EMPOWERED CHILD
MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 2024 REPORT

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This December, Empowered Child Ministries (ECM) experienced a season of growth, joy, and transformation. We welcomed two new children, Kagoya Shirati and Konso Halima, into our family, each with inspiring stories of resilience amidst adversity. Kagoya, a spirited four-year-old, and Halima, a two-year-old with a remarkable spirit, now have access to love, care, and stability, marking the start of a brighter chapter in their lives. On December 17, we also celebrated the reunion of Walundire Isa with his family, who are committed to providing him with a nurturing environment.

The holiday season brought an abundance of joy through our Christmas celebrations. A lively children's party included fun activities, gifts, and a special meal, while our outreach program in Iganga District ensured that 30 elders received essential care packages. ECM also honored its dedicated team with heartfelt gifts, acknowledging their tireless service to the children. Birthdays of four remarkable children added to the festive spirit, showcasing the value we place on celebrating each life and milestone.

Our physiotherapy program, led by Dr. Sylvie, continued to provide transformative care to children with mobility challenges, empowering them to achieve greater independence. We also launched a new drop-in clinic initiative to extend these services to children with disabilities outside our care, though we face a critical need for larger, accessible spaces. Additionally, our special education program made significant strides, offering personalized lessons to children with unique learning needs, enabling them to achieve vital milestones in literacy and life skills.

This December, one more child secured sponsorship, bringing the total to 24 sponsored children out of 52. We are determined to find sponsors for the remaining 28 children to ensure they receive essential support and opportunities. As the year ended, ECM remained steadfast in its mission to create a loving, supportive environment where vulnerable children can thrive.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors and supporters, whose generosity has brought hope and transformation to countless lives. Together, we are building a future filled with possibilities for every child under our care.

2. DECEMBER PROGRAM UPDATES

Welcoming New Arrivals to Our Family

This December, we opened our doors and hearts to two new children, both with deeply moving stories. Their arrival marks a fresh start in their young lives, as we strive to provide them with the care, support, and love they so desperately need.

Kagoya Shirati - Born on April 10, 2020, Kagoya is a spirited four-year-old who has faced immense challenges. Orphaned at a young age, she has been living with her grandmother under extremely difficult conditions, including a lack of food and a leaking house. After losing her father, Kagoya's mother abandoned her, leaving her in a vulnerable situation. On December 9, 2024, Kagoya joined our orphanage, where she now has access to proper shelter, meals, and a nurturing environment to help her heal and grow.

Figure 1: Kagoya Shirati - Born on April 10, 2020

Konso Halima - Born on May 23, 2022, Halima is a two-year-old who has already endured profound loss. She lost her father when she was just a month old. Overwhelmed by grief and stress, her mother developed a severe mental illness, leaving her unable to provide the care Halima needed. On December 20, 2024, Halima became part of our family, where she is now receiving the compassionate care and stability that will enable her to thrive.

Figure 2: Konso Halima - Born on May 23, 2022

These two children remind us of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of providing a safe haven for those in need. At the orphanage, they are now surrounded by love, nutritious meals, education opportunities, and a community dedicated to helping them build a brighter future.

Your continued support is essential in making stories like Kagoya's and Halima's possible. Together, we can ensure that no child is left to face life's challenges alone. Thank you for being part of this journey of hope and transformation.

Farewell to Walundire Isa

On December 17, 2024, we said goodbye to Walundire Isa, who left the orphanage after being reunited with his relatives. His family expressed a heartfelt commitment to providing him with a better life, offering him the opportunity to grow up in a familiar environment surrounded by loved ones.

While we will miss Isa dearly, we are hopeful that this new chapter will bring him the care and support he deserves. His time with us was filled with moments of joy, growth, and resilience, and he will always hold a special place in our hearts.

We remain grateful for the opportunity to have been part of Isa's journey and wish him all the best in his new home

Christmas Party and Year-End Celebrations – 2024

On December 29, 2024, we gathered to celebrate the joy of Christmas and bid farewell to an incredible year. The day was filled with love, laughter, and memorable activities for the children.

Figure 3: Children during a lunch session on 29th December 2024 - Christmas Party

Children's Christmas Party

We hosted a vibrant celebration filled with:

- **Fun Activities:** The children enjoyed a Bible quiz, exciting games, and a beautifully decorated venue.
- **Delicious Feast:** A special meal was prepared, featuring a variety of yummy dishes and, of course, a cake to mark the occasion.
- **Gift-Giving:** Each child received a thoughtfully curated gift package tailored to their desires and needs. These included items like dresses, T-shirts, pants, bicycles, watches, sunglasses, vests, and more. The joy on their faces as they unwrapped their presents was heartwarming.
- **Caregiver Appreciation:** Our devoted caregivers were not left out—they were gifted beautiful traditional dresses (gomesi) as a token of gratitude for their tireless dedication throughout the year.

Figure 4: Breakfast session during the Christmas Party

Figure 5: Some of our children enjoying there Christmas meal

Figure 6: From left to right - Sharif, Samson, Christopher and Brighton enjoying a photoshoot on Christmas party celebration.

Elders' Christmas Outreach – Iganga District

In the spirit of giving, we extended the Christmas celebration to 30 elders in Iganga District, ensuring they too felt the warmth and joy of the season.

- Each elder received a Christmas care package containing essential items like rice, bread, soda, soap, sugar, cooking oil, tea leaves, salt, and meat.
- This initiative brought smiles to elders who might not have otherwise experienced the festivities, making a significant difference in their lives.

Figure 7: Some of the 30 elders at Iganga who benefited from the Christmas outreach program on 24th December 2025.

We are immensely grateful for the generous donations that made these celebrations possible. Your support allowed us to bring joy to children and elders alike, creating cherished memories and ending the year on a high note.

Together, we have shared the true meaning of Christmas—love, care, and community. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

Figure 8: Gifts received by some of the elders during the Christmas outreach in Iganga

Physiotherapy Sessions

At Empowered Child Ministries, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the physical well-being of our children, particularly those with unique needs requiring specialized care. This December, our physiotherapy program, led by the highly skilled and dedicated Dr. Sylvie, has continued to deliver life-changing support.

Sessions are held twice a week, typically totaling eight per month. However, this month we conducted six sessions as the therapist commenced his holiday on December 20, 2024. This impactful program currently supports four remarkable children: Christopher, Samson, Sharif, and Brighton, all of whom face significant mobility challenges due to their disabilities. Additionally, we were delighted to welcome two more children into the program this month, allowing them to benefit from free specialized education alongside these vital sessions.

The sessions are meticulously designed to improve strength, mobility, and independence. Beyond physical progress, they play a crucial role in boosting the children's confidence and self-esteem. By equipping these children with the skills to navigate daily life more independently, we aim to enhance their overall quality of life and empower them to achieve their fullest potential.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters whose generosity makes this program possible. Your continued commitment profoundly impacts these children's lives, ensuring they receive the care, attention, and opportunities they deserve.

Drop-in Clinic

We're thrilled to launch anytime our "Drop-in Clinic," a new initiative providing free physiotherapy sessions and specialized education for children with disabilities who are not under our direct care. This program will also offer caregivers practical training to support their children's physical development at home. However, we face a critical challenge: space. Our current facility is too small to accommodate the growing number of children, including new registrations starting this Januray and more anticipated in January.

Figure 9: Dr. Sylvie and Samson during a physiotherapy session.

Your Support Can Make a Difference

To make this program a reality, we urgently need a larger, accessible space for sessions, specialized equipment, and resources for families.

Visit our website to donate and help us ensure every child gets the care they need to thrive. Together, we can provide mobility, care, and opportunity to those who need it most.

Celebrating December 2024 Birthdays

This December, we had the incredible joy of celebrating the birthdays of four remarkable children, each marking a special milestone in their lives. The celebrations were filled with fun, laughter, and an abundance of love, creating cherished memories for everyone involved.

Here's a look back at these special milestones:

Mutesi Amarine celebrated her 12th birthday on December 26th, bringing smiles and joy to all as we honored her journey into her teenage years.

Namulondo Mariam turned 13 on December 24th, a significant step into her teenage years, celebrated with love and encouragement from her peers and caregivers.

Nansubuga Sulaina reached her 8th birthday on December 17th, a day filled with happiness and excitement as she embraced another year of growth and adventure.

Figure 10: Nansubuga Sulaina reached her 8th birthday on December 17th

Bokino Sharif turned 7 on December 12th, bringing youthful energy and delight to the day's festivities.

Figure 11: Bokino Sharif turned 7 on December 12th

These celebrations were more than just birthdays—they were moments to affirm the value, uniqueness, and potential of each child. The children enjoyed a day full of games, songs, delicious treats, and heartfelt wishes, reminding them of the love and care surrounding them.

At Empowered Child Ministries, we believe every child's birthday is an opportunity to celebrate their life, reflect on their achievements, and encourage their dreams. These moments are made possible thanks to the generosity and support of our donors, who help us create lasting memories for these amazing children.

Here's to more milestones and joyous celebrations in the coming year

Christmas Appreciation for Our Team at ECM

As we celebrated the joyous season of Christmas, we took a moment to honor and appreciate the incredible team at Empowered Child Ministries (ECM) for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment throughout the year.

Special Gifts of Gratitude

- Monic and Madina – Our devoted caregivers received beautiful dresses and cash gifts as tokens of appreciation for their hard work and love for the children.
- Dr. Sylvie – Our skilled physiotherapist was presented with a cash gift in recognition of the transformative impact of her sessions on the children's well-being.

- Sarah and Joseph – The exceptional special education teachers were also given cash gifts, acknowledging their dedication to helping our children achieve incredible milestones.
- Derrick – As our children's pastor and administrator, Derrick's leadership and spiritual guidance have been instrumental. He was honored with a cash gift in appreciation of his efforts.
- Mother Abigail – Our visionary founder, Mother Abigail, whose selfless dedication to ECM inspires us all, received a cash gift as a heartfelt thank-you for her unwavering commitment.

We are deeply grateful for each member of our ECM family. Their compassion, hard work, and dedication ensure that our mission to support and uplift vulnerable children continues to flourish. This Christmas, it was our joy to celebrate and show our appreciation for the incredible difference they make in the lives of the children under our care.

Thank you, team ECM, for your heart and service—you are truly a blessing!

Special Education

Our special education program for disabled and vulnerable children with unique needs continues to create a lasting impact. Led by two dedicated teachers, Sarah and Josephine, the program provides 16 specialized sessions each month, with two lessons conducted weekly. This initiative offers vital educational support to children unable to access formal schooling due to their specific challenges.

Through this program, the children are achieving remarkable progress, developing cognitive, social, and motor skills while reaching significant milestones. Many can now read letters and recognize simple English words—a profound accomplishment for children with diverse learning needs.

The sessions are thoughtfully designed to be engaging and inclusive, featuring interactive learning, sensory activities, and personalized support. By tailoring each lesson to match the individual pace of the children, the program fosters foundational skills while building confidence and independence.

Sarah and Josephine's unwavering dedication ensures that every child receives the care and attention they need to succeed. With the addition of new sensory items and the transformative power of tailored education, we are creating a nurturing environment where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

This program stands as a testament to what is possible when children with unique needs are met with understanding, compassion, and the right support. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for these incredible young learners.

Figure 12: Some of the books we bought for children for the holiday study program.

Sponsored Children Update:

This month, we are thrilled to share that Nsubuga Saidi received a sponsorship! Currently, 24 out of our 52 children have sponsors, leaving 28 children still in need of this vital support. We had in November 50 children; one left and we got more three children joined us.

Sponsorships provide children with essential items, special gifts, and personalized education, all of which play a significant role in their overall well-being and development. Empowered Child Ministries (ECM) is dedicated to securing more sponsors and continues to reach out to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive with the support they need.

Children's Health and Well-Being

We are delighted to report that December was a stable month for the children's health, with no major medical emergencies. This stability reflects the importance of consistent care and preventative measures in ensuring their well-being.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for their unwavering support of our healthcare initiatives. Your contributions enable us to provide timely medical attention, ensuring the children remain healthy and happy. Your generosity continues to make a profound difference in their lives—thank you for being a part of their journey to wellness!

Packages from Overseas Donors

This Christmas season, we were blessed to receive thoughtfully packaged gifts for some of our sponsored children, Remmy and Saidi, from overseas donors. These packages brought immense joy and excitement, making the holiday season even more special for the children. We are grateful to the donors for their generosity and thoughtfulness in remembering our children during the festive season.

Sunday Services Equipment Update

As part of our commitment to enriching our Sunday worship services, we continue to face the challenge of acquiring a keyboard. Currently, we hire one each week, which is both costly and inconvenient. Owning a keyboard would not only enhance the quality of our services but also save on recurring expenses. We hope to secure one soon with the support of our generous donors.

Children's Day Out at the Play Park

On December 30th, 2024, we treated all our children to a memorable day out at the kids' play park as part of our Christmas celebrations. The day was filled with fun and laughter as the children enjoyed activities such as swimming, bouncing castles, swings, and more. It was heartwarming to see their joy and excitement, a testament to the importance of creating such cherished memories.

Figure 13: Christopher and Brighton having a light moment at the children's play park on 30th December 2024

Figure 14: Some of the children ready to dive into the pool during their day out.

Football Initiative

In December, we embarked on an exciting journey to establish a soccer academy for both boys and girls. Our football initiative began with practice sessions held on an artificial field three times during the month—on December 14th, 20th, and 23rd. This program aims to nurture the children's talents, encourage teamwork, and promote physical fitness while laying the groundwork for a structured soccer academy in the near future.

Figure 15: ECM soccer team before a friendly game

Christmas Packages and Cards Sent Abroad

On December 18th, we sent Christmas cards and notebooks to Tracey in the USA as part of our effort to connect with and express gratitude to our supporters. These small gestures reflect the deep bond we share with our global family of donors and well-wishers.

Visit from Nita (Germany)

On December 14th, we had the pleasure of hosting Nita from Germany at the orphanage. Her visit was a humbling and inspiring moment, as it reinforced the global support network that continues to uplift our mission. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her, and her encouragement left a lasting impression.

Figure 16: Nita from Germany during her visit at the orphanage on 14th December 2024.

Videography Equipment Upgrade

To enhance how we capture and share children's stories and the impact of our work, we invested in a new tripod stand for our videography efforts. This upgrade allows us to produce higher-quality videos that effectively communicate our mission, showcase the children's achievements, and engage our supporters.

Children's Holiday with Relatives

On December 20th, the children went on holiday visits to spend time with their relatives or parents, fostering familial bonds and strengthening their connection with loved ones. This initiative provides the children with an opportunity to maintain their sense of belonging and identity. They returned to the orphanage on December 28th, refreshed and ready for the upcoming year.

We are immensely grateful for the successes and joy-filled moments of December 2024. These milestones were made possible through the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and community. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey!

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Empowered Child Ministries' financial report offers a detailed overview of its budget allocation, expenditures, and funding sources, reflecting a commitment to financial transparency and responsible resource management. The report outlines revenue streams, including individual donations, grants from partner organizations, and income from fundraising activities, which are essential for meeting the diverse needs of the 50 children in our care.

Key expenses include significant investments in child welfare, encompassing daily necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as educational programs that provide access to learning resources and specialized instruction for both disabled and school-going children. Healthcare costs are also highlighted, covering medical treatments, emergency care, and ongoing therapies for children with special health needs.

Additionally, operational costs, such as administrative expenses and utility bills, are managed carefully to ensure the organization's smooth daily functioning, including facility maintenance, staff salaries, and essential services like electricity and water.

3.1 Collected Donations

The total donations received across various platforms amount to UGX 43,598,392, which is equivalent to USD 12,457 and GBP 9,689. The breakdown includes UGX 700,000 from bank transfers (USD 200, GBP 156), UGX 4,095,000 from GoFundMe donations (USD 1,170, GBP 910), UGX 2,176,678 from mobile money (USD 622, GBP 484), UGX 35,632,030 from PayPal donations (USD 10,181, GBP 7,918), and UGX 994,684 from Western Union donations (USD 284, GBP 221).

Donations	**UGX**	**USD**	**GBP**
Bank Transfer Donations	700,000	200	156
GoFundMe Donations	4,095,000	1,170	910
Mobile Money Donations	2,176,678	622	484
Paypal Donations	35,632,030	10,181	7,918
Western Union Donations	994,684	284	221
Grand Total	**43,598,392**	**12,457**	**9,689**

3.2 Expenditure

The total direct expenses amount to UGX 31,332,200, which is equivalent to USD 8,952 and GBP 6,963. The breakdown includes UGX 2,506,000 for administrative expenses (USD 716, GBP 557), UGX 17,755,600 for other operational expenses (USD 5,073, GBP 3,946), UGX 10,639,000 for program costs (USD 3,040, GBP 2,364), and UGX 431,600 for utility bills (USD 123, GBP 96).

Direct Expenses	**UGX**	**USD**	**GBP**
Administrative Expenses	2,506,000	716	557
Other Operational Expenses	17,755,600	5,073	3,946
Program Costs	10,639,000	3,040	2,364
Utility Bills	431,600	123	96

Grand Total	**31,332,200**	**8,952**	**6,963**

3.3 Detailed Category Expenditure

3.3.1 Administrative Expenses

These expenses are crucial for the ministry's operations, as they ensure that caretakers are compensated for their essential work, maintain communication through internet access, provide necessary office supplies and equipment, secure physical space for operations, and support the digital presence of the ministry through website maintenance. By managing these administrative costs effectively, the ministry can focus on its core mission and serve its community more efficiently.

Administrative Expenses	**UGX**	**USD**	**GBP**
Airtime & Communication	50,000	14	11
Allowances for Caretakers	200,000	57	44
Gifts of Gratitude, Postages & Shipping	548,000	157	122
Internet Bundles	235,000	67	52
Office Equipment & Supplies	190,000	54	42
Rent & Lease Fees	1,000,000	286	222
Stationery Items	183,000	52	41
Website Maintenance & Repairs	100,000	29	22
Grand Total	**2,506,000**	**716**	**557**

The administrative expenses total UGX 2,506,000, equivalent to USD 716 and GBP 557. The breakdown includes UGX 50,000 for airtime and communication (USD 14, GBP 11), UGX 200,000 for allowances for caretakers (USD 57, GBP 44), UGX 548,000 for gifts of gratitude, postages, and shipping (USD 157, GBP 122), UGX 235,000 for internet bundles (USD 67, GBP 52), UGX 190,000 for office equipment and supplies (USD 54, GBP 42), UGX 1,000,000 for rent and lease fees (USD 286, GBP 222), UGX 183,000 for stationery items (USD 52, GBP 41), and UGX 100,000 for website maintenance and repairs (USD 29, GBP 22).

3.3.2 Program Costs

The program costs total UGX 10,639,000, equivalent to USD 3,040 and GBP 2,364. The breakdown includes UGX 6,372,000 for children's meals (USD 1,821, GBP 1,416), UGX 1,500,000 for the education program (USD 429, GBP 333), UGX 1,017,000 for the health and welfare program (USD 291, GBP 226), and UGX 1,750,000 for household activities (USD 500, GBP 389).

Program Costs	**UGX**	**USD**	**GBP**
Children’s Meals	6,372,000	1,821	1,416
Education Program	1,500,000	429	333
Health & Welfare Program	1,017,000	291	226
Household Activities	1,750,000	500	389
Grand Total	**10,639,000**	**3,040**	**2,364**

a) Education Program

The education program costs total UGX 1,500,000, equivalent to USD 429 and GBP 333. The breakdown includes UGX 280,000 for dancing classes (USD 80, GBP 62), UGX 1,080,000 for special needs education (USD 309, GBP 240), and UGX 140,000 for Sunday church services (USD 40, GBP 31).

Education Program	UGX	USD	GBP
Dancing Classes	280,000	80	62
Special Needs Education	1,080,000	309	240
Sunday Church Services	140,000	40	31
Grand Total	**1,500,000**	**429**	**333**

We sincerely appreciate your continued support, which helps ensure that the children receive the education they deserve. As we approach the next term (first term, 2025), we will keep you informed about future needs. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. All fees and tuition for the school-going children have been covered this year, and we look forward to your support in 2025 for the same cause.

b) Health and Welfare Program

The health and welfare program costs total UGX 1,017,000, equivalent to USD 291 and GBP 226. The breakdown includes UGX 387,000 for medical services (USD 111, GBP 86) and UGX 630,000 for physiotherapy sessions (USD 180, GBP 140). These expenses underscore the commitment to addressing the medical and therapeutic needs of the children.

Health & Welfare Program	UGX	USD	GBP
Medical Services	387,000	111	86
Phsiotheraphy Sessions	630,000	180	140
Grand Total	**1,017,000**	**291**	**226**

c) Household Activities

The household activities costs total UGX 1,750,000, equivalent to USD 500 and GBP 389. The breakdown includes UGX 125,000 for barber services (USD 36, GBP 28), UGX 1,604,000 for household maintenance (USD 458, GBP 356), and UGX 21,000 for liquid soap (USD 6, GBP 5). These expenses reflect the essential items required for maintaining the children's hygiene and daily needs.

Household Activities	UGX	USD	GBP
Barber	125,000	36	28
Household Maintenance	1,604,000	458	356
Liquid Soap	21,000	6	5
Grand Total	**1,750,000**	**500**	**389**

d) Children's Meals

The total costs for children's meals amount to UGX 6,372,000, equivalent to USD 1,821 and GBP 1,416. The breakdown includes UGX 911,000 for beans (USD 260, GBP 202), UGX 212,000 for breakfast (USD 61, GBP 47), UGX 133,000 for cooking oil (USD 38, GBP 30), UGX 470,000 for firewood (USD 134, GBP 104), UGX 225,000 for fruits (USD 64, GBP 50), UGX 250,000 for maize/corn flour (USD 71, GBP 56), UGX 2,714,000 for other foodstuff (USD 775, GBP 603), UGX 810,000 for rice (USD 231, GBP 180), UGX 70,000 for salt (USD 20, GBP 16), UGX 170,000 for special meals for disabled children (USD 49, GBP 38), and UGX 407,000 for vegetables (USD 116, GBP 90).

Children's Meals	UGX	USD	GBP
Beans	911,000	260	202
Breakfast	212,000	61	47
Cooking Oil	133,000	38	30
Firewood	470,000	134	104
Fruits	225,000	64	50
Maize/corn Flour	250,000	71	56
Other Food Stuff	2,714,000	775	603
Rice	810,000	231	180
Salt	70,000	20	16
Special Meals for Disabled Children	170,000	49	38
Vegetables	407,000	116	90
Grand Total	**6,372,000**	**1,821**	**1,416**

3.3.3 Utility Bills

The total utility bills amount to UGX 431,600, equivalent to USD 123 and GBP 96. The breakdown includes UGX 120,000 for power/electricity bills (USD 34, GBP 27), UGX 37,600 for TV subscriptions (USD 11, GBP 8), and UGX 274,000 for water bills (USD 78, GBP 61). These costs reflect the necessary expenditures to maintain essential services for the project's operations. These utility expenses are essential for maintaining the day-to-day operations of the ministry, ensuring that essential services are available for staff and the community it serves.

Utility Bills	UGX	USD	GBP
Power/electricity Bills	120,000	34	27
TV Subscriptions	37,600	11	8
Water Bills	274,000	78	61
Grand Total	**431,600**	**123**	**96**

3.4.3 Operational Expenses

The total other operational expenses amount to UGX 17,755,600, equivalent to USD 5,073 and GBP 3,946. The breakdown includes UGX 15,240,600 for Christmas expenditure (USD 4,354, GBP 3,387), UGX 560,000 for children's birthday parties (USD 160, GBP 124), UGX 367,000 for miscellaneous expenses (USD 105, GBP 82), UGX 100,000 for repairs, renovations, and maintenance (USD 29, GBP 22), and UGX 1,488,000 for transport facilitation and refunds (USD 425, GBP 331).

Other Operational Expenses	UGX	USD	GBP
Christmas Expenditure	15,240,600	4,354	3,387
Children Birthday Parties	560,000	160	124
Miscellaneous Expenses	367,000	105	82
Repairs, Renovations & Maintenance	100,000	29	22
Transport Facilitation & Refunds	1,488,000	425	331
Grand Total	**17,755,600**	**5,073**	**3,946**

Christmas Expenditure

The total Christmas expenditure amounts to UGX 15,240,600, equivalent to USD 4,354 and GBP 3,387. The breakdown includes UGX 1,240,000 for Christmas allowances and stipends (USD 354, GBP 276), UGX 1,590,000 for the children's outing (USD 454, GBP 353), UGX 3,390,000 for elders' outreach (USD 969, GBP 753), UGX 3,868,600 for food and catering (USD 1,105, GBP 860), UGX 3,397,000 for gifts (USD 971, GBP 755), UGX 1,320,000 for professional services (USD 377, GBP 293), and UGX 435,000 for transport (USD 124, GBP 97).

Christmas Expenditure	**UGX**	**USD**	**GBP**
Christmas Allowances & Stipends	1,240,000	354	276
Christmas Children's Outing	1,590,000	454	353
Christmas Elders' Outreach	3,390,000	969	753
Christmas Food & Catering	3,868,600	1,105	860
Christmas Gifts	3,397,000	971	755
Christmas Professional Services	1,320,000	377	293
Christmas Transport	435,000	124	97
Grand Total	**15,240,600**	**4,354**	**3,387**

The relevance of this expenditure lies in supporting and fostering community spirit during the Christmas period, ensuring that both the children and elders feel appreciated and cared for through allowances, outings, gifts, food, and outreach programs. This expenditure also ensures the smooth organization of events and services, creating a memorable and meaningful experience for all involved.

4. FUNDING NEEDS

Empowered Child Ministries (ECM) has identified several critical funding needs to support its mission of providing holistic care, education, and emotional support to every child. The following areas urgently require financial assistance:

- **Solar Panels for Reliable Lighting:** Due to frequent power outages disrupting evening activities, ECM needs solar panels to provide consistent lighting. Access to proper lighting will allow children to study at night, supporting their academic success and creating a secure environment. Solar energy offers a sustainable solution that ensures uninterrupted learning and security.
- **Church Equipment for Enhanced Worship:** As our Sunday school community grows, we urgently need a keyboard to improve worship quality. Proper equipment will make worship and teaching sessions more engaging, helping children and adults participate actively in church activities and fostering a sense of community.
- **Land Acquisition and Construction of New Orphanage:** ECM seeks funding to purchase land and construct a permanent orphanage to house the 50 children in our care. A purpose-built facility will provide a stable, child-friendly environment for those with disabilities and without family care. This safe space will address current overcrowding and ensure a stable home for our children.
- **Temporary Rental Space for Transition:** As our current facilities are too small, we need funds to rent a larger space until the new orphanage is ready. This interim arrangement will provide more comfortable living conditions, ensuring each child has the space and care they need.

- **Healthcare and Medical Services:** Continued funding is essential for comprehensive medical care, including regular check-ups, emergency treatment, and specialized services like physiotherapy. With rising healthcare costs, ECM needs support to ensure children with disabilities receive the specialized care they need.
- **Skills Development Programs:** ECM seeks funding to expand its skilling programs, such as the recent liquid soap-making training. These programs equip children with valuable skills, fostering self-reliance and future income-generation abilities.
- **DSLR Camera for Outreach and Documentation:** To enhance outreach efforts and document children's stories, ECM needs funds for a DSLR camera. This will enable us to keep supporters updated on the children's progress, increasing engagement and transparency.
- **Emergency Fund for Urgent Needs:** Having an emergency reserve would allow ECM to respond swiftly to unexpected expenses like medical emergencies, safeguarding uninterrupted operations and providing timely care to our children.
- **Support for Orphans and Children with Disabilities:** Special funding is needed to care for ECM's most vulnerable children, including orphans and those with disabilities. This support covers healthcare, special education, and physical therapy, helping each child receive the assistance they need to thrive.
- **Food and Nutritional Support:** Consistent funding for nutritious meals is vital as ECM serves more children. Nutritious food is key to physical development and health, with additional supplements provided for children with disabilities to address unique dietary needs.
- **Land for Expansion:** To meet growing needs, ECM requires funding to acquire or rent a larger space. A more spacious location will allow ECM to introduce additional programs and ensure safe, adequate housing for all children in our care.
- **Special Education Equipment:** ECM seeks funding for CP (Cerebral Palsy) chairs for Christopher and Samson, as well as sensory toys, building blocks, and assistive technology like educational tablets. These resources support the development and learning of children with disabilities, ensuring they can fully engage in educational activities.
- **Flat Iron for Daily Care Needs:** ECM also needs a flat iron to maintain children's hygiene and presentation. Properly ironed clothing enhances self-esteem, reduces bacteria, and supports good hygiene practices. This small yet crucial tool contributes to the well-rounded care ECM provides.
- **Support Staff:** ECM also needs a support staff to help cover increasing organization's needs.

Each of these needs is essential for creating a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for the children at ECM. We invite you to support any of these areas, knowing that your contribution will make a lasting impact on the lives of children in our care.

5. CHALLENGES

Empowered Child Ministries (ECM) faces several urgent challenges that impact its ability to support vulnerable children effectively. Key areas needing immediate attention include:

1. **Space Limitations:** ECM's current facility is overcrowded due to the rising number of children. This limited space restricts ECM's capacity to provide quality care, education, and housing. A larger location is urgently needed to ensure a safe, comfortable environment.
2. **Frequent Power Outages:** Power disruptions affect daily operations, especially in education and essential tasks like cooking and heating. A stable power solution is needed to maintain a safe, conducive environment for learning and living.
3. **Food and Supplies Shortage:** Growing demands have stretched ECM's budget thin, making it difficult to provide consistent meals and essential items. Relying on irregular donations, ECM struggles to meet basic daily needs for the children.
4. **Insufficient Financial Support:** ECM relies on donations, but inconsistent funding limits its capacity to meet operational needs like education, healthcare, and child protection, increasing financial strain.
5. **Need for Emotional Support Services:** Many children at ECM have faced trauma, but limited funding prevents hiring specialized counselors. Addressing mental health is essential for the children's emotional well-being and development.
6. **Children Without Sponsors:** Currently, 27 children lack sponsors, which places additional financial strain on ECM to cover education, healthcare, and daily needs. Securing sponsors is critical to ensure continued support for these children.

6. WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1. **Online Donations:** Support us through secure online donations that directly fund essential programs for the children:
    - **One-Time Donations:** Every donation helps meet urgent needs and supports vital projects.
    - **Recurring Donations:** Consider a monthly donation to provide stable support, enabling us to plan for ongoing needs like food, healthcare, and education. Your commitment ensures lasting impact.
2. **Sponsor a Child:** Transform a child's life by sponsoring them. Your support provides essential care, education, and a path to a brighter future.
3. **Gifts in Kind:** Contribute items like clothing, educational supplies, or household essentials. These directly benefit the children's daily lives.

4. **Fundraise:** Organize a fundraising event or campaign to support our mission. Whether a charity run, bake sale, or online drive, your efforts can make a meaningful impact. Contact us for resources.

Your generosity is vital to our mission. Thank you for making a difference!

THANK YOU!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and sponsors. Your generosity and unwavering support have made a profound and lasting impact on the lives of the children in our care. Thanks to your contributions, we are able to provide not only the basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare, but also quality education, emotional support, and the opportunities they need to build a brighter, more hopeful future.

Your commitment allows us to create a safe and nurturing environment where these children can thrive, grow, and dream beyond their current circumstances. Whether it's funding their education, ensuring they have daily meals, or providing a secure place to call home, your support transforms lives in ways that words cannot fully capture. You are not just donors; you are partners in this mission, helping us break the cycle of poverty, neglect, and hardship.

We sincerely thank you for believing in our mission, for your trust, and for choosing to stand by our side. Together, we are making a meaningful difference, giving these children the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in life. Your kindness and compassion continue to be a source of hope for every child we serve.

Sincerely,

Bazira Ibrahim
Programs Manager
Empowered Child Ministries