



Dear sponsors, dear friends,

The year 2022 is slowly coming to an end and Christmas is just around the corner. We look back on a year full of crises. The war in Ukraine, the energy crisis and high inflation are causing us great concern in Europe and each of us is affected in one way or another. The daily problems sometimes make us forget other continents. Africa in particular is threatened by drought and famine. In addition, after Corona, Uganda in particular is now also struggling with the threatening Ebola virus. Schools have sent children on holiday earlier to prevent the spread. Restrictions on the movement of people and goods have been imposed in some districts in Uganda. Inflation is making life difficult for the people there as well.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for continuing to stand by our families and for their active support in 2022. This made it possible for us to support our families in 2022 with EUR 6,040 for the purchase of food. This means at least a small relief in the daily life of our families.

We are especially happy that we found sponsorships for 24 trainees in 2022 and that the young people were able to start their training in various professions. We are currently still looking for sponsors for one young man. Another great success is that we were able to include 22 more needy children in our programme. Thanks to your help, these children now have a chance for a better future.

Thank you to all of those who have taken on a new sponsorship,
and thank you to all of those who have supported us for years!

By this Christmas newsletter we send you greetings from our Ugandan families and give you an insight into the Ugandan Christmas tradition.



*We wish you all Merry Christmas and
a happy and healthy year 2023!*

Yours

Gabi, Sylvia, Carina, Katharina, Maren und Birgit

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1. Christmas Greetings form Reverend James Kivunike (Called to Care Family)

Dear all beloved Sponsors,

Warm regards from Jinja - Uganda. On behalf of all the Parents of BULUNGI KINDER UGANDA Ltd., do express our heartfelt gratitude to God for the provisions he blessed with you and in turn you lovingly shared with us here in Uganda. As an English saying goes,

'A friend in need, is a friend indeed'.

We are so thankful for extending your kindness and faithfulness to have stood with us this year as Partners in what we been able to achieve for the vulnerable children under our care here in Uganda. We are extremely very grateful to you, for the support, prayers, encouragement, extra donations and feedback.

The year 2022, has been a year of great worldwide hardships. We are however thankful to God that he had carried us through this far.

2023, our prayer is that it will be a year of incredible breakthroughs in all areas of life. As we celebrate together with you the achievements acquired by our children, together, we are also celebrating the coming and the birth of the son of God, who is our Lord and saviour. As you celebrate over there, all the parents say to all of you that Merry Christmas and Wishing you a prosperous, fruitful and healthful New Year 2023.

*Lots of love
Yours
Ven. Rev. James Kivunike*



We would like to thank our ugandan family parents for their great commitment to the welfare of our sponsored children!

We wish our family parents and all sponsored children from the bottom of our hearts

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year



2. Christmas in Uganda - How do our families celebrate? We asked.

How do people celebrate Christmas in Uganda? What are the customs there and what do they typically eat on the holidays? That's what we asked our families in Uganda. There are definitely some differences to our German tradition. Here are the answers from Jane (Mama Jane's Comfort Family) and Phionah (Huge Heart Family).

Bridget: Dear Jane, dear Phionah, how do you celebrate Christmas in Uganda?

Jane: Christmas in Uganda is called "Sekukulu" and is celebrated on 25th December. People like to dress up in their best new clothes for Sekukulu. The women wear their traditional dresses called "Gomesi" and the old men dress in their traditional "Kanzu". At Christmas, everyone greets each other with "Sekukulu ennungi", which means "Merry Christmas".

Phionah: Christmas is one of the most important holidays here in Uganda. It is about people returning home to their families and communities to spend time together, eat, listen to music and play games.

Bridget: In Germany, Christmas begins on 24th December with Christmas Eve. Many families go to church in the afternoon or evening, then there are presents under the festively decorated Christmas tree and a cosy meal is eaten together. In Uganda, Christmas does not start before 25th December, which is Christmas Day, right?

Jane: Yes, that is correct. 23th December is commonly known as "Pork Day". 24th December is the day when cows are slaughtered for beef. Most families buy meat to roast and eat throughout the Christmas season, which means enough meat for two or three days.

Bridget: And how do you celebrate 25th December, the Christmas Day?

Jane: Church starts early in the morning on Christmas Day and almost all the churches are full because people are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Churches are decorated with Christmas trees and candles on this day, choirs present Christmas songs.

Bridget: Choirs are important for the Christmas mass in our church too. The service in our church always ends with the song "O how joyful, O how blessed, Grace-bringing Christmas time!", a classic Christmas song. In addition, I personally like "Jingle

Bells", even though we only very rarely have a "White Christmas", means Christmas with snow, which plays a central role in this song. After all, it says there: "Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way! O what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!". And you definitely need snow for that. And what are your favourite Christmas songs?

Jane: My favourite song is: "Long time ago in Bethlehem, So the holy bible say...."

Phionah: I really, really like that one too. But my favourite is a Christmas song composed by my brother. You can find it on YouTube: Festive Season by Deo Tiie.

Bridget: Let's move on to another important topic, Christmas dishes. In Germany we have some traditional Christmas dishes. On Christmas Eve we don't eat so lavishly, there are often simpler dishes like potato salad with sausages. In many families it is tradition to eat fish, for example carp. On Christmas Day, we have a festive meal, often goose with red cabbage and dumplings or game. Together with all the Christmas biscuits, which we snack on in large quantities, we usually eat far too much. And what are your traditional Christmas dishes?

Phionah: A wide variety of dishes are prepared, such as chicken that is well seasoned and wrapped in smoked banana leaves and steamed. This is a traditional cooking only found in Uganda. All meats are served with rice and with Irish or sweet potatoes. And whoops, yes we eat too much too. We eat and eat and eat 😊 !

Jane: And we cook matooke. On the 25th of December, the mothers wake up around 4:00 am to start cooking. Matooke is mainly a special kind of banana that is harvested green, then peeled and wrapped in banana leaves. When cooked, it turns yellow and is best served mashed.



(Jane cooking Matooke)

dancing, and of late people can also go to the theatre or cinema and attend concerts.

Bridget: Thank you very much for taking the time to tell us something about Christmas in Uganda. We wish you and all your families Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Jane and Phionah: We also wish all German families from the bottom of our hearts

Sekukulu enungi and omwaka omujja ogwemirembe

(Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year)

Bridget: And how does the day continue after church and the meal with the family?

Phionah: After the feast, families and friends celebrate with games, storytelling, singing and



And here are the lyrics to Jane and Phionah's favourite Christmas song for anyone who would like to sing it at Christmas too:

A Long Time Ago in Bethlehem



When Joseph and his wife Mary
Came to Bethlehem that night
They find no place to born that child
Not a single room was in sight

Then by and by they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little boy was born

Listen hear the angels sing
A new king born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

A long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says...
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on a Christmas day

Listen hear the angels sing
A new king born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says
Mary boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day

Listen hear the angels sing
A new king is born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
They see a bright new shining star
And then they hear a choir sing
The music seem to come from afar



3. Christmas Greetings from our Families in Uganda to our Sponsors

Many thanks to our Ugandan families for the kind Christmas greetings that reached us this year for our sponsors!



Many thanks to all our sponsors!
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 🍀 from the bottom of our heart

Mama Jane's Comfort Family



Love and hugs ❤️ from **Huge Heart Family**
with a big thank you for the support and care!
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Best regards and Merry Christmas
Deborah's Family



A wonderful Christmas time and
all the best and love for the New Year
Justine's Family



Thank you very much 🙏 for your reliable support of our children!
To all our sponsors we wish a blessed Christmas and happiness, health and
all the best for the New Year. ❤️

Your Victory Family



Many Thanks and all the Best also from
Mwebaza Family



A Merry Christmas and all the best for 2023
wishes most sincerely
Your Hope Family



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a
successful and healthy New Year

Your Kwagala Family



4. More things to know

Anniversary T-Shirt fundraiser 🕒

We did it! With your help, we were able to successfully complete our anniversary T-Shirt fundraiser. Each sponsored child will receive a brand new T-Shirt with the Bulungi logo at the beginning of next year. We transferred the necessary funds of EUR 2,100 to Uganda with our December transfer. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the successful completion of our T-Shirt campaign with their donation.

Uganda Trip

As previously announced, we are planning to fly to Uganda to visit our families at the end of January 2023. Even though our flights are already booked and the visit programme is organised, we have not yet made the final decision whether we will actually travel. After careful consideration, we have decided to observe the infection events of the Ebola outbreak until the beginning of January 2023. If there are new Ebola outbreaks in Jinja District after Christmas, we will have to postpone our trip. However, we hope that the situation will continue to calm down, as observed in the last weeks. Therefore, we will unfortunately only be able to inform you definitively at the end of the first week of January 2023 whether the trip will take place.

If we do fly, we would like to give you the opportunity, as usual, to send us small gifts and letters to your sponsored children. Unfortunately, this time we only have a short period of about two and a half weeks to do this, as all parcels must reach us by Thursday 26 January 2023 at the latest. As soon as it is certain that we will be travelling, we will let you know all the information about the gifts (maximum weight/shipping address etc.) as usual. We hope you understand that due to this particular situation in Uganda, the decision to travel must be carefully considered.



Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr

*Yours
Bulungi-Team*