



Creating a world where there is "No Street Called Home" for children living and working on the streets of Uganda

S.A.L.V.E.
International

Strategic Plan
2022 - 2027

VISION, MISSION AND HISTORY



Vision: A world where there is 'No Street Called Home' for children living and working on the streets of Uganda.

Mission: To support children and families in Uganda so that no child has to live or work on the streets.

History: S.A.L.V.E. International means 'Support and Love Via Education'. S.A.L.V.E. is a small, specialist UK and Ugandan partnership charity that has been working hard since 2008 to provide support to children living on the streets of Jinja, Eastern Uganda.

We passionately believe that no child should have to live or work on the streets, and have spent the last 14 years developing programmes that help to make that a reality.

We build trusting relationships with children on the streets, so that we can take them on a journey away from the streets, back to a safe family home, and then back into education.

WHERE WE WORK



S.A.L.V.E. International is registered as a charitable organisation in both Uganda and the UK and operates as one global partnership organisation. Our team in Uganda is led by and fully comprised of Ugandan specialists. We also have both a UK and Ugandan governance boards working in partnership to oversee the organisation.

The focus of the organisation is to support children living and working on the streets in Jinja, Eastern Uganda. These children come from all over Uganda (and sometimes neighbouring countries) to Jinja's streets and our aim is to see that they are resettled home to their family wherever it is safe and possible (and wherever this is geographically).

S.A.L.V.E. aims to improve the quality and breadth of its services to reach the hardest to reach children on the streets in our key community area (Jinja District), especially children addicted to drugs and girls on the streets. We have found that more than 60% of the children and their families come from within a three hour public transport radius of the S.A.L.V.E. main site in Namulesa. We are developing partnerships with organisations and local governments across the country to help us to provide more follow up support for the children who are resettled further away.

So rather than spreading our resources thinly across the whole of Uganda, S.A.L.V.E. is focused on providing a high quality service within Jinja District. This means S.A.L.V.E. will remain committed to reach the hardest to reach children on the streets of Jinja as a first priority. This is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the ethos of reaching children who are falling through the gaps in services.

When satisfied that the services around Jinja are sufficiently meeting the needs of all the children on the streets there, S.A.L.V.E. may start to explore new areas of work near to Jinja, such as Iganga town. If found to be needed, new Street Outreach services could still refer children into the existing S.A.L.V.E. residential site in Namulesa for further support.

HOW WE WORK



Since 2008, we have been offering support to children living and working on the streets of Jinja, Uganda, giving them the opportunity to turn their lives around. Our aim is to ensure that no child ever has to live or work on the streets.

Through a combination of street walks, sports sessions and our two Drop in Centres (one for boys and one for girls), our Street Outreach Team builds strong, trusting relationships with the children living on the streets of Jinja. It can take a long time for a child on the streets to trust someone new due to the trauma and abuse they have faced. Our social workers work hard to build this trust through one to one and group counselling, educational lessons and providing medical care when needed.

Once a child feels able to trust us, we work together with them to plan their journey away from the streets. Some children are resettled home directly from the streets, but those who need further support before being resettled are referred to one of our Halfway Homes or to our Drug Rehabilitation Centre (for those who have become addicted to drugs as a way of coping with their difficult lives). Children spend anywhere from one day to nine months here in our temporary residential care. We believe children should grow up in families and not orphanages. Whilst undergoing rehabilitation, they receive counselling, educational lessons, medical treatment and the love and care they need to overcome their traumas and adapt to life away from the streets.

We always aim to resettle a child within their extended family if possible. We do this by working with the child and their family to understand why they ran away to the streets and where within their extended family they might be able to live and be well cared for. If there is no safe option for them within their own family then we work with the local District to help to place them into a foster family.

Once a child is resettled, we regularly do check-ups to provide family counselling and support and to assess the family's vulnerability level. For those families who cannot afford school fees, we provide Educational Support for the child. We also work with the families through our Business Empowerment and Permaculture (Sustainable) Farming programmes to help them to increase their income so that they will be able to fully care for their family's needs and poverty will not be a reason any of their children run away to the streets in the future.

We are also members of advocacy networks such as The Consortium for Street Children, which help us to advocate against discrimination. We run a variety of creative activities to challenge negative stereotypes and allow the children to share their stories and speak up for their rights.

STRATEGY GOALS



In our first 14 years, S.A.L.V.E. was able to support 559 children to be reunited with their families and helped 180 of those children who needed extra care to return to school. We also trained and mentored 236 families to start businesses. You can see our current impact by visiting:

<https://www.salveinternational.org/salve-explained/our-impact/>

We want to build on this solid foundation to ensure we are creating a world where there is 'No Street Called Home' for children living on the streets in Uganda.

Expanding specialised support for girls: Girls on the streets are at extremely high risk of abuse. For this reason they are often well hidden. The most recent research shows that girls made up 30% of the child population on the streets of Jinja. However, only 23% of the children S.A.L.V.E. currently supports are girls. We will develop and improve our safe spaces and services specifically for girls on the streets, so they become 30% of our service users to ensure they don't miss out on a brighter future.



Strengthening families: The two main reasons why children run away to the streets are due to poverty and/ or family relationship breakdown. We want to give the training and support that these families need to develop their relationships, support networks, savings and income opportunities so they can thrive, and significantly reduce the risk of their children returning to the streets.



Reaching more children: Building trust with children who have lived on the streets is not easy. We have developed services that have high success rates to help children to return to education and a safe family home. However, the latest Government research shows there is a lot more to be done. And we have seen an increase of children on the streets since this research was done due to increased economic uncertainty. We estimate there are 750 children living on the streets of Jinja, and another 3,750 children out of school who are working on the streets. Therefore, we need to expand our effective services to make sure more children get a chance to turn their life around. So we want to support a further 500 children to leave the streets in the next 5 years.



Improving our funding sustainability: We have developed partnerships with a wide variety of caring individuals, communities and organisations since S.A.L.V.E. began. We will continue to strengthen these links by delivering high impact projects and communicating our results clearly. We will also explore new partnerships and social enterprise opportunities, especially within the UK and Uganda.



RESULTS



JOIN US

to create a world where there is 'No Street Called Home' for children in Uganda. We can't achieve all these life changing results without your help.

Trusting relationships built with **over 1,500** children living and working on the streets

500 children supported to leave the streets



250 children whose families cannot afford it supported to re-join appropriate education



500 families trained in trauma child care skills



200 families supported and mentored to start their own businesses

