



# **The Linda Foundation**

**A child has the right to be a child!**

## **Annual Report 2015**

### **Introduction**

The Linda Foundation (Light in dynamic Africa) is a Christian, not for profit organization with the vision to improve the living standards of the orphans and vulnerable children in Northern Uganda, Africa. Thousands of children have lost their parents there, due to war, HIV/AIDS and other circumstances.

The Linda Foundation works in Lira District.

The team consists of 6 local employees plus the school staff: director, head master, 6 teachers, a cook and a watchman.

The projects of 2015:

1. SOS Programme (Send an Orphan to School)
2. Children's rehabilitation home House of Grace
3. Linda Primary School

We try to help as many children as possible, by providing them with (emergency) shelter, care and education. Whenever possible we reunite the children with their relatives, but sometimes this option isn't there. In Northern Uganda there is often a big gap between generations, mostly because the parents died and the children are raised by the grandparents or other older relatives. Due to the circumstances these people are often faced with looking after many orphans, while also having to look after their own family. Money is just not there to look after everybody. This results in the orphan being neglected, having to work hard, no schooling, not enough food and no love to speak of.



### **1. SOS Programme (Send an Orphan to School)**

This programme runs since 2002 and supports a large group of Orphans and Vulnerable Children, among which the disabled, with education, from Primary to Secondary School, Technical School and University. The programme doesn't just pay school fees, we monitor the children, guide and counsel them, pay

them visits, give them the personal and scholastic requirements, spiritual and medical care.

They live with poor relatives who do not have the means to look after them. If they have nowhere to go, we will accept them in our children's home House of Grace.

In 2015 the numbers were as follows:

Total number of children in S.O.S. programme	144
- of which in Primary School	9
- of which in Secondary or Technical School	16
- of which in University	1
- Living in House of Grace	24
- handicapped	3
- pupils of LindA Primary School	118

This year 3 students sat for their O level exams, (a sort of middle school). After that they can go to A level, where they choose 4 subjects in a permitted combination. That takes 2 years. Then they can proceed to a university or institution of higher learning. After O level they can also join agricultural school, technical school, teacher's college, business school, etc. on a certificate level. This takes normally 1-2 years, after which they can join a diploma course. Everybody wants to go to A level, become a doctor or a lawyer, that brings money. But it is not a bright idea, because many of them simply do not have the qualifications. After 2 years they fail their A level and are back at square 1. In 2011 we have decided to stop supporting students after O level, exceptions notwithstanding. The 4 students that finished their O level in 2014 did however all go to A level. Two boys finished their primary school and are now training for car mechanic at a garage.

There were 2 students who sat for their Primary Leaving Examinations. 2 students sat for O level, 1 student sat for A level in 2015. In 2016 they will get their results and we will see where to take them.

## 2. Children's rehabilitation home House of Grace

In our Children's rehabilitation home House of Grace children are accepted that have nowhere to go. They are either abandoned, orphaned, abused or alone through other causes.

In 2015 24 children found a home there. Most of the children have suffered. Some lived in camps, or on the street. Some have seen their parents killed by rebels, were abused and left to fend for themselves. Some are affected/infected by Aids. Our social worker, patron and matron try to rehabilitate these children. Since they are local people they know what these children have gone through. A stable and secure environment helps these kids to become a child again.



You could say that all these children are psychologically handicapped. 3 physically handicapped children are also there.

Christmas brought many gifts, new clothes and delicious foods. There were new mattresses, beddings, pillows, shoes, school bags, towels and what not. There were nice games also.

**The Uganda Electricity Company** has kept quiet again this year after coming with an offer in 2013 to buy the land they need to put a road across our premises, to install their new poles and high voltage power lines. As if there has been no communication from us through letters, phone calls and visits to their offices since 2010, one has decided to just construct the 5 meter wide road. The road will be their property!



For 12,5 meters on both sides of that road one is not allowed to live, we can grow our maize! What maize? We are talking about a children's home here. The fence will be opened up, so no more security for the children. The houses (dormitories), toilets, showers, fruit trees, etc., everything has to be demolished. And as compensation they are now offering us € 8.400,00. Through our lawyer the matter is still in court. We will wait and see. Of course we cannot agree to this at all. They have to compensate us to relocate.

### 3. Linda Primary School

Just like last year we again participated in the "**day of the African child**", on 30 June this time. It was a great success and we hope to make it into a tradition.

In 2015 there were 118 pupils, 9 from House of Grace and the rest from the community. As the children from House of Grace move on to secondary education, the number of children from House of Grace studying in Linda Primary reduces steadily. But the community at large is very happy with our school.



Since the community has many orphans and is very poor, we are shifting our SOS support to this school and their pupils. That way a whole community is benefitting. The pupils live at home with their relatives. We monitor them as usual.

We managed to build our first 5 class room block made of bricks. A fantastic achievement. The compound is fenced and we have a gate.



P1 and P2 are still in the Romney Shed. We are planning to build brick classrooms for them too next year.

At the end of the school year we have **"Fun Day"**, to have fun at school. Games like bite-the-cake, sack race, high jump; then dancing and singing. At the end there is food and soda's and the reports are being distributed. Even the parents are very enthusiastic.

Regarding our **support and guidance of youth who have finished their education** we have started to assist 4 young men who have been trained as electrician(2) and plumber(2).

They moved from House of Grace to their own home in Lira town, where work is easier to find. There they could learn, under guidance, to look after themselves: cooking food, do the laundry, shopping, etc.



**"Fun Day" at Linda Primary**



**Momojost Enterprises**

Some months later the opportunity arose to start up their own business in Dokolo, a small town 60 km. away.

We took that chance and the name of their business is : **Momojost Enterprises.**

Every Saturday Patrick Opio visits them to guide them, it's looking good.

## Realisation workplan 2015

Description	Realisation
Finance S.O.S. programme	Paid € 19.375
Finance Orphans rehabilitation home House of Grace	Paid € 13.680
Finance Office Lira	Paid € 3.276
Finance miscellaneous	Paid € 5.538
Running of LindA Primary School	Paid € 14.001
Raising funds for a new Primary School (bricks)	Busy with it
Planning and raising funds for the construction of a new House of Grace because of the plans of the Uganda Electricity Company .	This has been put on hold
Capacity building for teachers, social workers and administrative personnel	Not yet
Buying a school bus	Not yet
Buying a pick-up truck	Not yet
Fundraising for a farm and a vocational school on the new land.	Not yet

1 euro = 3500 Ush

## Workplan 2016

Description	Budgetted amount needed
Finance S.O.S. programme	€ 23.000
Finance Orphans rehabilitation home House of Grace	€ 15.286
Finance Office Lira	€ 6.400
Finance miscellaneous	€ 6.086
Running of LindA Primary School	€ 15.029
Raising funds for a new Primary School (bricks) and building it.	€ 50.000
Planning for new land and construction of new House of Grace because of the plans of the Uganda Electricity Company .	€ 300.000
Capacity building for teachers, social workers and administrative personnel	€ 10.000
Buying a schoolbus	€ 80.000
Buying a pick-up truck	€ 40.000
Fundraising for a farm and a vocational school on the new land.	€ 100.000

1 euro = 3500 Ush



We were able to buy **2 motorcycles** this year, for the very needed transportation of our employees.

Also the "total loss" Suzuki could be repaired.

## Concluding

On behalf of the children we would like to extend our greatest gratitude to everybody, people, organizations, businesses and churches, who appreciate what we are doing and support us with funds, time, and fundraising activities.

## **The Linda Foundation** **Care and education for orphans in Northern Uganda**

Legal/formal status	The Linda Foundation is a community based organization, duly registered by the Lira local government in 2003. (registration number L009/03) And in 2014 under registration number LDLG/2014/034 R Also registered by the Ugandan Government as NGO (registration number S.5914/4682). The registered office of the Foundation is situated in Lira town, in the Republic of Uganda.
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