



WAKISO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wakiso District Children's Manifesto 2026-2031



Our Rights, Our Voices, Our Future

October 2025

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Foreword

Hello, everyone. A very special hello to all the amazing children of Wakiso District.

My name is Matia Lwanga Bwanika, and I am the Chairperson of Wakiso District. It is one of my greatest joys today to share this very special document with you, your Children's Manifesto. This is not just any document. It is your book of ideas, your list of hopes, and your plan for a better Wakiso. Over 1,098 of you came together and shared your thoughts about what you need to be happy, healthy, and safe.

As your Chairperson, I am so proud of you. You have shown that you are not just the future, you are also important today. You have smart ideas about the problems you see and brilliant solutions for how to fix them.

Your manifesto is like a map that shows us leaders the way to make Wakiso a better place for every child. When you ask for clean water in every school, for someone to talk to when you feel unsafe, for safe places to play, and for a chance to share your opinions, you are asking for things that are your right.

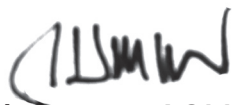
We promise to take action. This is our promise to you:

1. We will use your manifesto as our guide. We will look at it when we are planning and when we are deciding how to use money for the district.
2. We will make sure you are part of the team. We will create the "Children's Manifesto Task Force" that you asked for, so you can help us track our progress.
3. We will work with your schools, your parents, and your communities to make sure your demands become a reality.

To all the parents, teachers, and community leaders listening, the children have given us a clear job to do. Let's work together to give them the safe, healthy, and happy childhood they deserve.

Together, let's build a Wakiso where every child can learn, play, and grow happily.

Dr. Matia Lwanga Bwanika



Chairperson LC V

Wakiso District Local Government

Acknowledgements

The development of this Children's Manifesto is a testament to the power of collaboration and the unwavering belief in the rights and voices of every child. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who made this vital document possible.

Our foremost and sincere appreciation goes to **Save the Children**, whose steadfast partnership provided the essential technical expertise and financial resources that guided this process from conception to completion. Your commitment to amplifying children's voices is the cornerstone upon which this manifesto was built.

We are profoundly grateful to the technical officers from the **Wakiso District Local Government**, whose dedication and local insight ensured this manifesto is both ambitious and grounded in the reality of our communities. Your partnership is crucial for turning these words into action.

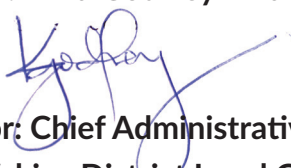
We also extend our thanks to our national partners: the **Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development**, **Ministry of Health** and the **Ministry of Education and Sports**. Your guidance and support have been invaluable in aligning this manifesto with national priorities and frameworks for child well-being.

A special note of thanks is reserved for the dedicated **enumerators and facilitators** who worked tirelessly in the communities. Your skill and empathy in engaging with children created a safe and empowering space for their voices to be heard and documented.

Finally, and most importantly, this manifesto belongs to you, the **children and young people of Wakiso District**. Your courage to speak up, your clarity in sharing your experiences, and your passion for a better future are the true heart of this document. This is your voice. This is your vision. This is your manifesto.

Thank you for trusting us with your dreams. We commit to honouring them.

Mr. Kiiza Godfrey Rwakijuma



**For: Chief Administrative Officer
Wakiso District Local Government**

1.0 Introduction

Did you know that Uganda is a country full of young people. Out of about 45 million people, over 17 million are children. Our country is growing fast, and soon, there will be even more children. This is our country's superpower.

Right now, many adults work to take care of the children. But in the future, it will be the turn of children. When all children grow up and get jobs, they can build a stronger, happier, and more prosperous Uganda for everyone. This exciting chance is called a "demographic dividend."

We know it's possible because other countries have done it. Countries in East Asia focused on their children, giving them great schools and healthcare and those children grew up to transform their countries into economic powerhouses. Uganda can do that too.

To use our superpower, we need to be prepared. Here are some challenges we need to fix together:

1. We need to learn things that will help us become engineers, doctors, tech experts, artists, and farmers who use new technology. Sometimes, what we learn in school doesn't match the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow.
2. Many children, especially in villages, still find it hard to go to a good school, see a doctor when they are sick, or feel safe from harm. Things like child labour and early marriage stop children from learning and growing. This isn't fair, and it means our country loses out on their amazing talents.

The government has a big dream for our country called Vision 2040. Its goal is to transform Uganda from a poor country to a modern and prosperous one in 30 years. This plan talks about children. It says Uganda must:

1. Make schools better and teach skills needed for jobs.
2. Make sure every child can go to a good school.
3. Have more training for technical jobs.
4. Protect children from harm.
5. Listen to children's ideas when making plans for the country.

If Uganda invests in children, in their health, education, and safety, they will grow up to be the strong, smart, and creative generation that makes the Vision 2040 dream come true. The choices made for children today will decide if Uganda becomes a superstar country, or if it struggles because its children weren't given the tools they needed to succeed.

2.0 Background

This manifesto is our shared voice. We have talked about the big problems that stop us from being happy and reaching our dreams. We have shared our thoughts on education, health, protection, our environment, and our right to play. This document is our important call for help and action. We are giving it to our leaders, the District Local Government, Sub-County leaders, school heads, parents, community leaders, and our partners and we need you to promise to work with us to build a better, safer, and more caring Wakiso for every child.

2.1 The Rules That Protect Children

There are many important rules and promises, both in Uganda and around the world, that are meant to protect children. Our leaders have agreed to these rules, which say that every child has the right to be safe, healthy, educated, and heard.

This Children's Manifesto is based on those important rules, including:

Uganda's Promises to Children:

- a) The Constitution of Uganda: This is the country's most important rule book, and it has a special part (Article 34) that talks all about protecting children's rights.
- b) The Children Act: This is a powerful law made just for children, to keep children safe from harm.
- c) The National Child Policy & National Action Plan for Children: These are the government's own plans on how to make life better for all children in Uganda.
- d) Vision 2040 and the National Development Plans (NDP): These are Uganda's big dreams for the future, and they include plans to build better schools and create more opportunities for children when they grow up.
- e) The Education Act: This law helps make sure every child can get a quality education.

Africa's Promises to Children:

- a) The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: This is a special promise from all African leaders to protect all children in Africa.
- b) Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want: This is Africa's big dream for the future, and it sees children and young people as the most important part of making that dream come true.

The World's Promises to Children:

- a) The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): This is the main global promise that almost every country in the world has signed, promising to protect children's rights.
- b) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): These are the world's big plan to end poverty and protect the planet. Many of these goals are all about making sure children are healthy, educated, safe, and treated fairly.

All these rules and promises together show that Uganda is committed to making sure every child can survive, grow, be protected, and participate. This Children's Manifesto uses these promises to create real actions.

3.0 How We Created Our Manifesto

This Children's Manifesto was created by children with the support of adults. We made sure that as many children as possible from all over Wakiso District had a chance to share their ideas.

3.1 Who Participated?

To create this special Children's Manifesto, we brought together 1,098 children from every corner of Wakiso District. There were 494 girls and 604 boys who shared their dreams and ideas. Most of us were in school, 766 children attended primary school while 332 were in secondary school. We also made sure to include 7 friends who weren't in school and 19 children living with disabilities so that no one would be left out. We had 78 young children below 10 years, 655 children between 10-14 years, and 365 teenagers aged 15-18 years. We invited children from all backgrounds because we wanted every single child's voice to help write this important book about the future of children.

We used methods that all children could enjoy and understand to gather their thoughts such as:

- a) Group discussions where they talked about their lives.
- b) Storytelling to show their dreams and worries.
- c) Interviewing.
- d) We made a special effort to listen to children who are often left out, including children with disabilities, those facing tough situations, and children from rural areas.

After all ideas were collected, a first draft of the manifesto was written. Then, we held a validation workshop on 18th October 2025 where even more children came together to read the draft. We made sure it truly reflected what all the children had said.

A special Children's Manifesto Monitoring Committee will be formed. This committee will be made up of child representatives and supportive adults.

Their job is to:

1. Watch closely to see if the leaders are using our manifesto in their plans for the district and schools between 2026 and 2031.
2. Check if the money the government plans to spend includes the things we asked for.
3. Make sure our words lead to real actions that make our daily lives better.

Once every year, we will hold a Children's Review Forum. This forum is platform for children to ask our leaders, "What have you done for children this year?" At this meeting, children and leaders will:

1. Discuss what the Monitoring Committee has found.
2. See what progress has been made.
3. Talk about any new problems or ideas we have.

4.0 The Change Children Need

From the thoughts and ideas shared, we noticed that five main topics kept coming up repeatedly. These are the most important areas where children want to see change:

1. Engagement and participation: children want their opinions to be heard and taken seriously in schools, homes, and communities.
2. Staying healthy and happy: children need things like clean water, healthy food, doctors when we are sick, and someone to talk to about their feelings.
3. Feeling safe and knowing our rights: children deserve to be protected from harm, to know what their rights are, and to be treated fairly.
4. Time to play and have fun: children need safe spaces and time to play, relax, be creative, and enjoy sports and games.
5. A clean and green environment: children want to live in a clean community with fresh air, safe drinking water, and plenty of trees, free from pollution and litter.

4.1 Engagement and Participation



Goal

To make sure children are listened to and included when adults make decisions about our schools, our homes, and our communities



The problems we found:

When we talked to children across Wakiso, here is what they told us:

1. Our classrooms are too full and in bad shape. Many of our classrooms are old, broken, and have too many students squeezed in. It's hard to see the board, hear the teacher, or even find a place to sit. It's difficult to learn in such a crowded and uncomfortable place.
2. We don't have a say in decisions. Adults make all the rules about our schools and communities without asking us what we think. Our ideas and opinions are often ignored, even though these decisions affect our lives every day.
3. Our schools don't have student councils that really work. Many schools don't have a student council, or if they do, it's just for show. The council isn't allowed to share our real problems or ideas with the teachers and school leaders. We don't get a real voice in how our school is run.
4. There is no place for us to talk to community leaders. We have no way to share our ideas with our local leaders. There are no meetings where children are invited to speak up about making our villages and towns better. This makes us feel invisible and like our thoughts don't matter.

This is what we need to make our schools better and our voices stronger:

1. We want every school to have a proper student council, where we can elect our own leaders. This council must be asked for its opinion when the school makes new rules, builds new classrooms, or decides how to spend its money.
2. We ask the district to set aside money every year to fix broken classrooms and build new ones. Every sub-county should get at least 5 new or repaired classrooms each year. All new buildings must have ramps so that children with disabilities can use them easily.
3. We demand that the District Education Office checks every school once a year to make sure every single child has their own desk, books, and pens. They must work with our parents and other helpers to provide these things if they are missing.
4. We want a "Children's Parliament" to be held once a year in every sub-county. This will be a special meeting where we can talk directly to our local leaders about our problems and ideas and help them make plans for our community.

4.2 Health and Wellbeing



Goal

We want every child in Wakiso to be healthy, safe, and happy at school and home



Problems we found

When children were asked about their health, they shared some big problems that make it hard for them to learn and be happy at school and at home. They mentioned that:

1. The water they drink often isn't clean and it makes their stomachs hurt, forcing them to miss school.
2. Toilets are often dirty and broken, which makes them feel uncomfortable and can spread sickness.
3. Sometimes, the food they eat at school isn't safe
4. They are too hungry to concentrate because their families can't afford meals.
5. They feel unsafe because many schools don't have proper fences, letting in animals and strangers.
6. It's especially hard for girls who don't have what they need for their periods, like pads and private bathrooms, so they often have to stay home.
7. When they get sick or hurt, there's usually no nurse or sickbay to help them feel better. We really need your help to fix these things so we can be healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

This is what we need our leaders to do for us:

1. We want every school to have a clean water source like a functional borehole, protected well or water purifier, and clean, working toilets for boys and girls that everyone, including children with disabilities, can use. This should be done by the end of 2031.
2. Every school must have a sickbay or a special room with a trained helper or nurse, and a first aid kit with supplies, so we can get help immediately when we are sick or hurt.
3. We ask for a school feeding program in every government school so no child has to learn on an empty stomach. The district can help by giving schools seeds and tools to start their own gardens.
4. We demand that all girls get free, reusable sanitary pads, and that every school has private bathrooms with soap and clean water for girls to use, especially during their periods. Teachers should be trained to help girls manage this safely.
5. We need all schools to be properly fenced to keep us safe from stray animals and strangers, and to keep us from wandering into danger.

4.3. Protection and Rights



Goal

We want every child in Wakiso to be safe, know their rights, and know who to ask for help



Problems we found

When we talked to children, here is what they told us about safety and their rights:

1. We don't know our rights. Most of us don't know that we have special rights to keep us safe, like the right to be protected from being hurt. Because we don't know our rights, we sometimes think that being treated badly is normal.
2. We don't know who to tell when we are hurt or scared. If someone hits us, bullies us, or makes us do dangerous work, we often don't know which adult we can safely tell.
3. Some children are forced to do jobs that are too hard or dangerous, which stops them from going to school and playing.
4. We are being hurt to be "disciplined". Many adults at home and in school still use beating and harsh punishment, which hurts our bodies and our feelings.
5. Bullying and fighting at home are big problems. Many of us are bullied by other children, and many see or experience fighting and violence at home. This makes us feel anxious and unsafe all the time.
6. No one listens when we report problems. Even when we are brave and tell an adult that we are being harmed, they often don't believe us or don't do anything to help. This makes us feel like no one cares.

This is what we need our leaders to do for us:

1. We want to learn about our rights in school. We also want campaigns on radio and in communities using drama and posters, so that every child and every adult knows what our rights are.
2. We need a special free phone number that we can call any time, day or night, to report danger. Every school must also have a trusted and trained adult we can talk to without being afraid.
3. The local government must enforce rules to punish adults who force children to do dangerous jobs. They should also help our families, so they don't need to rely on our work.
4. We demand that all hitting and corporal punishment be banned. Adults should be taught to use positive talking, guidance, and counselling to help us learn, not fear and pain.

4.4. Play and Free Time



Goal

We want every child to have a safe place to play, have fun, and just be a child



Problems we found

When we talked about playing and having fun, here is what, the children of Wakiso, said:

1. Many of our schools have no playground at all. Others have broken swings, rusty slides, and fields full of stones and holes. It's easy to get hurt. Some playgrounds are right next to busy roads, which is very dangerous.
2. We have nothing to play with. There are not enough balls, skipping ropes, or nets.
3. We are not given time to play. Our teachers and parents often say that classwork is more important than play. They cancel our playtime for extra lessons, so we have no time to run around, be creative, or just relax.
4. We don't have enough fun activities like music, dance, and drama. Our schools don't offer many clubs or activities beyond classwork.
5. There are no big tournaments or festivals. We never get to compete in sports or perform in arts festivals with children from other schools. We miss out on the fun of meeting new friends and showing our talents.
6. No one fixes our playgrounds. Even when we have a playground, no money is set aside to repair it when it breaks.

This is what we need our leaders to do for us:

1. Make playgrounds a Must for new schools. No new school should be allowed to open unless it has a safe, fenced playground for children to play in.
2. The district must set aside money every year to buy play materials like balls and nets, and to fix broken swings and slides in schools.
3. We want it to be a rule that every school must give us at least one hour every day for free play, sports, music, dance, and drama. This hour should never be taken away for extra lessons.
4. We want the district to organize sports competitions and cultural festivals every year where we can meet children from other schools, play games, and show our talents in music, art, and dance.

4.5 Environment



Goal:

We want a clean and safe environment that keeps children healthy and protects the planet for the future.



Problems we found

Here is what we, the children of Wakiso, see and experience in their environment:

1. Our water, air, and land are polluted. We get sick from drinking dirty water and breathing unclean air. There is garbage everywhere because there are not enough dustbins or proper waste collection. This pollution causes diseases like cholera and malaria, making us miss school.
2. Our trees are being cut down. Many trees have been cut for charcoal and firewood.
3. We have nowhere to throw our rubbish. Many schools and communities do not have dustbins or rubbish pits. People dump waste in wetlands, drainages, and open spaces, which makes our water unsafe and our surroundings dirty.
4. We are not learning how to protect our environment. Most schools do not have environment clubs to teach us how to keep our surroundings clean and green. Many people do not understand how a dirty environment affects our health.
5. No one is punishing those who harm our environment. Even though there are rules to protect the environment, they are not enforced. People continue to dump waste anywhere and cut down trees without any consequences.

Our demands for a clean environment

We want to live in a clean, healthy, and safe Wakiso. Here is what we need our leaders to do:

1. Help us start Environment Clubs in every school. We want every school to have a club where we can learn to plant trees, separate rubbish (recycling and composting), and lead community clean-up activities like “Bulungi Bwa Nsi” .
2. Give us dustbins and punish people who litter. We need the district to provide strong dustbins and rubbish pits for all schools and communities. They must also enforce rules to stop people from dumping garbage anywhere.
3. Help our communities use cleaner energy. To stop the cutting of trees for charcoal, we want our leaders to promote and support the use of alternative energy like solar power and gas, which are cleaner and better for our environment.
4. Drain all stagnant water. We demand that all stagnant water around our schools and communities be drained. This will destroy mosquito breeding sites and help protect us from malaria.

5.0 Commitments Sought from District Leaders and Stakeholders

We call upon the Wakiso District Local Government, Sub-County leaders, School Management Committees, parents, Civil Society Organisations, and development partners to:

1. Prioritize and allocate specific funds in the district budget to implement the demands outlined in this manifesto, including providing clean water and toilets in every school (Section 4.2), building and repairing classrooms (Section 4.1), ensuring safe playgrounds (Section 4.4), and funding child protection services (Section 4.3)
2. Strictly implement laws on child protection, environmental conservation, and school standards without fear or favour.
3. Create formal, lasting platforms for children’s participation in decision making at all levels, from school councils to district planning meetings.
4. Sign a commitment to implement this manifesto and make the well-being of every child in Wakiso a top priority.

5.1 Implementation and Monitoring

We, the children, will not be silent observers. With support from our teachers, parents, and CSOs, we will:

1. Form a Wakiso District Children’s Manifesto Task Force with representatives from schools across the district to monitor progress. The Task Force should comprise two elected child representatives from each sub-county, supported by two designated officials from the District Local Government and one representative from a partner CSO
2. Use our School Councils and Environment Clubs to track and report on improvements in water, sanitation, safety, and play facilities in our schools.
3. Present an Annual “Report Card” to the District Council, grading the progress on each of our demands, so everyone can see what has been achieved and what still needs to be done. The Report Card will use a simple traffic light system (Green for achieved, Yellow for in progress, Red for not started) to grade each demand.

Together We Win.



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