I AM SOMEONE

UGANDA
COUNTRY OVERVIEW

2008 – PRESENT

3 Children's Villages • 2 Primary Schools - Community Outreach programs in scores of villages • Over 10 acres of farming projects
1000's of children educated every year.

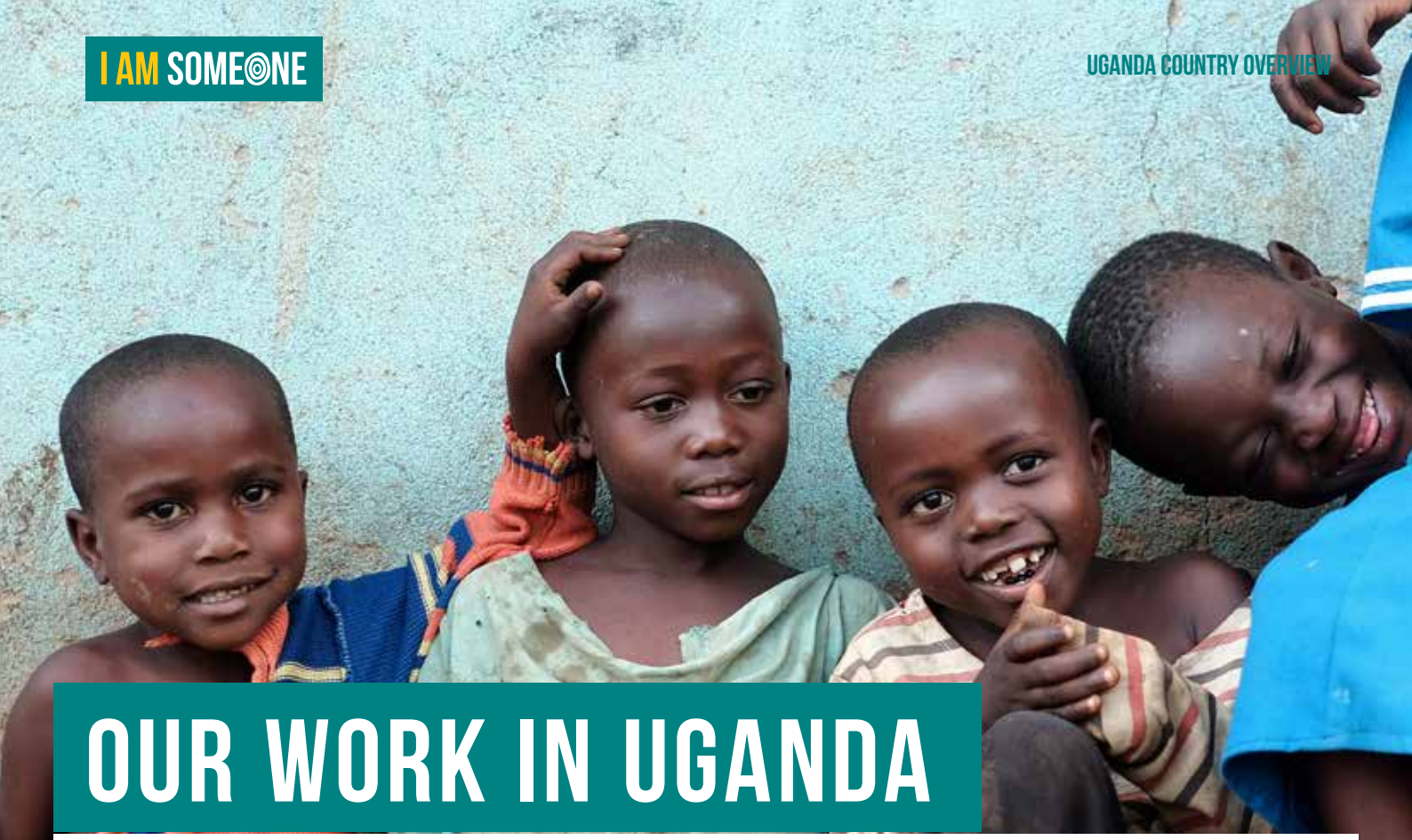
Kasese, Karasundara, Kitholi, and townships throughout the western region.

INTRODUCTION

In 2008, I Am Someone began its work in Uganda, a country with a young and rapidly growing population, where access to education, healthcare, and safe housing remains deeply unequal. While Uganda has made great strides in development, significant disparities persist—particularly in rural and remote areas. It is in these underserviced communities that our work is anchored.

Poverty, food insecurity, and inadequate access to health services remain everyday challenges for families. Many children grow up without parental care due to illness, conflict, or abandonment. Others are raised by ageing grandmothers or extended relatives with no reliable income or ability to provide for their basic needs.

At I Am Someone, we work closely with trusted local leaders, women's groups, and grassroots organisations to identify the most at risk children—those at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. Each child who enters our care has been assessed as high risk using the UNICEF Vulnerable Children's Index. Our goal is to not only offer protection and stability, but also long-term opportunity.



OUR WORK IN UGANDA

Our programs in Uganda are based in the western regions, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, where communities continue to feel the effects of past conflict and where services are still rebuilding. Here, we have established pioneering outreach programs in the regions most impoverished communities. Working hand in hand with local women's groups we identify and support the most at-risk children with long term holistic support that helps keep them connected to their communities whilst benefiting from our support of education, health care, nutrition and opportunity. All the ingredients to help break the poverty cycle and create long term change.

In addition to our outreach work we've established three Children's Villages that act as safe homes for children who have been orphaned, abandoned, or displaced, and which also serve as educational hubs to provide access to broader issues in support of children's growth.

These villages are more than just housing—they are nurturing, trauma-informed environments where children receive education, healthcare, nutritious food, and the care of devoted staff. Some of the children who now thrive in our programs arrived severely malnourished or suffering from preventable conditions like parasites or untreated infections.

From these villages we have been able to rebuild lives that had previously been torn apart by poverty. When we first met them, every child was living a life of incredible hardship and suffering. Most only had the rags on their back and to find a smile from those fragile souls was almost impossible.

Now it's a different story. You'll find big smiles everywhere you look from confident children making the most of their second chance. They are trumping exams and enjoying the opportunities now coming their way. In fact, our kids in Uganda are leading the way with two previous students Emmy and Davis now completing their studies and becoming a doctor and lawyer respectively, with countless others forging careers the impact of our work is widespread. With vocational training also being a strong focus on our work there, we've also a handful of teens now beginning jobs in hospitality, mechanics, plumbing and so on. A long incredible journey from the streets where we found them!

Today, thanks to the dedication of our Ugandan staff and our growing network of community partners, these children are healthy, learning, and looking ahead to a future they never imagined possible.

KEY FEATURES OF OUR PROGRAMS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Two fully operational schools offering education to over 950 children. For many children this is the only opportunity for schooling as our schools are one of the very few accessible education centres available in their region. These schools are more than buildings—they are the heart and hope of their communities.

SCORES OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS WITH VILLAGES ACROSS THE REGIONS.

Here the most at risk children are supported in tandem with the focus of lifting communities out of poverty

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING HUB.

Offering school holiday programs, incorporating advice, life skills, support and vocational access.

FARMING & FOOD PROJECTS

Sustainable agriculture on village land, increasing local food security and supporting income generation. This program is one of the exciting projects that is growing to provide a variety of nutritious foods for the children and the broader community.

WATER WELLS

Clean water access for both the villages and nearby communities, dramatically reducing waterborne illnesses.

OUR COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

At I Am Someone, we believe that transforming a child's life requires transforming the world around them. That's why our model is deeply rooted in community-wide support. We work not just with the children in our care, but with their extended families, elders, and local leaders to build stronger, safer communities.

We are a key employer in the areas we operate, and we take great pride in ensuring our programs are locally run, locally staffed, and culturally informed. Several of our team members in Uganda are former beneficiaries of care themselves—now working as caregivers, educators, and advocates for the next generation.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we continue to expand our reach in Uganda, we remain committed to ensuring that no child falls through the cracks. With increasing inflation and rising operational costs, we are actively seeking additional support to continue providing vital services—especially in the areas of healthcare and education.

We are not here for temporary change. We are here for generational transformation.

KASESE EDUCATION HUB

- School holiday learning programs. Skills based access to vocational activites. Advice centre for youth.
- Local Staff – 1 in country project coordinator, 1 male carer, 1 female carer, 1 social worker
- Kasese Farming Projects (outskirts of Kasese)
- 1 acre tree growing project
- 5 acres of farming for crops, fruit trees and animal rearing. Farm producing vegetables and fruits for the children within our projects with the excess sold at market
- Infrastructure – Dormatories for 80 visitiing children. Conference hall for to deliver educational programs and awareness.
- Girls building x 3, Boys building x 2, Office, toilet block, Shipping Container converted to accommodate shops that IAS ex student's operate small businesses from,
- Income generated from shop rental and from food productively excess sales

KASESE MUSIC AND COOKING SCHOOL. IN DEVELOPMENT AND ACTS AS PART OF OUR HOLIDAY SCHOOL AND TRAINING HUB.

KARASUNDARA PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH BOARDING

- Children's Village Capacity – 60 children
- Primary school – 700 students
- Infrastructure – Girl's dormitory, boy's dormitory
- Primary school, composting toilet block
- Local staff – Independently funded by Karasundara Women's Association
- Income/generating activities.
- 5 acre farm which grows all manner of local produce to help feed the children.
- Goat rearing

KITHOLI PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH BOARDING

- Children's Village Capacity – 25-50
- Primary School – 250 children
- Local staff – I male social worker, 2 female carers, I project manager
- Infrastructure – Boys and girls dormitories, Primary school, toilet block.
- Income/Food generating projects – Piggery.(ceased due to disease during covid)

UGANDA KEY STATISTICS

Male Literacy Rate: 84.9%
Female Literacy Rate: 76.5%

Education Completion Rates
Around 47% of children finish primary school

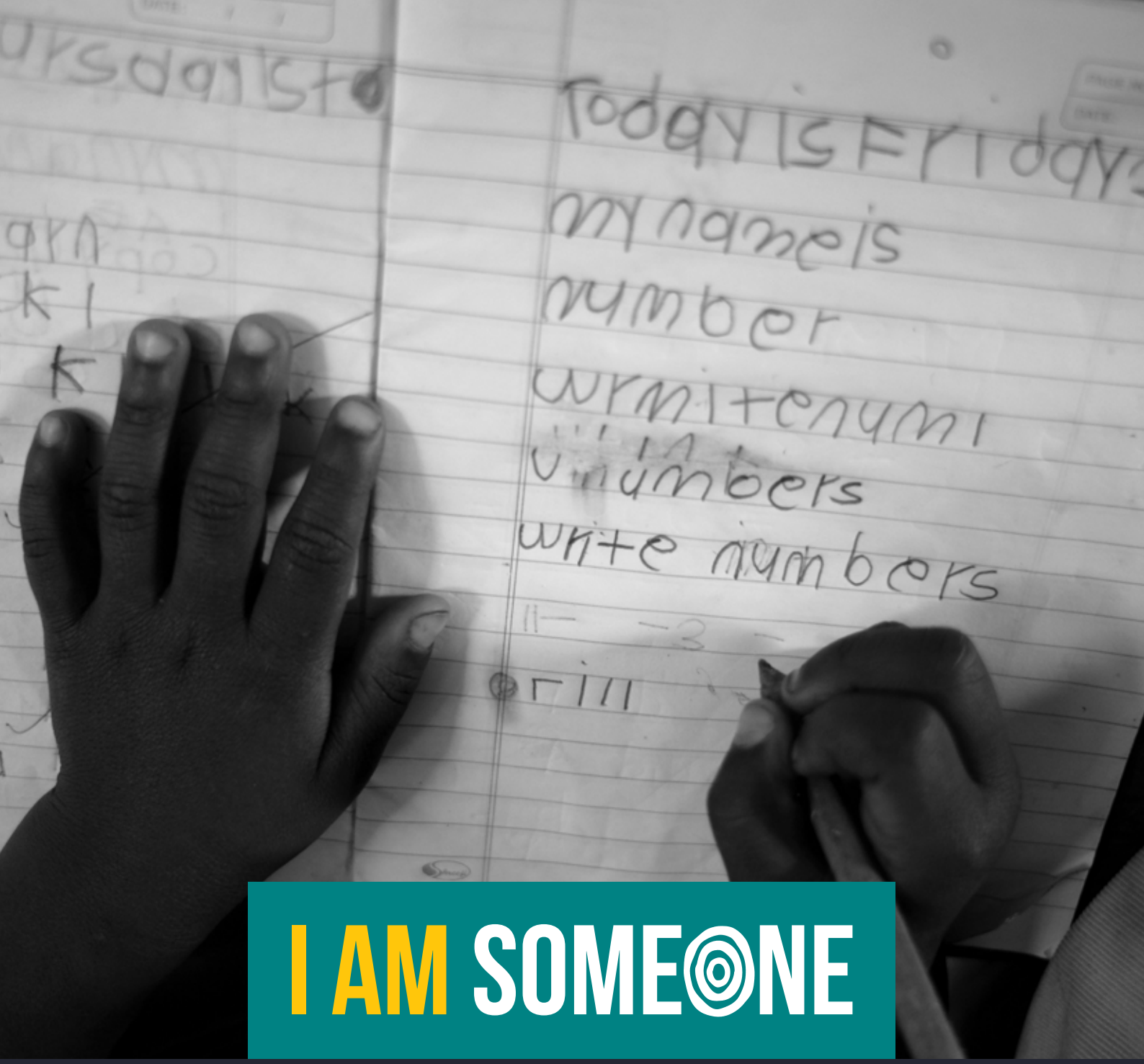
POVERTY INDICATORS
Multidimensional Poverty Rate:
42.1% of Ugandans are considered multidimensionally poor, facing deprivations across health, education, and living standards

TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN UGANDA
25% of girls aged 15–19 have had one child
17.2% of maternal deaths occur among girls aged 15–19

CHILD MARRIAGE IN UGANDA
(SOURCE: UNICEF UGANDA COUNTRY PROFILE 2021)
34% of women aged 20–24 were married before age 18

7% were married before age 15

Uganda has approx. 4.7 million child brides, including 1.3 million married before age 15



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