



May, 2022 | PO Box 874205, Vancouver, WA 98687 | [www.ourganda.org](http://www.ourganda.org) | [getintouch@ourganda.org](mailto:getintouch@ourganda.org) | (360) 624-7271



I'm popping into your mailbox today to play a little game of 'Messed Up to Blessed Up.' It's sorta fun.

Ourganda's goal is to transform at least 12 misery zones into flourishing zones by the end of this decade. We define a flourishing zone as a community where the majority feel healthy, happy, safe, and hopeful.

Is that even possible? It's not that hard to transform one person's life (or maybe a family or two), but can we transform entire villages?

## Messed Up

When it comes to **health**, our starting point was tough. Official stats don't exist, but some of the locals estimate that life expectancy in the remote villages is in the high 30s. A scratch or a fever can be fatal. That is changing dramatically in the six villages our teams visit every week.

What is the starting point when it comes to **poverty**? What is their standard of living?

We got our hands on a ten-question Poverty Probability survey that has been used throughout Uganda. Godfrey, our empowerment leader, and Vincent, our ministry coordinator, asked the ten questions to 51 families in Sarakihombya.

Here are some highlights:

- Of 51 households, 10 have eight or more family members.
- Forty-seven households have an adult female living in the home, but 43 of 47 cannot read or write in any language.
- Fifty homes are constructed of mud and poles (or mud and unburnt bricks).
- All but one of the households cook over an open fire fueled with firewood, grass or cow dung.
- Every home (of 51) either has no toilet facilities at all or uses uncovered pit latrines.
- Only 9 households have at least one pair of shoes for every family member.

The people in our villages face other challenges: Polygamy is legal. Tribal disputes occasionally turn violent. Five out of ten women experience domestic violence. Sex trafficking destroys young women. So are we totally insane to think Ourganda can create villages where the majority of people feel healthy, happy, safe, and hopeful?



# Blessed Up

Every person in our villages is precious. They are our brothers and sisters. Everyone has the right to flourish, so we are committed.

## Here is the game plan:

1. Start with their physical needs. Make sure they have access to pure water, hygiene, and nutrition. Help them form good health habits and give them a chance to receive medications and professional care when they need it.
2. Teach them how to start businesses. Business is the most effective way to fight poverty. Unless this is the first letter you've read from Ourganda, you know we are aggressively giving them instruction and tools.
3. Empower and protect the women and children. Ourganda is partnering with experts who are solving the big problems of abuse and domestic violence. We have taken some big first steps to creating families and communities where kindness is normal and abuse is rare.
4. Offer spiritual support. Everything we do is built on our belief that every person is worthy of love and care, that true religion consists of treating every human being with dignity, compassion and love. We pray for everyone, and our teams are ready at any time to share their experience of forgiveness and hope to anyone who asks.



## Thanks for playing the game with us!

Yes, we can. We can transform entire villages. We can and we are creating communities where the majority of people will someday feel healthy, happy, safe, and hopeful.



**Come join us.** Be generous. (And if you can, join us on a trip to Uganda - you are always welcome!). The world can use more heroes, so **take a look at the faces** of these precious people who deserve to flourish, and ask God what you can do. Every penny helps.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Ron Gladden  
Ourganda Founder & Director

P.S. If you are in a position to make a generous donation, we will be especially thankful!

Log onto [ourganda.org/donate](http://ourganda.org/donate) or send your check to:

Ourganda  
PO Box 874205  
Vancouver, WA 98687.