

NEWSLETTER

September 2024

#215



Dear Friend and Partner in Ministry,

As the soft September rains gently caress the earth, they remind us of God's enduring faithfulness, nourishing the soil and our spirits. The showers bring a fresh start, symbolizing renewal and reconciliation, much like the work we witness here at Wakisa Ministries. This month, we invite you to journey with

us through lives of resilience, where every drop of rain mirrors the hope and healing unfolding within our walls. This day of 30th, our murrum roads have now become impassable, slippery and muddy for motorcyclists to manoeuvre the slippery roads !!!



YOUTH OUTREACH

This month Wakisa Ministries seized the opportunity of the school holidays and organized a youth outreach with a Makerere Church

130 students and 65 parents attended the 3 day workshop to the glory of God.

The topics which were handled included;

1. Relationships and the Dangers of Early Sexual Activity
2. Communicating and Relating with Parents and Caretakers
3. Mental Health, Fear, and Anxiety
4. Internet, Social Media, and Cyberbullying
5. Financial Literacy

Outcomes

1. Parents reported increased confidence in their ability to safeguard their children.
2. Students demonstrated a better understanding of the covered topics and actively participated in discussions and activities.
3. We also expect to see improved relationships between caregivers and their children from a better understanding of each other's struggles and thought processes.
4. The workshops fostered a sense of community among the participants, encouraging them to support each other in implementing the lessons learned.
5. Better understanding of mental illness, reduction in stigma and taking of appropriate action to support anyone with a challenge.



DELIVERIES

These are not their real names.

NAME	AGE	SEX OF BABY	WEIGHT (KG)	MODE OF DELIVERY
1. Sammy	17	Girl	2.5	C/Section
		Boy	2.5	
2. Nora	17	Girl	3.2	Normal delivery
3. Gloria	16	Boy	3.6	C/Section
4. Patience	15	Girl	3.2	C/Section

- 10 young pregnant mothers went to the hospital for ultrasound scan. 1 young mother has a twin pregnancy.
- 3 young pregnant mothers had Urinary Tract Infections.
- 3 had vaginal candidiasis
- 4 with dyspepsia
- 3 young pregnant mothers with high blood pressure.



COUNSELLING AND ADMISSIONS

The ongoing counselling sessions have been very crucial as we have had several young mums who are deeply traumatized due to defilement

Life skills taught:

- Types of abuse
- Psychological.
- Discussed examples of life skills; Assertiveness, Self-control and Confidence.
- Discussed about hygiene.
- Encouraged girls regarding behaviour change.

(Issues surrounding stealing of food, esp. fruits).

6 follow-up phone calls were received from alumni girls.

In Infant care Breastfeeding personal hygiene, danger signs in newborns and toilet hygiene

Patience

SHADIA

Shadia is a 17-year-old young mother from Yumbe in Northern Uganda. She was brought to Wakisa 5 months ago. She's the 2nd born child of 4 children who are all from the same mother however, the last 2 children have a different father.

She grew up with her mother most of her life as the parents had separated when she was 2 years. She doesn't remember how her father looked like. It was a tough life growing up. Although she loved her mother, she hated her lifestyle because of the overt behavior of being with different men in her life. Although her father was absent in her life, he endeavored to send her school fees through her mother but unfortunately her mother didn't care much about her education that school for her became a challenge. She later dropped out of school in 2022 while in Primary 4.

When her mother finally settled with one of the men she was involved with, he (stepfather) gave her mother an ultimatum of choosing between him and her daughter. Unfortunately, due to desperation, she chose the partner over her daughter. It was then that Shadia told her mother that for the sake of peace, she was willing to go find a job. She worked at a salon where she was sexually abused by 2 men while on her way home from work one night. She later relocated to another town where she worked as a house girl and was mistreated by the boss. In this home she got the wrong friends and because of that she ended up in a bar where she was drugged and sexually defiled again.

When her boss realized she was pregnant, and chased her away and she ended up at one of the police stations. The police referred her to Wakisa Ministries. While at the Ministries, Wakisa started family tracing in order to have a safe place for her to return to after giving birth. On reaching to her former boss's house, she informed the staff that Shadia's mother had died and breaking this news to her was heartbreaking. However, deep down her heart she didn't believe it. Follow-up was made in order to get in touch with her people to confirm whether this was true. It was after contacting people in an area where her mum and stepfather used to stay we found the stepfather, her mum had left him. The stepdad shared with us Shadia's mother's number. It was such joy learning that she was alive and Shadia was grateful to God. The spirit of Joy continued because after 13 years of her life, Shadia hadn't seen her father. Her mother was able to reach out to her dad. He inquired where his daughter was, he later called and talked with her daughter, he couldn't believe his ears.

He eventually came to Wakisa and both could not stop crying, there was a such great joy of a father-daughter reunion after many years!!!! His father couldn't hold his tears back neither could the daughter! We couldn't hold ours too to see the beautiful reunion of the father and daughter! The father, a Moslem man was so grateful to Wakisa Ministries for keeping his daughter. He made no comment about Shadia's pregnancy. He blessed the Ministry in Islamic words!

Shadia has since given birth to a beautiful baby boy that's 3 day old through C- Section.



VOCATIONAL SKILLS

Cookery In our cookery class, the girls learned to make banana crisps, chapati, vegetables, mandazi, and learnt about kitchen hygiene.

Gardening ,Tailoring - girls focused on making maternity dresses.

Art and craft The girls learned to make paper bags and enjoyed decorating them to suit each of their personal styles.

Computer class - the girls were getting better acquainted with their keyboard through an exercise of typing work providing them with a challenge.

Bible class. They were learning how to memorise verses of the bible and the importance of knowing the word by heart

English class -This month, they practiced reading (using storybooks, poems and interpreting), Good sentence structure and effective writing practices. (Following the rules and tips to improve sentence structure when writing. One-on-one physical session with a few girls to learn how to read and write.



SPONSORSHIP

There are 42 girls sponsored,

- Students under formal went back to school on the 14th-16th September.
- Vocational students reported back to school on the 16th September.

Students were provided with basic requirements.



FLORENCE

One of the challenges we encountered during the month was a delinquent young mum!!!

On the 12th, a one Florence 15-year-old mum jumped over the wall at 6.00 am in a bid to escape. She escaped leaving her 1&1/2 month old baby behind. She ran away with a few of her clothes packed in 2 polyethene bags and made her way through the garden onto the road. The 2 girls who saw her jumping over the wall quickly informed the staff who went out looking for her (the staff asked the motorcyclist to assist in the search. She was later found by a motorcyclist making her way to the nearest town who brought her back to the centre. Meanwhile, the girls and staff had taken up the responsibility to care for Florence's baby until she was brought back. Her running away had been prompted by the fact that together with the counsellor they had earlier discussed her resettlement plan back home and she didn't like home any more.

Well we had notified police but we thank God was found.

Florence had been on the streets for 3 years after she had run away from her uncle's place in Kampala. Her dad, a drunken man had brought her to this

uncle to take her to school instead the wife of her uncles mistreated her and so she left that home but did not know the way to her dad's home. Florence started sleeping in cardboard box houses on the streets of Kampala and this is where she had been defiled sexually.

On counselling her, she said the thought of going back home was like a nightmare and this is why she ran away from Wakisa. Since then we have noticed some positive changes and a great improvement now!

Before the runaway, Florence did not like to breastfeed the baby and used to beat him whenever he cried and left others to hold him. Now when the baby cries she moves around with the baby and says "MY BABY IS BEAUTIFUL"

Pray please that Florence's love grow daily and that we find a home for her. That we don't experience this kind of incident again which involved the police and put us all in a panic mode.

EDITH

Edith, the youngest girl currently at Wakisa is a 13-year-old girl and was brought when she was 6 months pregnant. She comes from a family of 10 children and is the youngest and the 11th child!

They were brought up by a single mum and she has been there for them. Three of her sisters got pregnant. Edith and her siblings have gone through the same road and she faces the challenge of early motherhood!

Edith was in primary five when she got pregnant as she had been sleeping with the same guy several times. She reported to no one and kept quiet about it until she conceived. The headmaster noticed a change in her body. A couple of months later, she found out she was pregnant.

During one of her routine check-ups at the centre, the midwife discovered that Edith had high blood pressure. She was promptly referred to the hospital, where initial tests revealed no apparent issues. However, upon returning to the centre, her blood pressure remained dangerously elevated, posing a risk to both her and her unborn child. Edith was sent back to the hospital, where she received medication to help control the pressure. By cesarian section Edith, got a baby boy called Jacob and it is a pathetic picture to see a baby carrying a baby!!

GIRL'S HEALTH

Out of 34 girls there are 4 with full-blown AIDS and they are having their daily dose of Antiretroviral medicines. Two of them have already delivered and their babies are given a solution Nevirapine for some time.

Sheila (not her real name) 17 years old 9 months pregnant with a nuchal cord wrapped around the baby's neck twice. She will give birth by elective Caesarean section to avoid the complications of nuchal cord x 2





VISITORS AND GIFTING

We are ever so grateful for your great support to the entire Ministry.

We thank God for the donations in all forms, we have been constrained financially and without the in-kind donations it would have been difficult to feed and clothe the many babies.

Among the visitors that came was a team of 40 members from Mothers Union and Christian Women Fellowship laden with gifts!! They came with the MU President Elizabeth Kikoyo of Kampala Diocese. They brought foodstuff, toiletries and clothing for babies and their mums among many other things and we are deeply grateful.





As we are eager to see the Maternity Center of Wakisa Ministries running and serving its purpose to the girls and women in the community we appeal for your support. The building remains a shell and can only start functioning when well-furnished.

It is my prayer that you kindly donate toward the furnishing using this link below.

<https://www.every.org/wakisa-ministries-ug/f/support-young-mothers>

Donate towards equipping the maternity centre

Account Name WAKISA MINISTRIES LTD

Account Number 2291297406

Currency USD

Branch BEN KIWANUKA

Sort Code 253047

Swift Code KCBLUGKA

We are ever so thankful to your prayers and donation to the Ministry. We are praying that your support will continue to make the lives of these vulnerable girls and their babies worth living.

In Christ

Vivian Kityo

Director

May the good Lord bless you.