field of hair dressing.

We continued to offer small loans to mothers of child on our programme. However, most mothers struggled to make repayments because of issues at home. This led us to reviewing the loan acceptance criteria later in 2016, introducing the need for a mother to have a guarantor from the parent's council.

The young people on our afternoon programme also continued to make candles which are sold locally at various shops in Kampala to help us raise additional funds.



# Project Highlights – Children with Special Needs

As a result of generous fundraising efforts, our special needs class now has 12 children attending on a daily basis, 6 in the morning session and 6 in the afternoon. We successfully recruited a new special needs teacher who is joined by an assistant teacher and a carer.

This year also saw the continuation of physiotherapy sessions, both for the children in our special needs class but also those who have been identified in the community. The sessions are run by a qualified Ugandan physiotherapist and happen twice a month.



# Project Highlights – Other Activities

In August, our longstanding partner VMM delivering a 2 day capacity building exercise where staff, parents, and parents' council members gathered to brainstorm ideas for the future of the organisation. We also continued to work with existing partner Brass for Africa, who provide our children with the opportunity to learn how to read music and play brass instruments. In December 2016, they donated 20 instruments so that the children can practice regularly in between lessons.

In September 2016, we began our yearlong partnership with Ambrosoli International School in Kampala. Our children visited there in October to perform music and dance, whilst their students visited the community and helped our students with their reading in November.

Throughout the year we also welcomed many volunteers, both for short and long term stays and are grateful for the work, fundraising and awareness raising they have done, both in Uganda and back home.



# Our Team, Supporters and Partners



In 2016 we had the pleasure of working with and being supported by a wide-range of exceptional individuals, organisations and businesses. We would like to thank all of them for their unwavering support.

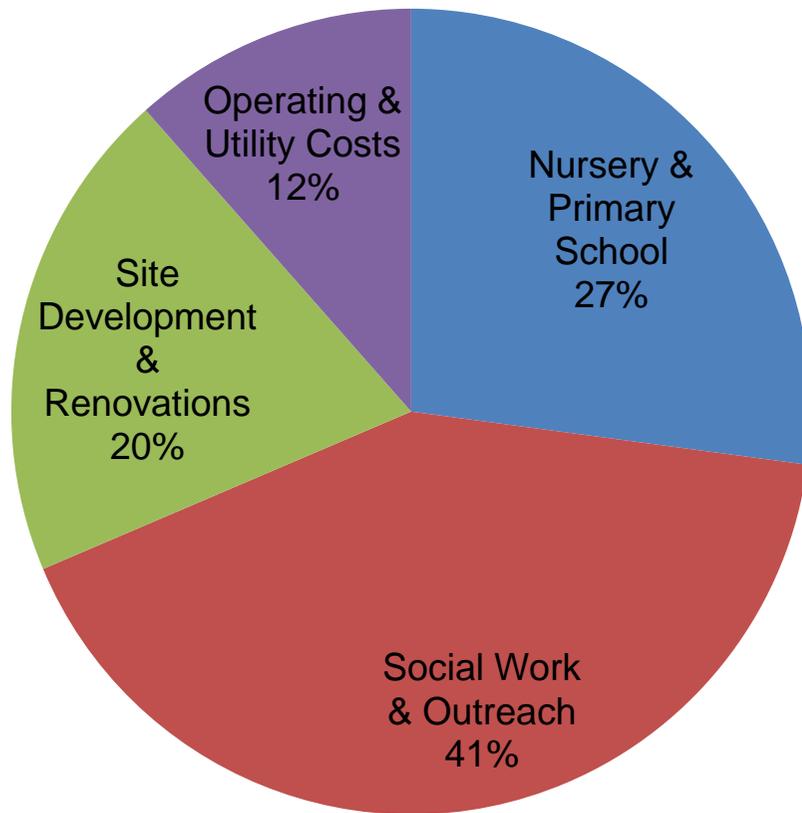
Our thanks also extend to those who continue to pay for child sponsorship or make donations to UHfH. This is the bedrock of our organisation and we are grateful to our many supporters - our work would not be possible without you.

Finally we wish to thank our amazing staff, volunteers and both the UK and Ugandan Boards for their hard work and dedication to UHfH over the last year. Offering a vast range of expertise and a passion for helping the most vulnerable Ugandan children, we are especially grateful for their contribution.

Thank you.

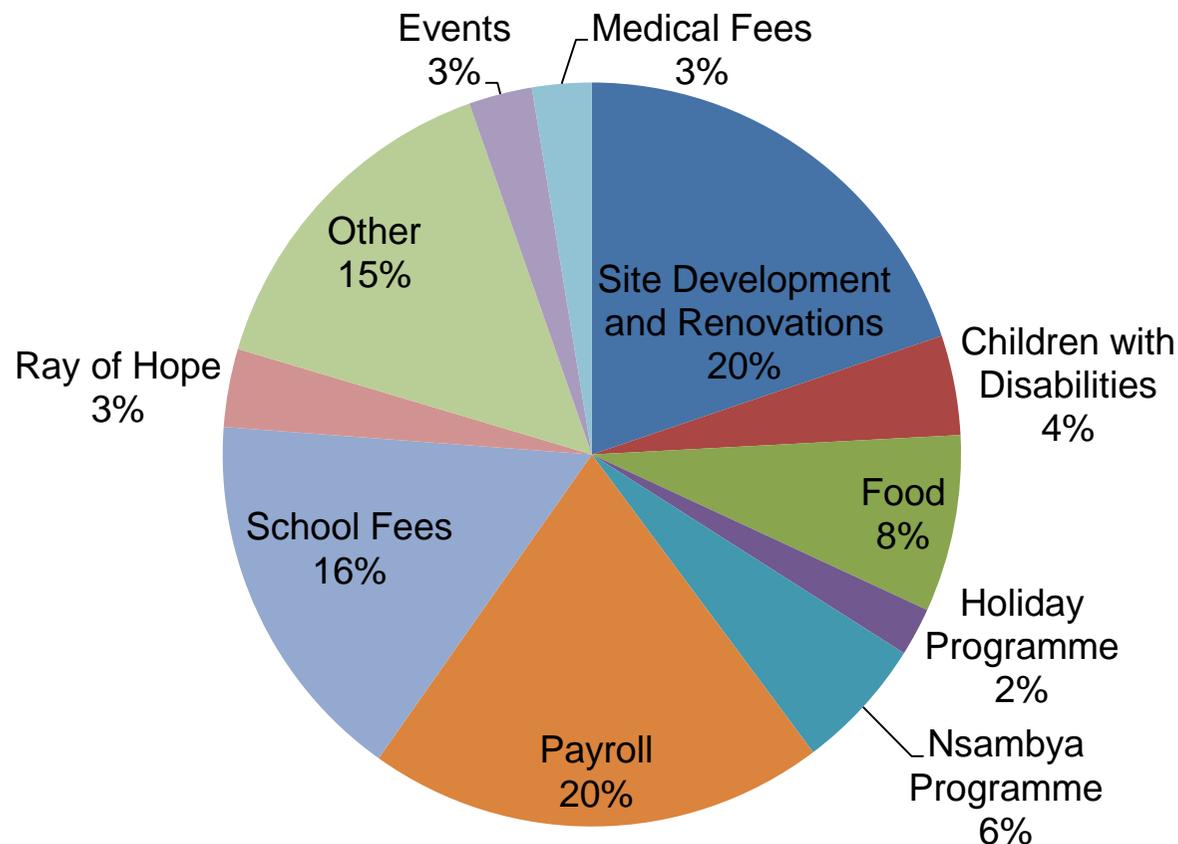
# Financial Overview

Shown below is a summary overview and breakdown of our finances for 2016. Through generous support and fundraising, we are now able to provide jobs for 20 local staff.



## Summary Overview by Department

Nursery & Primary School	UGX 129,238,981.00
Social Work & Outreach	UGX 197,846,231.00
Site Development & Renovations	UGX 94,553,650.00
Operating & Utility Costs	UGX 55,076,246
<b>Total</b>	<b>UGX 476,715,108.00</b>



### Breakdown by Area of Work

Site Development and Renovations	UGX 94,553,650.00	School Fees	UGX 78,095,800.00
Children with Disabilities	UGX 20,644,729.00	Ray of Hope	UGX 16,205,750.00
Food	UGX 36,692,500.00	Other	UGX 71,699,398.00
Holiday Programme	UGX 10,033,100.00	Events	UGX 13,239,955.00
Nsambya Programme	UGX 27,654,300.00	Medical Fees	UGX 12,406,147.00
Payroll	UGX 95,489,779.00		

**Total UGX 476,715,108.00**

# Future Plans

As we have grown as an organisation, so has our reach and our impact on the community of Namuwongo. At the same time, the organisation has stayed small in size and intends to remain as such to maintain the personal community involvement that has become the trademark of UHfH. Now with our own building and the basic groundwork laid, we have our sights set on further growth and consolidation of our own operations as well as the sustainable development of the community we support.

This includes plans to increase local income generation, introducing vocational training in house as well as supporting exit strategies for those children we support who are now finishing their secondary education. We also intend to continue with the development of our new building and land, including additional classrooms and spaces which will allow us to introduce new programmes to further support the community of Namuwongo.

There are many exciting ideas and activities planned for 2017 and we hope you will join us on the journey towards achieving them.





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