

Toro Babies Home- a place worthy to support



In summer 2012, Lena Fritz from Hamburg, Germany, finished her voluntary social year in the Toro Babies Home, Fort Portal, Uganda.

„In my opinion, the Toro Babies Home is absolutely worth Supporting. There are not very Many institutions like that in Uganda. The Babies Home exists

Since quite a long time and is Well known and cherished all Over the country. Those are Some of the main reasons, why There are children being brought To the home from places very far Away to live in Western Uganda In the Babies Home, Fort Portal.”



Uganda is a country in Eastern Africa, which suffered a lot during the past years and is still suffering due to the rebel army LRA (J. Kony) and many civil war refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Additionally the country still has to fight the many still occurring diseases and epidemics like Ebola, yellow-fever and „Marburg-fever“.

It would be great, if you would want to support the Toro Babies Home, to give the children a brighter future and make it a better place for them.

The history of the Home

Toro Babies Home exists now for more than 40 years.

It was founded on the 19th September 1970 by the Reverend Shem Rubaale, who built the home after the Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala.

It used to be an extension to the Sanyu Babies Home before gaining its independence in 1980.

The construction and the Babies Home has been supported by Norway since then.

Those 17 staff members are working

In the Home at the moment

- Head of the home, the matron
- secretary
- cook (+additional kitchen aid)
- security guard
- caretaker
- two staff members in Kagote
- two staff members in Kasiisi on a farm
- six „mothers“
- two „relieve mothers“



The children of the Babies Home

In total there are 50 children in the home, the age ranges from two months up to 24 years. There are 34 boys and 16 girls.

Out of the 50 children there are 5 children physically/mentally disabled.

Out of the 50 children there are 5 HIV positive children who get their medicines on a regular base. They are going monthly to check-ups and informational meetings in the hospital.

At the moment there are eight children in Nursery School, six children in Primary School and two are going to the Secondary School next semester.



Head of Home and management

The Toro Babies Home is managed by a committee out of board members. This committee consists of two bishops of the Rwenzori diocese, nine other board members, the matron and other staff members.

The Toro Child Care Centre (TCCC) is located on Norway and is looking over all the donations and finances. The main leader of TCCC is Gerda L. Rongvear.

The Toro Babies Home has their own Bank account at Stanbic Bank, where every month around 9mio UGX (around 3420\$) are transferred to from the Norwegian account of TCCC.

There is a „finance committee“ out of board members, which is creating a one-year-plan about the uses of the donated money.

From 2013 on, the donations are being cut-back and TCCC is only being able to send 5Mio UGX (around 1900\$) to the Babies Home.

The cut-back of donated money

is going to lead to the fact, that many children will have to be brought back to their families and that, in general, less and less babies can be accepted to the Babies Home. Due to many dysfunctional families and therefore occurring problems (mother died, father can't/won't look after the children), many children are only being abandoned or brought to other family members.



Problems in comparison to other orphanages

Lena Fritz visited another orphanage in town during her one-year trip and was on the one hand surprised and happy to see it, on the other hand almost shocked about the living circumstances, directly compared to the Toro Babies Home. „If you only look at the opportunities the other orphanage has, due to an international “pot of donations”, out of which the staff is being paid...it is unbelievable!!

There are 10 houses, each with one “mother” and additionally an “auntie” who is working to support. The “mothers” get that much salary, that they can pay their own cleaning lady or someone to cook or wash the clothes.”

The „mothers“ of the Home spend almost all of their time during the day with washing of clothes. The fact that the home predominantly cares for babies and small children leads to a huge amount of work and the mothers being very stressed and overburdened with their tasks.



Another huge and important difference is, that the Babies Home has some mentally/physically disabled children. The other orphanage is not taking disabled children, because it is too much of a burden for the mothers and they can't employ.

A therapist for them. This leads to many disabled children of that region being brought to the Home. Most of them have been abandoned due to the fact, that they are disabled.

The physically disabled children are lying in bed the whole day or sitting on the potty, because no one has time for them to give them the special help, care, attention and concentration they need and deserve.



Not enough space

The Babies Home is nearly done with all their capacities regarding the caring for children. Last year only five children left the home, whereas nine children were being abandoned and brought to the Home to live in.

Since there are children in the home about 10 years old who don't or can't go back to their families, there won't be enough space in the future to accommodate more babies. At the moment the TCCC is planning to build a new home for the older boys. They could move there and could be taught in agriculture for example. If the Home could mobilise more donations, the mothers could be released a bit of their pressure and the work would be easier. They would have more time for the children.

Thanks to some donations around Christmas time, we manage to set up a nice Christmas party for the children in the home.

When Lena Fritz visited the Home in January 2013 again, she bought 17 new baby cribs out of the donations.



Right now, my newest project is to support the mothers. Most of the incoming donations are meant only for the babies. However, the mothers work and suffer a lot and they make very little money (53\$ a month).

When I visited last time, the mothers prepared some very nice handcrafts (paper-bead-jewellery, baskets, clothes etc.)

I am currently trying to sell them in Germany, to send them all the money I make to support. But still, the cost of the material is a problem I still have difficulties to manage.

If you want to support the Home in whatever way you want or you need more informations, please feel free to contact me with my e-mail address.

rena_flitz@hotmail.de

My bank details are:

Lena Fritz
Norderstedter Bank
Ulzburger Straße 139
22850 Norderstedt, Germany
Account Number: 1541838
IBAN: DE75200691110001541838
BIC: GENODEF1NDR