



Jacana Africa is a flagship name for Youth & Children for Change, a legally registered community-based organization working in rural areas of kabale district, southwestern Uganda. The organization empowers vulnerable youth, and children in rural communities through livelihood skills development, environmental conservation, bamboo construction, bee keeping, boat building skills, and community development, our programs protect nature while preserving cultural heritage.

QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2-2026

This year January 2026, Jacana Africa hired land on lake Bunyonyi shoreline for a skills training center that will empower rural youth focusing on deeply rooted problems faced by rural communities like child labour, early marriage, limited access to education, and vocational skills, health care all caused by generational poverty.

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.

The organization initiatives address such challenges through empowering rural school dropouts, youth, and teen mothers through livelihood skills so that they can regain confidence, start their own ventures and employment for a better future.



Brick making at the center

Project activities, and achievements during Quarter 2-2026.

In this quarter 2-2026, we have progressed in constructing the skills training shed now at 90%, and the nursery bed is showing good progress minus the sunny season. We are waiting for rainy season to start planting bamboos and grevillea trees along lake Bunyonyi buffer zone and wetland as part of the organization conservation plan.



Bamboo seedlings.

We have kept good relationship with both community and international volunteers, and rural youth beneficiaries who have done a good work in putting nursery bed and the shed structure, leveling more space for infrastructure.

The shed structure remains partitioning, flooring, and also installation of a rain water collection tank after which it will be fully complete for use as our shelter for skills training at the Jacana vocational center for youth, teen mothers, and other vulnerable people in our community.

Community outreach have been in progress to find out the most vulnerable children, youth and households, and those in need of livelihood skills with plans to improve their living standards and encouraging their children to keep in school, during out community visits especially the indigenous community, we have managed to learn a lot from them on how they survive for a living, and most importantly why

there is a high rate of school dropouts in their community. Hunger, early marriages and illiteracy level among their family and community have contributed a lot, however, this can be solved through hands-on training at the skills center.



Volunteers

OUR FUTURE PLANS

Jacana Africa foresees an inclusive vocational center in rural kabale district on the shores of lake Bunyonyi where school dropouts, teen mothers, and vulnerable children will be empowered with livelihood skills that enables them a better life, confidence and responsible for themselves and their families.

The skills center will train them in boat building skills, bamboo construction, traditional crafts and developing a floating water walker village built with environmentally friendly houseboats. This will create a new culture of living while restoring nature and culture, provide jobs to the youth and the community.

The organization has already partnered with ministry of tourism under the department of museum and monuments for collaborations in creating awareness of cultural heritage and, traditional crafts, storytelling and generational learning using the museum premises as a learning space to promote culture, this will also create jobs for the youth in eco-cultural tourism among the youth and women in our community.



Indigenous Community (Batwa Community)

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.

Together, we can change poor living standards of vulnerable people in rural communities and bring back the confidence of those dropouts who never got chance to education, our actions can break the generational cycle of poverty. With our vision of an inclusive rural vocational center to empower rural school dropouts and vulnerable children, we are in need of partners in this cause of skilling the most vulnerable youth and children in our communities.

If you wish to read more about our projects, and activities that are going on at our project visit our website www.jacanaafrica.org



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