



The LindA Foundation
A child has the right to be a child!

Annual Report 2017

Introduction

The LindA Foundation (Light in dynamic Africa) works in Lira District, Northern Uganda. It is a Christian, not for profit organization with the vision to bring hope and improve the chances in life and living standards of the orphans and vulnerable children. Thousands of children have lost their parents there, due to the atrocities of the "Lord's Resistance Army" (LRA), HIV/AIDS, poverty and limited health facilities.

The team consists of 6 local employees plus the school staff: director, head master, 7 teachers, a cook and a watchman.

The projects of 2017:

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. In Northern Uganda there is often a big gap between generations, mostly because the parents died and the children were raised by the grandparents or other older relatives. 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 orphans being neglected, having to work hard, getting no schooling, not enough food and no significant, highly needed love.

1. SOS Programme (Send an Orphan to School)

This programme started in 2002 and supports a large group of Orphans and Vulnerable Children, among which four disabled, with education, from Primary to Secondary School, Technical School and even 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 educational requirements, plus moral and medical care.

These orphans usually live with poor relatives who do not have the means to take proper care of them.

If they have nowhere else to go, we will accept them in our children's home "House of Grace". However, basically we don't accept new orphans: the community and in particular the relatives should take care of them.

In 2017 the numbers were as follows:

Total number of children in S.O.S. programme	127
- of which in Primary School	11
- of which in Secondary or Technical School	8
- of which in University	6
- Living in House of Grace	20
- handicapped	4
- pupils of LindA Primary School	102

Secondary education in Uganda consists of 4 years O level and 2 years A level. In O level they study 10 subjects, in A level they choose 3 subjects from a given combination + 2 compulsory subjects. Subsequently they go to a university or college. 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.

We do offer technical education though.

The 4 students who did their O level exams in 2014 have all joined A level. In 2016 they passed their exams. In 2017 3 of them joined university and 1 went to college. Of the 3 pupils who sat for primary school exams in 2017, 2 went to secondary school and 1 pupil failed and is repeating P7.

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. Four of them are physically handicapped as well.

In 2017 20 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 and limits the consequences of being "*psychologically handicapped*" for the rest of their lives.

The Ugandan Government has decided that during vacations no children are to be residing in a children's home. One insists that all children go to relatives.

So this year we celebrated Christmas a week early, with the usual gifts, nice food and drinks. Then the children were brought to relatives. This resulted in a drama, but more on that in the report of 2018.

The Uganda Electricity Company has kept quiet again in 2017 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. Since 2010 we sent letters, telephoned and visited them and approached them in various formal and informal ways. Still, they proceeded with the planned construction of the 5 meter wide road, which will be their property.

For 12,5 meters on both sides of that road we are not allowed to live.

Most probably sooner than later we have to move from there, so we are considering alternatives. As compensation they offered us \$ 8.400,00. Through our lawyer the matter is in court. We cannot agree to this and expect a much higher compensation for us to relocate.

3. Linda Primary School.

In 2017 there were 102 pupils, 11 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.

Regarding our **support and guidance of youth who have finished their education** we continued to help Momojost Enterprises.

Realisation workplan 2017

Description	Realisation
Finance S.O.S. programme	Paid € 19.009
Finance Orphans rehabilitation home House of Grace	Paid € 15.307
Finance Office Lira	Paid € 2.531
Finance miscellaneous	Paid € 2.190
Running of Linda Primary School	Paid € 8.544
Helping Momojost	Paid € 136
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

1 euro = 4000 Ush

Workplan 2018

Description	Budgetted amount needed
Finance S.O.S. programme	€ 32.200
Finance Orphans rehabilitation home House of Grace	€ 15.375
Finance Office Lira	€ 4.075
Finance miscellaneous	€ 4.700
Planning for new land and construction of new House of Grace because of the plans of the Uganda Electricity Company .	€ 100.000

1 euro = 4000 Ush

Concluding

To prevent misappropriation of cash money we will deal with all financial matters through the bank, with the exception of petty cash and for emergency cases (visit a hospital, for example).

Our orphans and vulnerable children are extremely happy with all the support they received from various sides. On their behalf we 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. We trust this summarised report encourages all of you to continue supporting us!

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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