



## Precious Children's Centre

### Background

The Precious Children's Centre is a community based initiative that aims to improve the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in the Kawempe Division of Kampala and the surrounding areas. The project offers a number of child-friendly services, such as:

- Early childhood education,
- Basic primary education,
- Child counseling and rehabilitation, and
- Integration.

The Precious Children's Centre is located in Ttula (one of the slum areas of Kampala) along Ttula Road, in Mbogo Parish of the Kawempe Division, Kampala.

The Kawempe Division is one of four divisions that make up Kampala, Uganda's capital city. It is located in the northern part of Kampala's central business district. It is a highly populated area, with over 290,500 inhabitants and a 60% illiteracy rate. Since Kawempe Division is a slum area, the population is comprised of low-income households. A majority of the population survives on casual jobs or small businesses, and some survive through harmful activities such as sex working, gambling, and unscrupulous practices such as robbery. Other social problems associated with this area include high rates of HIV/AIDS (prevalence at 7%), high rates of alcohol and substance abuse, gangs, and unstable families/gender based violence.

### Current Program and RMF's Support

The Precious Children's Centre was founded in 2011 by Robert Baryamwesiga, an officer in the Office of the Prime Minister, who was moved by compassion when he saw the plight of children in Kawempe Division. Robert was born and raised in this slum, and thus has direct experience with the socioeconomic challenges involved in living there. Currently, the Precious Children's Centre is assisting **425 OVCs** to obtain basic primary education and **39 former street children** are undergoing rehabilitation before they can be enrolled in the regular education program. The Precious Children's Centre is nonsectarian, and embraces children from all walks of life.

Since 2015, RMF has come to the aid of the Precious Children's Centre, providing monthly funding to purchase food for the children. This funding has stabilized the operations of Precious Children's Centre, since food shortage was one of the biggest challenges affecting the project. Children are now well-fed, and they stay in school without running away. They look healthy and happy.



*A class at the Precious Children's Centre*



*Children in Primary One at the Precious Children's Centre*

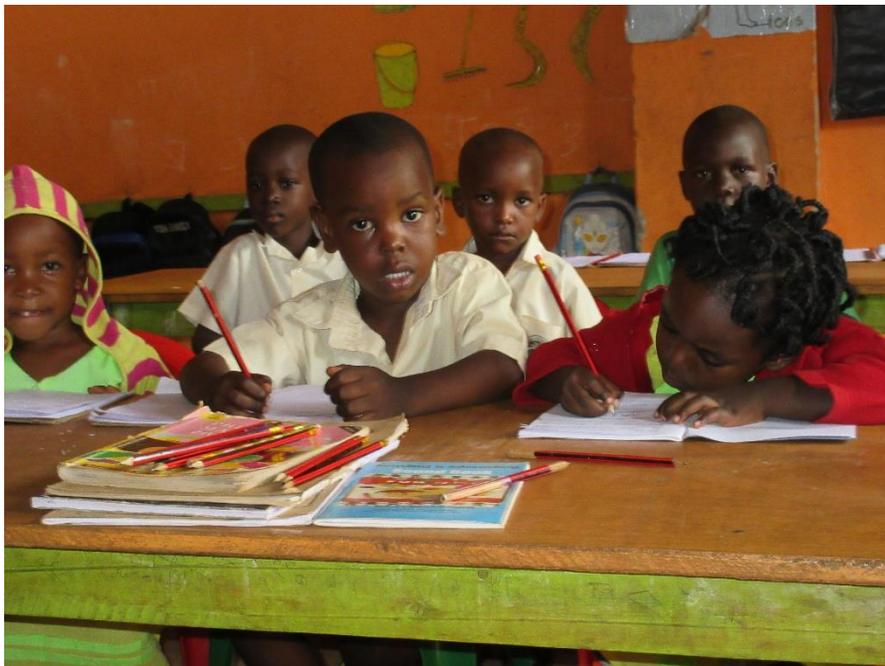


*Boys enjoy free time at the Precious Children's Centre*





*A classroom at the Precious Children's Centre*



*Young children learning to write at the Precious Children's Centre*