



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 1-2026

Jacana Africa is a flagship name for **Youth & Children for Change**, a legally registered community-based organization working in rural areas in kabale district, Uganda. The organization empowers vulnerable youth, and children in rural communities through skills development, environmental conservation, traditional crafts, bamboo construction, bee keeping, boat building skills, and community development.

Jacana projects focus on critical and deeply rooted problems in rural areas, including high levels of child labour, early marriages, and limited access to education, vocational skills, health care, clean water, and sanitation. Most children in these rural communities are school dropouts, engaged in early marriages, and child labour because of economic hardships.

For marginalized groups such as indigenous tribes, orphans, children with disabilities, face more greater barriers to opportunities and development.



**Figure 2. Justus Muhwezi(founder)watering trees (Left) Calliandra (Right)**

I grew up in the very rural community of kabale district along lake Bunyonyi (the second deepest in Africa) where I witnessed firsthand the harsh effects of poverty and illiteracy in our community. My childhood friends and siblings had to drop out of school one by one because our parents could not manage paying school fees for us all.

I kept thinking about how school dropouts could access education like many others, and how children with disability could have equal rights to education and healthcare. This led me to Kanthari leadership institute in India for training. After training, I started Jacana Africa to establish a community skills training center with inclusive facilities for children with disabilities, to empower vulnerable young adults and women in rural communities with practical vocational and entrepreneurial skills for a more self-reliant future.

## OUR ACTIVITIES FOR QUARTER 1-2026.



**Bamboo nursery**

The organization was started without training space, skills training tools, and initially worked with local workshop owners to train youth informally. Since January 2026, we managed to hire space that will serve as our skills training center.



Constructed temporary store/office

Together with volunteers, community members, and prospective beneficiaries, we have started shed construction, and established tree nursery beds (bamboo, Calliandra, and grevillea), a pit latrine that will be used until we manage to put an Eco-Squat toilet (environmentally friendly) and a temporary store/office for the site materials. Constructed temporary store/office

The shed structure with an attached office, and store room will be used as our training shelter, and for other organization activities at the center.



Community members leveling shed structure (Left) Constructed Pit latrine (Right)



We also lost one of our regular volunteers (Maniriho) from the indigenous tribe (Batwa tribe). he started with strong headache; within three days he died.

One week after we planted indigenous trees together at the site, he disappeared for four days; I looked for him and found him at home, where he told me he had a severe headache. I convinced him to visit the hospital, but he was too weak to go because it was far. The following day, Friday 06-03-2026, I went to town, and on Sunday 08-03-2026, they called to inform me he had died at night; they said that before dying he became violent late Saturday evening, disappeared at night, and in the morning was found dead in a swamp with his head in water. I think because of the severe headache he went to cool it in water and died there. I still believe it was not his time to die but that he lacked medical care

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Since January 2026, Jacana Africa has taken practical steps to respond to these challenges by launching a foundation for skills training center. This includes construction of a training shed, establishment of a tree nursery beds (bamboo, grevillea, and Calliandra) and engagement of local volunteers, and beneficiaries in hands-on activities. These actions not only provide immediate learning but also help build community ownership and participation in the organizations program for sustainability.



*Youth volunteers (Left) Bamboo (Right)*

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## OUR FUTURE PLANS

Our goals are to establish a fully functional skills training center to empower and equip vulnerable youth, and children with practical vocational skills like boat building skills, promote environmental conservation, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural communities.

Jacana Africa also aims also to expand its programs to include access to health care, education support, and inclusive facilities for children with disabilities from rural communities whose dreams have never been achieved.

Jacana Africa foresees a future where rural youth and children are skilled, and empowered to transform their communities, while caring for and sustaining their environment.

## OUR PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Jacana Africa envisions an inclusive community where children are not left behind because of their background, tribe, or religious affiliation, but where every child has access to education, vocational skills, and health care for a better future, while protecting nature, and culture.

Youth and children will be empowered with livelihood skills, that open opportunities for their future. We also envision a water walker village at lake Bunyonyi made of houseboat introducing a new way of living while protecting nature.

## JOIN US TO EMPOWER YOUTH IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

We welcome people, organizations to join Jacana Africa programs for the betterment of our rural communities especially the marginalized indigenous tribe, orphans, teen mothers, and vulnerable youth and children in our rural communities in kabale district southwestern Uganda. On lake Bunyonyi (second deepest in Africa) where Bunyonyi means a place of many little birds.

Together, we can empower these vulnerable communities with skills and hope to live by themselves and be able to develop while protecting the environment.



*Minority community (Batwa tribe) posing for a photo after volunteer work.*

If you wish to know more about Jacana Africa project activities, or to donate for Change



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