UNTIL EVERY CHILD HAS A CHEST TO REST HIS HEAD AND A PLACE TO CALL HOME

DWELLING PLACES’ ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE
WHO WE ARE:

Dwelling Places (DP), started by Rita and William Nkemba in 2002, is a Christian NGO that envisions a society where every child has a chest to rest his head on and a place to call home, through provision of holistic care services to former street-connected children, high-risk slum families and abandoned babies. We also support these children to acquire education, while their families are empowered economically and spiritually enriched in order to enhance sustainable resettlement. Since inception in 2002, over 1,749 children have received various forms of support from Dwelling Places including Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reconciliation, Resettlement, educational support, economic empowerment for their families, and provision of basic health care and psychosocial support; and over 7,000 vulnerable children and youth have been empowered through Child Rights Clubs, Camps, Debates, Quiz competitions, Music, dance and drama Competitions, and children’s Parliament, among others to use their experiences to advocate and lobby for strengthened systems at community and national levels to protect children from all forms of abuse and exploitation, hence claiming their rights (As at 24th August 2019).

OUR VISION:

The Vision of Dwelling Places is to see “A society where every child has a chest to rest their head on, and a place to call home”. Dwelling Places seeks to remove and help in the prevention of street-connected children and street migration by empowering the family unit.

OUR MISSION:

- Rescue, Rehabilitate, reconcile and sustainably resettle street-connected children, abandoned babies and high risk slum families in Uganda with their families;
- Speak out for children at risk – informing, motivating and equipping local families and communities to promote positive change in the Ugandan society.

OUR TARGET GROUP:

Street-connected children, abandoned babies and high risk slum children who are 14 years and below

OUR SLOGAN:

“Until every child has a chest to rest their head on and a place to call home”

STRATEGIES:

- Rescue: We conduct a variety of activities to build relationships with street-connected children and rescue the vulnerable ones, (between 3 and 12 years old) for care and protection;
- Rehabilitation: We offer temporary accommodation, food, catch-up education, medical care, counseling, emotional and spiritual nourishment for the child;
- Reconciliation: We conduct family tracing and reconciliation to ensure every child finds a safe and loving environment to call home;
- Resettlement: This allows us to completely achieve our vision for the child – to have a place to call home;
- Family Empowerment: We work with the resettled children and their families to ensure sustainability after resettlement through provision of educational support and income generating activities to the most vulnerable families and children
- Advocacy: We organize/ partner with other CSOs and Private Sector in capacity building activities and organized media and public awareness campaigns to end child abuse, exploitation, trafficking and unsafe movement

AREAS OF OPERATION:

- Dwelling Places has offices in Mutundwe - Kampala and Iriiri – Napak but working with beneficiaries from all districts within Uganda. Dwelling Places also owns two Transitional Rehabilitation Homes: In Mutundwe where the girls and boys aged 3-5 years live; and in Buloba where the older boys live during their time in rehabilitation.
**Problem**

Children living on the streets are exploited through child labor, sexual abuse and exploitation, and child trafficking for selfish adult, economic gains. They are also exposed to risks of poor health, substance abuse and early child marriages, among other things.

“….until every child has a chest to rest his head on and a place to call home”

**Vision**

A Society where every child has a chest to rest their head on and a place to call home

**Pathways**

- **Children and youths claim their rights and acquire relevant skills for sustainability**
  - Develop academically, professionally & psychologically in an appropriate way; Report cases of abuse and exploitation or risks to duty bearers; Commit to leaving the streets & going back to school to acquire knowledge & skills; Understand their rights and act as agents of change on child rights.

- **Families are self-sustainable and actively protect children from abuse & exploitation**
  - Support children’s access to education; Report child abuse cases or risks to duty bearers; Commit to being empowered and supported to meet their children’s basic needs and use empowerment resources as intended; Understand the rights of children in their care & their responsibility in ensuring these rights are met.

- **Government develops & enacts child friendly & sensitive laws/ enforces policies to hinder abuse**
  - Enacts/ effectively implements laws & policies that protect street connected children from any form of abuse, with adequate budget allocation; Recognize street connected children as equal citizens with a right to access health and social services; Understand the plight of the street connected children.

- **Communities actively protect children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking through protection and parenting**
  - Are actively involved in communal protection & parenting; Enact & enforce laws, policies, social norms, beliefs & practices that protect children from abuse, exploitation & trafficking; Report cases of abuse, exploitation & trafficking or risks to duty bearers (formal or informal); Commit to cooperating with Dwelling Places and other CSOs in the protection of children.

- **CSOs actively advocate for children’s rights and protect them from abuse, exploitation and trafficking**
  - Hold government, communities, private sector & other CSOs accountable for the protection of children; Actively advocate for the enactment & enforcement of policies that ensure children’s basic interests are met; Facilitate dialogues on family, community and national levels on child rights and protection; Understand the plight of street connected children & advocate for their rights.

- **Private Sector contributes to the protection of children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking**
  - Develop & enforce human resource policies that discourage child exploitation in line with UN guidelines; Adopt a code of conduct for their staff that protects children from abuse and exploitation; Commit to cooperate in the protection of children from abuse & exploitation; Understand the plight of street connected children & provide equal opportunities to them.

**Strategies**

- **Rescue**
  - We conduct street outreaches to build rapport with children on the streets, assess needs & offer referral or remove/ rescue the most vulnerable (within our eligibility criteria) for care & protection;

- **Rehabilitate**
  - We provide temporary accommodation, food, catch-up education, medical care, counseling, emotional and spiritual nourishment for the child as a conduit to rebuilding a holistic child in preparation for reconciliation & resettlement.

- **Reconciliation**
  - This allows us to resolve whatever issues forced the child to leave home in the first place; reconcile the child with their family, communities and with God. We conduct family tracing, reconciliation and households livelihoods assessments.

- **Resettlement**
  - We place the child in a loving and caring home. We help the child integrate well with family thereby completely achieving our vision for the family – to have a chest to rest his head on and a place to call home.

- **Family & Community Empowerment**
  - We provide educational support services to resettled children, and economic empowerment for their families based on the livelihoods assessments results for sustainable resettlement and prevention of unnecessary family separation.

- **Advocacy & Resources**
  - We engage policy makers and brokers about the rights of children; collaborate with other CSOs, development partners & private Sector in organized advocacy actions to strengthen capacity & systems at all levels to prevent violence & exploitation against children.
Our Core Values:

We are open and truthful in whatever we do and we condemn all forms of treachery. We respect privacy for both the Dwelling Places and children.

Christian Ethics and prayer
We believe in the Bible as the final authority in all matters; We believe in Prayer as a guide and mode of inspiration to achievement; Christian ethics and morals are integral for both work and staff’s lives.

Honesty and confidentiality
Using knowledge, skills and competence, we strive to perform according to the one’s profession and expectations of others. Time management is a key virtue in all that we do.

“A society where every child has a chest to rest their head on, and a place to call home”

Transparency and Accountability
We take responsibility for each other’s actions and are committed to the overall organisation’s mission. We are accountable and transparent to the children, community and implementing partners.

Professionalism
We proactively participate in all organisations’ activities with collective responsibility and relate regardless of gender, race, color and religion.

Team work and diversity

Our Partners
Dwelling Places is fortunate enough to have partners who support us throughout the year, through fundraising, donations, sending volunteers or other means.

LifeChange
Children at Risk Action Network

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