Newsletter
January – March 2016

M-LISADA
Organisation

Celebrate our 20th Anniversary with us!
(More information on page 4)
Table of Contents
Newsletter January – March 2016

Greetings from the Executive Director p. 03
20 Years of M-LISADA p. 04
Launch of Anniversary Celebrations p. 06
Back to School p. 08
Knitting Course Graduation p. 09
CoRSU Project p. 10
Peer-to-Peer Project p. 11
M-LISADA in Kalangala p. 12
Report from the Child Protection Department p. 13
Progress in Bombo p. 14
Demolition of the First John Dickens House p. 15
Success Stories - How M-LISADA changed my Life p. 16

‘Music makes you forget, whatever you went through, and brings you together wherever you come from!’
(Micheal Nyombi)
Greetings from M-LISADA Organisation!

First of all, I want to thank every one of you for your gracious care in the last 20 years. Without you, we could not have been where we are now. This newsletter presents some of the activities we were able to carry out in the first quarter 2016 because YOU have supported us. Thank you!

In this anniversary year, we are celebrating the achievements we have made, but we are looking into the future at the same time. We hope that income from our different activities will allow us to raise funds to build a Vocational Primary School for vulnerable children. I hope all the activities will be a great success!

Moreover, we have demolished our first John Dickens’ House and already started the building of the new house. It is a big step in the growth of M-LiSADA and I love to see the process everyday!

I wish you all the best and I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Yours truly,

Segawa Bosco
Executive Director M-LiSADA

**Short Notice**

**Management Meeting**

On the 24th of March, the organisation had its second management meeting together with the probation officer, representatives of the ministry of gender and health services for the good of the children. All members agreed to continue working hand in hand!
Celebrate with us!

20 Years of M-LISADA

This Year, M-LISADA will commemorate its 20th anniversary. Our theme is MUSIC TO THE RESCUE. The celebrations, occurring from March up to October 2016, showcase the achievements and improvement in the lives of vulnerable children and youth in Uganda, under our care. M-LISADA expresses gratitude to everyone who has generously contributed towards the success and continuity of the Organisation. We offer wholehearted thanks to each person for the great friendship, love, support, advice and contribution you have given to us.

During our 20th-Anniversary celebrations, we plan to hold a number of activities. The first activity “Launch of the Construction of a Vocational Primary School, Walk to Bombo and Planting of Trees in Bombo” has successfully been conducted. For more information, please read page 6. In the months to come, we are having several more events, which aim at fundraising for the building of the Vocational Primary School, including:

1) Cultural & Acrobatics Gala and Jazz Music

Our most talented children – musicians, acrobats and cultural dancers & players – will perform at M-LISADA headquarters. Furthermore, arts & crafts exhibitions will be taking place the same day.

2) Walk from Gulu to Kampala

For the last 25 years, many of the children in Northern Uganda suffered the war and its consequences and lost their lives, some ended up on the streets of Kampala. M-LISADA joined other child-centered organisations to promote the rights of the children, to withdraw children from the streets, and rehabilitate, educate and reunite some of them with their families in the North. In order to recognize these vulnerable children, M-LISADA will conduct a challenging 16-day walk, along the same path taken by many of our children, from the North to Kampala (350 km).

3) Children’s Mini-Marathon and Sport’s Gala

This remarkable activity will involve over 1,000 children from the streets, the slum community, the juveniles from Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre, schools where our children study, and the home of M-LISADA. This activity is the first of its kind to bring children together for the common interest of appreciating M-LISADA’s twenty-year contribution towards the care, protection, survival, growth and development of vulnerable children.

4) Brass Band Gala

The name of the Organisation stands for Music, Life Skills And Destitution Alleviation (M-LISADA), and music has been the face of the organisation ever since. Music is used to attract young people, unify them, and provide a skill. Many of our children have received brass band training, and have gone on to prestigious jobs with the Police and Army bands, have begun their own band, or are teaching music in schools. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, all those who passed through and benefited from M-LISADA will be invited to participate with their bands in the celebrations. Activities for this celebration will include a Brass Band training workshop, a panel discussion between Brass Band members on the achievements and challenges, and a music concert. We will have 20 Brass Bands each with 20 members.

5) Community Cleaning

M-LISADA Organisation will give back to their community, which has supported them for the last 20 years through cleaning the community, holding community health talks and a community concert.

6) Anniversary Concert & Closing Dinner

7) Wedding of Segawa Bosco & Lucy Khan

In order, to make those activities a success, your gracious support is needed. Please contact us for more information.
Anniversary Celebrations

Don’t miss out:

21/05/2016  Cultural & Acrobatics Gala, Arts & Crafts Exhibition and Jazz Music
01-16/06/2016  Walk from Gulu to Kampala
17/07/2016  Children’s Mini-Marathon & Sport’s Gala
25/08/2016  Brass Band Gala
17/09/2016  Community Cleaning
28/10/2016  Anniversary Concert and Closing Dinner
29/10/2016  Wedding of Segawa Bosco & Lucy Khan

We kindly invite you to join us in our celebrations!
Launching of the Anniversary Events. On the 4th of March, the Director of Music Uganda Police Band, Mrs. Kakooza, launched our Anniversary Events. An officer from the music fraternity was invited for the launch, as music is our niche as well as the catching, mobilizing, sensitizing, educating and uniting tool. Mrs. Kakooza congratulated M-LISADA upon making 20 years of existence in which a continuous support of orphans and vulnerable children & youth was always secured by handing over knowledge and skills – the weapons against illiteracy and poverty. She furthermore thanked the vision-bearers for keeping the fire burning and for spearheading the vision. At the same time, she urged them to continue and to increase networking with other organisations. Furthermore, she pledged to continue supporting the organisation. Finally, she wished everyone good celebrations and all the best in the coming years.

Walk to Bombo. The same evening, the 48-km walk to Mpande-Kalule (Bombo) was flagged off by the Commissioner Alternative Care from the Line Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development under which the organisation falls. The officer congratulated M-LISADA for the 20 years, in which they contributed to the governmental and care-takers’ obligations and thanked the staff and the community for helping the children in need. He wished M-LISADA all the best for the future and the walkers a safe walk. The following day, at 5.00 am, a team of 52 walkers composed of M-LISADA staff, networking organisations, community members and supported children started the 48km Walk to Bombo. They wanted to fundraise the establishment of the Vocational Primary School and show the people in the village their care for vulnerable people. At 3.00 pm the walkers reached the final destination safely. Everyone enjoyed the walk and was able to cross their personal boundaries!

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for M-LISADA Vocational Primary School. After the walk, M-LISADA staff and children, local leaders, community members both from Kampala and Kalule, friends to the organisation and well-wishers attended the ceremony with the area women councilor and children affair officer as the chief guest. M-LISADA Vocational Primary School will be one among few Primary school offering both, knowledge and skills to young people. In the district and region, it will be the first of its kind. The school will accommodate vulnerable children from the streets, slum areas, fishing communities, community and the juvenile centre after serving their sentence. The vocational school will promote and enhance knowledge and skills development among young people at early stage, hence helping them to have self-reliant skills for application even when they stop in primary level. The school will help in addressing the complex demanding future challenges and counter unemployment among young people both educated and uneducated. The chief guest thanked M-LISADA for this “gift of the year” to their community, as it will also provide labour during the construction process.

Tree Planting. Trees are the best friends of human beings as they play a very important role in our lives – they are source of food, medicine, timber, shade, firewood, building materials, as well as they cause rainfall, protect water resources under the ground and most importantly control air pollution, so that humans can breathe. Due to this major importance of trees, M-LISADA conducted the tree planting activity in Bombo, in which everyone participated wholeheartedly to contribute to environmental protection and conservation. In total, 80 trees have been planted!
Back to School

On the 22nd February, all the schools in Uganda started again after the presidential elections. We were very happy to see 134 children attending classes in this first term of 2016. 84 of them are in Primary School, 33 in Secondary School and 17 in Tertiary Institutions. Moreover, we were given a gracious donation from Mikiko of 50 beautiful M-LISADA school bags. Thank you, Mikiko! We also extend our thanks to every donor, who contributes to the education of our children; we are so grateful.

Our library is a great place to revise, do homework and to read. For this year’s candidates (Primary 7 & Senior 4) we are facilitating revision lessons in the evening with some elder students teaching them. We hope that they will do well in their exams!

Walk for A Cause
Saving Transport Money

At the beginning of the month February, our Director Segawa Bosco started a campaign of walking from home to office so that he can save his transport money to purchase scholastic materials for the children of M-LISADA before school starts. In the course of the month, many more members joined him in the walk even on an international level, e.g. in South Africa. We were able to raise money from individuals who participated in the campaign and purchased books, pens, pencils and shoe polish for the children. We want to thank again everyone who carried up the banner of the “Walk for a Cause” campaign.
Skills Development, a tool that opens up the children’s minds and transforms their life for self-reliance, has been going on since the inception of M-LISADA Organisation. Music has been a major part, but also other skills have been taught throughout.

On the 5th February 2016, we have sent off 12 youths, who have undergone a 3-months training of trainers in knitting. We are very proud to say that the skills they have acquired help them to be self-reliant and give them a skill that will potentially gain them work with knitting companies. Others can help us to continue the knitting course program and introduce us to schools that may give us contracts for making school sweaters.

The 12 students started in November 2015 with making scarfs. After that, head-socks, sweaters, skirts and even dresses have been introduced to them. On their graduation day, they happily presented all clothes they have produced.

In the last weeks of March, a second training has been enrolled together with 2 former students, who are now volunteering as the junior teachers. In total, 20 students are taking part in the newly started training. We are also looking forward to enroll a tailoring course in the near future.

A great thanks goes to the German Embassy and Brain Child & Fireworks Group, who donated the knitting & tailoring machines. Furthermore, we thank Dr. David Kenneth Waldman for being the guest of honor that day, and Walter from Germany, who handed out the certificates together with our director. Besides, we also thank the teacher, the director and all the M-LISADA staff for making this possible!
With the funds of Katie and Matthew Husselby, we were able to identify seven disabled children from M-LISADA and the community, whom we took to CoRSU Hospital. CoRSU is a hospital especially for people with disabilities. Their primary focus is on children with physical impairment for whom CoRSU provides subsidised, orthopaedic and plastic / reconstructive surgical interventions and rehabilitation services. CoRSU provides free surgery for children with disabilities below 17 years of age; parents / guardians are expected to contribute towards hospital stay (accommodation and food). On the 15th March 2016 our nurse and our volunteer traveled with the identified children to the hospital. Some of them had to be admitted for surgery, others were taken for a first consultation. She went back already to take two children for surgery. We believe that this project has an enormous impact on the lives of those children and we are very thankful for Katie and Matthew’s support.
Daniel Francis, 16 years

Daniel Francis was one of the first street boys, who got enrolled into the Peer-to-Peer Project. It was in July 2014, when the social workers went for reclaim to Kisenyi. They rehabilitated, counseled and guided him using the Peer-to-Peer module. After six months he had opened up and told the social workers about his life: “He comes from a village close to Jinja. Both parents abandoned him and his four siblings. He thus stayed with his brother whose wife mistreated him, when her husband was not around but looking for jobs in Kampala. Subsequently, Francis’ friends influenced him to run away from the brother and look for work instead to support the younger siblings.”

M-LISADA was finally able to help him and took him to a vocational school in Masooli, where he acquired skills in electronics and building. This training helped him to improve his standard of living. He has managed to build his own house and secured a job where he earns a living to support his family. Additionally, Francis has become a peer educator in his community and he managed to speak to his fellow peers about street life and how they can change from that vulnerable situation.

He became a role model and lives an inspirational life to many young boys in the community. He is always grateful to M-LISADA for their help.

M-LISADA started the Peer-to-Peer Project in 2014 with gracious funds from the German NGO “Interkultura e. V.” The objective of the program is to remove children from the streets and reunite them to their families through peer educators. In the last months, M-LISADA followed up on six children who have been reunited. The follow-up was a great success. Thanks to the funds of Interkultura e. V., the lives of vulnerable children on the Streets of Kampala can be changed!

One of the children who were followed up is Daniel Francis. His story is a great success! Have a look at it.
M-LISADA in Kalangala

M-LISADA Kalangala OVC Support Project

M-LiSADA Organisation has started a support project for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) on the Ssese Islands. We extend our thanks to the Denmark based organisation Masomo and to Jonna especially for funding this project. The provided services include education support for 101 OVCs (payment for food, books, pens, pencils, plates, mugs, school bags and shoes). Moreover, 10 women in the community were given capital to start income generating activities for supporting their families and 18 households were given solar lights, so that the children have a chance to revise at night. 15 Bicycles were also given to households for transport and lastly, clothes were given to children.

Soon, M-LiSADA Kampala will open up a new rehabilitation center “M-LISADA Kalangala” funded by Masomo as well, which will accommodate 40 vulnerable children from all the islands. The construction is about to be concluded.

Menstrual Health Project

With funding from last year’s volunteers Gabriele and Viola, M-LiSADA Organisation has been able to support the schoolgirls in Kalangala by teaching them how to make their own pads. The female staff empowered 80 women and girls at Kibanga Primary School and in the community. This project has really changed the lives of the girls and improved their school attendance greatly because they can now make their own pads. The female staff has been able to return there for revision training lastly.

M-LISADA Brass Band Kalangala

M-LiSADA Kampala has mentored another vibrant brass band in Kalanagala. This brass band group is the main source of brass band entertainment on the islands. So far they have graced many occasions on the Island: When the king of Buganda visited Kalangala, the brass band was hired to usher him onto the Island and during Liberation Day, they officiated the day together with the Police Band. Thank you Kyongoli Simon, you are doing great work!
Mukisa is born in Central Uganda. He is from a Mukasa Family in Mubende District. His mother died when he was still young, the father is still alive. After the death of the mother, the paternal aunt requested to take care of the child. Together, they moved to Mityana District. Two years later, the aunt connived with the father of the child (her brother) and they made plans to sacrifice the child. They thought, they would get rich by sacrificing the child. In the process, their mission came to the level of sacrificing the child in the presence of a traditional witch doctor. But one of the children in the family, a nephew to Mukisa, saw him when making alarm by screaming. The child moved out to the neighbourhood and reported the matter. One neighbour came to find out, realised the matter and ran to the nearby police. The father and the aunt saw the neighbour running, so they knew that they were going to be arrested. By the time the police arrived, all the relatives, children and other people involved in the act of sacrificing including the witch doctor were disappeared except for the little boy with the mouth already cut. The people from the community were concerned and mobilised others to set the house on fire together. Mukisa remained with the neighbour who alarmed the police, but the aunt came the next day in the late evening and grabbed the child again. She traveled with him away from Mityana District and dumped the child finally at Makindye near the police station. The police picked the child and reported the case to the Probation Office of Makindye Division, Kampala District. The Probation Officer then called the Child Protection Officer of M-LiSADA (CPO), who went to pick the child. The mouth was still wounded and looked a bit scaring, but the CPO realised the need for urgent care and protection. When Mukisa arrived at M-LiSADA, other children were scared because of the wound. Later, the child was admitted to M-LiSADA and referred to the nurses. Currently, the situation of the child is improving and his wound is dressed. He will be taken for operation to CoRSU Hospital in the future. The background of the family remains the same: nobody has clear information. As an institution, we are trying to find clear information about the family, but according to other neighbours of that area, they were recommending to keep on protecting the child. Lastly, basing on the above given background of the child, there is a need of sensitizing the community where the child is coming from and the law has to take action against the family.

*In order to protect the privacy of the above-mentioned people, the names in the report have been changed.*
Progress in Bombo

A lot of progress has been made on our farmland in Bombo! The crops grow fantastically; the maize and some others have already been harvested. After bringing beds and mattresses to our house in Bombo, we took 20 children over the weekend and taught them how to harvest. They did a great job and we came back with 987 kg of maize and more-over cassava and potatoes to feed our children for a week. Some weeks later, we facilitated one-day staff training about Layer Chicken Production with a senior lecturer from Gulu University called Dr. Elly Ndyomugyenyi. The professor taught us about starting a poultry production business, about the egg quality and about the general management and care for chicks, growers and layers including housing, feeding, vaccination and lots more. Thanks to Yves Baes, Torfs Organisation for making it possible, we are now ready to start our poultry project!
10 years ago, Chellaston Academy from UK purchased the first John Dickens’ House as a home for the M-LiSADA children. In 2014, they built a second house with bigger dormitories, a library, a sick bed, matron’s room and the kitchen. This year, they will come back to Uganda and will build a new house, which will have space for the offices of the staff, an arts and crafts room, an IT room and a music room. Therefore the first John Dickens’ House had to be demolished, which was successfully done in March. Below, you can see some pictures of the demolition process. We are very thankful to the students of Chellaston Academy, the parents, and teachers and especially to Richard Karran, who spearheaded the fundraising for all the construction and other development. The new building will give us a lot of opportunities and we are so excited to see the new building develop!
Success stories
How M-LISADA changed my life...

Ainebyona Asher. “I come from the west of Uganda and joined M-LISADA Organisation at the age of 12. My school fees were paid and I took part in the M-LISADA brass band. After this, I did a solar installation course, which I completed successfully. Currently, I am working in a big solar company in Kampala and Western Uganda. I also teach music and band at a Christian school. In the future, I want to start my own solar company. My dream is to support old, vulnerable people in my community because I believe that they are often left behind. I really appreciate the help he has received from M-LISADA Organisation and I will never forget the big change they made in my life!”

Micheal Nyombi. Micheal Nyombi comes from Masaka. He moved to Nsambya with his parents, but both of them passed away when he was five years old. Life became complicated and Micheal lived on the streets. When he was ten years old, he saw the M-LISADA brass band playing in Kampala. He approached them and asked how he could join them. Bosco took him to M-LISADA. He began learning the trumpet and M-LISADA paid his school fees. The people of M-LISADA became his new family and his life changed slowly. He got to know more about music techniques and was able to distance himself from his past. He succeeded because he learnt the best skill, which can never be taken away from him: music! Currently, he teaches music and performs jazz. In the future, Micheal wants to teach more people about the goodness of music and what he achieved through it. Additionally, he wants to help vulnerable children to leave the streets. He also wants to start his studies in journalism. His believe is that he is part of the future generation, who are in charge to start changes. He is very grateful for everything M-LISADA Organisation and Director Bosco have done. They took responsibility for him; they mentored him, gave him guidelines, showed him the way forward to a better future and loved him as their son. Through M-LISADA and the music, his life changed completely from a vulnerable to a responsible person.

Ajambo Mary. “I grew up with M-LISADA family. After school, I joined Makarere Institute for Social Development by Bead For Life – a partner to the organisation. I completed a diploma in Social Work and Social Administration. Afterwards, I started volunteering at M-LISADA Organisation to give back to my own community. With the help of Kristeen Arnold, an M-LISADA supporter, I was granted the opportunity to join University. I achieved a Bachelors Degree in Development Studies at Ndejje University and I am proud to say that I’m the first female college graduate. Since January, I’m working for Soap International in Nairobi, which I enjoy very much. I’m very grateful for how M-LISADA has supported me in my whole life and especially for having been given this college experience. I now want to make positive changes in the lives of people in my community.”
Thank you for supporting us!

Celebrate our 20 years of existence with us!

M-LISADA Organisation

Taxpayer Identification Number: 1008616370

Nsambya Ave Maria,
Makindye Division in Kampala District
P.O. Box 71511 Kampala-Uganda
Tel.: +256-392-845-287 / +256-772-433-793
E-Mail: m-lisada-xstreet@hotmail.com
Web: www.mlisada.org