

# OUR GANDA



Let's ignite hope.  
Let's change things.

## A Huge Next Step!

Dear Friend,

**When it comes to protecting women from domestic violence, Ourganda is leading the way.** Esther and her army of 140 Mankind and Soul Sisters club members in our ten villages have met with over 700 offenders who are now resolving differences with kindness instead of violence. Our villages are becoming places of peace. Domestic violence – everyone knows now – is not unsolvable\*.



### What's next? What else must we do?

Vincent's phone rang. The caller was Joel Bwambale, vice chairman of the entire Bundibugyo District. He heard that I was in Bundibugyo and he wanted to meet the American guy who founded Ourganda and, over the years, brought 200 people from the U.S. and U.K. on mission trips.

Vincent and I made our way to his office with a touch of curiosity. "What do you expect he wants?" I asked Vincent, hoping to mentally prepare.

Officer Joel's warm smile assured us that we were in for a pleasant visit. He thanked us for our services to his people. He wanted to know why so many people care about this place on the map that almost no one has heard of. "Tell me how Ourganda got started," he requested. He encouraged us that Ourganda must continue our work and even expand as we were able.

**Then he dropped a bomb.** At least, that's how it felt.

"Everything Ourganda is doing is so badly needed," he began, "but here's something I hope you will consider: Last year, we know of **2,225 girls** – just in our district – who were defiled. It's a terrible problem that no one knows how to solve."

**No one knows how to solve it?** I wrote those words and numbers on the legal pad in my hand. Two thousand, two hundred twenty-five underage girls were defiled. He used the word 'defiled'; what he meant was 'forcibly raped.' The Bundibugyo district has an estimated population of 350,000, approximately the population of greater Vancouver, Washington (my hometown). I cannot imagine thousands of child rape victims in my city. Someone would step up and do something.



\*To view a recent case study on Ourganda's Domestic Violence success, scan this QR code.

## Here is the plan:

Ourganda has connected with a ministry called 'Rescue One More' (ROM). Their work is focused on several districts in the Kampala area, and their mission is to provide Ugandan children experiencing sexual violence with a pathway to safety, justice, and healing. Sarah, Scott, Sania and others have graciously offered to partner with Ourganda, to guide us as we begin to wrestle this problem to the ground in our villages.

**On October 1, 2024, Ourganda will begin preventing sexual violence with the same energy that we have invested in preventing gender based violence.**



### The Timeline:

- **July** - Vincent and Esther visited ROM for a few days in June. Four of our Ugandan employees will return to Kampala later this month for thorough training.
- **August** - Esther and her associate Benard will prioritize meetings with the social workers, security officers and others who currently support our domestic violence program. The purpose of these meetings is to share what ROM is doing in other districts and to gain their whole-hearted support.
- **September** - One of our Ugandan attorneys will travel to Bundibugyo to meet with government officials and village leaders to discuss the legal aspects of sexual violence. Meanwhile, Esther and Benard will meet with Mankind and Soul Sisters club members in our villages. Everyone will learn that the rules have changed; no one will be allowed to violate another person sexually without triggering the full weight of the law.
- **October 1** - Freedom Day for girls and young women in Ourganda's ten villages.

Ourganda builds the plane as we fly it. We learn as we go. We will learn as much as we can from outstanding, courageous leaders like Rescue One More staff. Esther, Benard and their associates will learn every day. We expect to hire more staff to lead this program as it grows. But whatever it takes, **someday sexual violence against children will be rare in Ourganda's villages.**

Can you rejoice with us? If you are a praying person, will you pray for this new initiative? For the girls and young women? For October 1 to be a defining moment in the journey toward the day when the people of Ourganda's communities will feel healthy, safe and happy?

## Here is how you can help:

- Online: Scan this QR code or visit [ourganda.org/donate](http://ourganda.org/donate)
- Phone: Call **360-624-7271**
- Mail: Send a check made payable to Ourganda to **PO Box 874205; Vancouver WA 98687**

