

Travelogue Lwengo Kids Foundation

October/November 2025



This time we travel to Uganda with seven sponsors. When we arrive in Uganda after a long flight of more than 13 hours, Andrew is waiting for us with a huge bus! After all, we are with nine people, which means 18 large suitcases, 9 trolleys and 9 backpacks!! That is a bit of a struggle, but when all the suitcases are in and everyone has found a place, we drive the long route to Masaka with great enthusiasm.



Along the way, we notice that there is more new construction than in other years; when we share that with Andrew, he tells us that all the new construction you see belongs to President Museveni's family or the circle around him. That makes you quiet again. The presidential elections will be held on January 15, 2026 and everywhere we see huge posters of this gentleman. More people are participating in the elections, but those posters are smaller and less visible along the roads.

Arriving in Masaka we unload the bus, have a nice dinner together and go to bed early because it was a grueling journey!



The next day we travel to Lwengo rested and with expectant sponsors. We get a warm welcome again and our Dutch flag is hoisted with great ceremony, but it turns out: our flag is the biggest! That is not the intention and we should replace it with a smaller size!

Then the sponsors are shown around the school grounds. Pieter and I are of course walking along and see the

differences with our visit in April: the schoolyard is decorated with colorful hopscotch tracks and other games, the middle garden is neatly maintained, there is a play plane in the other garden and of course the flagpoles. It looks neat!

We drive to the Annex, the annex, where the toddlers now go to school. The little ones had to walk a long way

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from the main building and when they arrived after about 50 minutes of walking, they first had to recover from the long walk and they have no energy at all to do anything. When it rained, they came to school soaking wet and cold. So don't do it. Fortunately, we were able to help because there was a good sponsor who wanted to pay for a school bus. And now there is a beautiful school bus that takes the children back and forth quickly. Pleased! And pay attention to the texts on the car! We are proud of that!

We also see that the playground is well used. There is a large fence around it so that the little ones cannot get on the road. They have a lot of fun with the playground equipment. Together with a sponsor, we were able to realize this as well.



There is also a block of new teachers' houses here. They are ready and we can take a look inside one of the teachers. It looks good and the teacher is happy with it.



There is room for 5 staff members in one block.

This block is located at Annex and the other block is currently being built near the school and

is sponsored by AFAS Foundation.

Ultimately, we want to realize 4 blocks.

Nice progress that we have been able to achieve with the help of many sponsors.

One of the first days we also visit the children of our traveling sponsors. An impressive experience for everyone. We see Malecerina, a deaf but oh so naughty little girl who we just got in sponsorship. We drive to Shakibuh, which we have had in sponsorship for a long time and we go to Rose Mary where suddenly a little brother has appeared. There is also an aunt who dominates the family because of her psychological weakness. Mother accompanies me if we would please also take the boy in sponsorship. We can't just decide that and we take it into our minds.

After these emotional visits, we go to the cocoa and vanilla farm. Something different, recovering from the visits. We have been there before and are warmly welcomed. Tough times here too; Cocoa is not much at the moment because it is not the season. Vanilla is, but he only gets 5 euros for a kilo of pods.

Back to school, because that's where the Visitation Day takes place. That is a day to which all parents are invited. On this day, the toddlers are promoted to Primary School and Primary 7 is waved goodbye to Secondary School. Various classes provide a performance with singing and dancing and the children with disabilities also contribute with Miss Cossie. There is a tension with us for a while: how are parents going to react to this... It is also very quiet for a while.... But then the applause breaks loose and the tension breaks. When I look around I see emotional parents; That feels good. Children with disabilities are not just accepted here and some parents of these children are not present on Visitation Day, which hurts. That's why the applause is heartwarming!



It is a festive day that ends with the cutting of two large cakes. All attendees get a small piece of the cakes!

We visit Secondary School Blessed Sacrament Kimanya in Masaka where we have to tell Michael in Secondary 6 that his sponsor has stopped, but that we have also found another sponsor who wants to pay for his complete study for medicine at the University. Those are



the most beautiful visits! When we first tell him that the sponsor is quitting, he collapses a bit... Gone dream... But then I tell him the good news and tears come to his eyes as well as mine! What a joy! He falls around my neck and continues to hold me.

And when I also tell him that his sponsors are coming, he doesn't know what to say anymore!

This trip we also visit our students in Rakai. We drive with two cars on a sand-gravel road "under maintenance" in 1.5 hours and arrive in cars that are red with dust. The weather is gloomy when we arrive at Kelly and Patrick's school. They study at the Agricultural College. They are somewhat gloomy buildings where we are shown around. The meeting between our sponsors Carola and André and Kelly is very special. Nice to see!

Then we also drive to the "School for nursing" in Rakai where we meet student nurse Esther. We haven't seen her for a long time, so it's an extra big surprise for her! One more year, then she will be done here.



When we are back in Masaka we drive to the Malago Hospital, where we visit our students Charles, Tonny and Fred at their internship address. We get a tour where the students work and we are impressed again. But how nice it is that these boys follow part of their education here and we can witness that! Fred, as proud as a monkey in

his blue uniform with "diploma" written on it in clear letters. He is already a bit further along with the training. Charles and Tonny are wearing a green uniform, they are still working for their certificate.

After this beautiful visit we take a shortcut, over the many red dirt roads that Uganda has to offer, to Secondary School St. Bernards. We meet Corine's sponsor child, Rodgers. It is a nice meeting between sponsor and sponsor child. He is visibly moved about what he gets and thanks him many times for it.

We also visit the school for the deaf in Bwanda where we meet Enock. He has grown enormously and is ready for a new step. For him we have to look for a good Secondary School. There is a good school in Entebbe,

but too far for our work to monitor there. So there has to be another solution. To be continued!

On October 31, the group will leave us to go on trips to Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake Mbororo National Park. We wave them goodbye and Pieter and I leave for Lwengo to continue our work.

We pick up the children where we go on a home visit and then drive with 5 children in the car and 2 on the bodaboda to the first house. We arrive at the house where little Douglas lives. He has swallowing problems and his chest is soaking wet with saliva all day long. We advised him to go to the Health Center, because maybe something can be done about this.

Then we drive to the house of Francis, Josephine, Vicent and Winnie. That makes us silent: a very small house, where grandma, a very vulnerable woman, is still trying to make something of it. The mattresses are broken, I think grandma sleeps sitting down, because her "room" is hardly bigger. I can't explain it..... But it was terrible and if we also know the backgrounds where alcohol and drugs play a role, we can be grateful that these children are in boarding at our school. We leave with our teeth clenched, but I can't prevent a tear from rolling down my cheek. I can't help it.

Then we go to Christopher and Oliver's house. Another sad story where grandpa and grandma do their best to keep their heads above water.

With five chatting children in the back seat, we drive back to school; deliver the children and continue our way home full of thoughts.



But it got worse. We went on a home visit to Mercy's mother. Mercy is a child with a severe disability and we decided not to tire her out unnecessarily with a trip in the car to her house, so we drive without Mercy to mother, where two more children live.

Where we end up is impossible to describe, but I try; I call it the slumps of Lwengo: in a courtyard to the left of the tiny house we see a crumbled house with a door that hides the hole in the ground (toilet), mother tries to keep his head above water here with son and daughter. She does the laundry for the neighborhood where she



earns a little money. The two children went to a government school nearby (free and poor education), but were sent home because mother could not afford the personal things. A very, very vulnerable family. And how nice that Mercy is at least out of here. We give mom some money so that she can be helped a bit, but yes....

It's only for a while and we actually want to do more, but we have also learned that you can't solve everything. And yet it doesn't let me go to this day....

On the last Lwengo day we visited Gaudencia. In the meantime, she has given birth to a sweet daughter with the impossible name: Fortunate Redeemed Nabbosa, which means as much as "happily redeemed". We didn't like it and she changed the name to Marg Nabbosa on the spot. The ritual is that the owner of that name says his own name in the child's ear and of course I did that with love! (In Uganda they usually leave out the last letter of my name, hence "Marg")

Finally: Pieter and I were a bit dreading the trip to go out with such a large sponsor group, but at the same time we were also looking forward to introducing them to this beautiful country with its lovely people, our beautiful projects and introducing them to all our stories.

They were intensive weeks, but we had a great time together. We laughed, encouraged each other, sometimes dried a tear. Yes, it was a great trip with you guys!

Thanks Cobi and Hugo, Carola and André, Corine, Joke and Wendy! Thank you for your enthusiasm and your empathy with our work in this very poor part of Uganda.

The work has also continued well, with or without accompanying sponsors.

We have seen all but 2 children and that is a record! We have made beautiful, moving and sad home visits. Concerns shared and new activities discussed that will certainly be continued. We also have to conclude together that the school fee must be increased. You will hear more about this soon. But we have also seen the hopeless situation of some families. Sometimes we can help, that's good, but we have to put a lot aside and that is sometimes difficult.

One more thing: On behalf of a large number of children, thank you for the letter. The children are so happy with a little attention, a little warmth and a big hug! We will go again in the spring, because we promised them that when we said goodbye!

Kind regards,
Marga Streefkerk

Below, Wendy, Corine, Joke, Cobi and Hugo and Carola and André have put their impressions on paper.

From Wendy:

It was very special to see everything Lwengo Kids Foundation does up close: from the Primary School, Secondary School, the Nursing school in Rakai, the deaf school, to the agricultural school, the hospital, the Family Home and the Health Center. We were warmly welcomed everywhere, and the joy of the children and the passion of the teachers will stay with you. For me personally, the best moment was of course the visit to the Primary School (what a welcome!!) and the meeting with my sponsor child Shakibuh. It was special to experience that every child counts and that you can really make a difference – even a letter or small gesture means a lot, and not getting a letter can be a huge disappointment. We also painted, drew and organized a sports afternoon with the children, which made them visibly happy. It is wonderful to see that everything Lwengo Kids Foundation does ends up well and that you can actually help someone. An experience that will stay with me for a long time and makes me feel how valuable the work of Lwengo Kids Foundation is.



The trip ended with a visit to two beautiful wildlife parks and a few relaxing days on the Ssese Islands.

It was a journey full of impressions, emotions and beautiful encounters – an experience to remember. ♥

From Joke

Our trip to Uganda is difficult to put into words. Although my expectations were high, the country exceeded them effortlessly. The impressive nature, the warmth of the people and the many special moments made this experience unforgettable.



A special part of the trip was the meeting with our sponsor girl Rose Mary. In a short time she managed to make you feel so much love that it made a deep impression.

During our visit we also saw how important the letters received by the sponsor children are. They look forward to it immensely, and when a letter is not forthcoming, the disappointment is great and the sadness palpable. That made us so aware of what these gestures mean to them.

This trip has left a lasting impression and will stay with me for a long time.

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From Corine

On October 22, our special trip to Uganda began. After arriving in Masaka, we were warmly welcomed the next day at the Lwerudeso Primary School, where singing and dancing children greeted us warmly. What a merriment! We visited the classes, the Family Home and the Health Center – impressive how everything is organized there.



The following days we met sponsor children and their families. Their circumstances were often harrowing, but their gratitude and warmth touched us deeply. Hugs, tears and shared fruit made everything unforgettable. We helped in the classes, played games with the children and saw how important a simple note from a sponsor can be. You saw the faces darken when there was no letter for them, really sad. So dear fellow sponsors, write a letter to your child. Small effort and you do them such a favor.

In addition to the school visit, we also got a glimpse of the local hospital and ended with a cheerful sports afternoon full of enthusiasm. The farewell was moving – with singing, dancing and a lot of emotions.

From Cobi and Hugo

On October 22, 2025, we left for Uganda for a few weeks. There we saw the reality of life in this beautiful country. At the beautiful school



of Lwengo Kids we met our sponsor child Malecerina. We took her to her grandmother who is raising her. The living conditions of her and other sponsor children have made that impression on us. Afterwards we had a nice meeting with our student Mike.



After a few days of safari and relaxation, we came home from a trip we will never forget! It was great.

From Carola

To Uganda with Lwengo Kids



At the end of October we were traveling in Uganda with the Pieter and Marga of Lwengo Kids Foundation. What an impressive experience that was;

Being able to see live how the people live there, how the children grow and flourish at school and are enthusiastic. Not always "nice" to see the often poor conditions in which the families live, but very valuable to get that insight. You realize all the better what a little financial support and personal attention can mean for a child there. A lot!

A highlight was the meeting with "our" sponsor child, whom we have seen grow over the past 11 years from a naughty boy to a young adult of 17 who enjoys following an agricultural education.

In addition, we also enjoyed the beautiful country, the warm people and our great travel group. It was nice to be able to share our experiences with each other, and also with Marga and Pieter. In addition to the beautiful conversations this generated, we also had a good laugh with each other!

In short: a trip to remember!

From André

For just under two weeks I accompanied Marga and Pieter in their work in Lwengo. We met children from the Primary School and teenagers from various Secondary Schools and did home visits to new sponsor children.

For me, it was partly a reliving of the month I spent as a volunteer in Lwengo in 2014. The enthusiasm of Marga and Pieter, the children, the teachers and of Anthony, Douglas and other employees of the local Lwengo organization is still great to experience.

What has changed are the school and the facilities. In eleven years, new buildings have been realized and the facilities have improved enormously. It is impressive to see how Lwengo Kids Foundation, together with the local community, now offers about 700 children good education.

The new Health Center also impressed me. Eleven years ago, it was still a wish: accessible medical and dental care, close to home. That wish has now been realized. It is wonderful that the sponsor children have insurance so that they can also make use of this care.

The best moment with the children was always handing over a letter from his or her sponsor. I always give a letter to Marga and Pieter. But now I saw with my own eyes how much such a letter means to a sponsor child. Most children have never met their sponsor, but at that moment it feels like they are very close for a moment.



Children waiting at the Health Center until it is their turn for the vaccination

So much for the stories of our fellow travelers. I say it every trip when I ask you to give a note or card for your sponsor child: it is so important for the children!

The above stories show that I am absolutely not exaggerating in that!

You will participate again next time, won't you?!