

WEEKLY RECAP | THU 17 SEP 2026

# GoldenWagon

## Rising From Ruins

**One Man's Mission to Farm Hope Into Kampala's juveniles**



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**Rotary**  
Upper Kololo



# Rehabilitation to Renewal

## How Upper Kololo Is Giving Young People a Second Chance

**Inside a growing Rotary model that is turning vocational skills, enterprise and community partnership into a pathway from juvenile rehabilitation to lasting hope**

At the edge of Kampala, a young person's future is being rewritten, not through promises alone, but through practical skills, patient mentorship and the steady rebuilding of institutions designed to serve them. Since 2023, the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo's **Give Hope to the Youth** Project has worked with juveniles and vulnerable young people to transform rehabilitation from a temporary intervention into a pathway towards dignity, employability and reintegration. What began as a project focused on juvenile rehabilitation has grown into a wider community-resilience model, linking skills development inside the facility with prevention, livelihoods and social inclusion beyond its walls.

The results are increasingly visible. Over the years, a total of 606 young people, 504 males and 102 females, have acquired vocational skills. Behind those figures are young people learning how to sew, farm, manage enterprises and imagine a future beyond the circumstances that brought them into contact with the remand home.

The project's central insight is simple but powerful: rehabilitation becomes more sustainable when it is connected to opportunity. Vocational training gives young people more than a certificate. It provides a practical means to earn an income, rebuild confidence and re-enter family and community life with a skill that has value. That insight has compounded steadily across three consecutive

Rotary years. In 2023/2024, 169 young people attained Directorate of Industrial Training certification, and the project's enterprise activities generated USD 15,277 in income. The following year, another 129 young people were certified, while enterprise activities and institutional improvements continued to expand. By 2025/2026, the project had helped 318 young people acquire skills aligned with Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board standards, and its productive activities had generated cumulative farm-gate income exceeding USD 72,000. These earnings matter not only because they demonstrate economic potential, but because they help sustain the very systems that make rehabilitation possible.

That sustainability is visible in the project's physical investments. The poultry unit has been expanded, while a tailoring workshop and greenhouse have created additional spaces for practical learning and enterprise, and irrigation infrastructure now supports agricultural production alongside improved learning environments for trainees. The project has also invested in the systems surrounding rehabilitation itself: WASH facilities have been rehabilitated, the courtroom has been modernized, and high-speed internet and video-conferencing systems have been installed, strengthening hygiene, learning, case management and access to justice. The virtual court alone facilitated the resolution of 227 cases between July 2025, showing how technology can improve efficiency while reducing the burden on young people and institutions alike. Sustainability, in other words, is not a single structure or a one-time grant. It is a combination of capable institutions, appropriate infrastructure, market connections, skills certification and income-generating activity, all reinforcing one another.

The project's ambition extends beyond the rehabilitation facility itself. Through its Adopt-a-Village approach, the Rotary Club of



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## From Rehabilitation to Renewal

How a Rotary-backed project at Naguru is turning vocational skills, enterprise and community partnership into a second chance for Kampala's young people.

606

young people trained in vocational skills since 2023

\$72k

in cumulative farm-gate income generated

1,650

households targeted in community expansion

## Certification, year over year

Rehabilitation becomes sustainable when it's connected to opportunity. Across three Rotary years, certified graduates and enterprise income have both climbed.

169

2023/24  
DIT certified

129

2024/25  
DIT certified

318

2025/26  
UVTAB-aligned

## 606 skilled, across three years

504 young men and 102 young women have gained vocational skills in sewing, farming and enterprise management.



■ 169  
males

■ 102  
females

223

cases resolved through the virtual court since July 2025 — easing the burden on young people and institutions alike.

**"A young person's past should not be the final measure of their future."**

Upper Kololo aims to extend the **Give Hope to the Youth** Project's activities into the Naguru Go-Down community, targeting 33 villages and approximately 1,650 households. This expansion recognises that youth delinquency is shaped by the conditions surrounding young people: poverty, limited opportunity, family vulnerability and social exclusion can create risks long before a young person ever enters the justice system. By taking vocational and life-skills support into the community, the project aims to address those risks earlier and strengthen the protective environment around children and youth.

**The result is a rehabilitation-to-community continuum. Young people already in contact with the justice system receive support to rebuild their lives, while at-risk youth and households in surrounding communities gain skills and opportunities that can reduce their vulnerability to crime. In this way, the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo combines corrective and preventive action while promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.**

The project's sustainability is reinforced further by partnerships that connect training to real markets. Private-sector partners, including Hotel La Vena and Nutrinova, have contributed reliable market access and financial support, helping ensure that skills development does not end when training ends. They create a bridge between the classroom, the workshop, the farm and the wider economy.

**Give Hope to the Youth** is ultimately a story about consolidation: of partnerships, skills, infrastructure, income, community action and institutional responsibility, all built around one clear purpose, giving young people a realistic second chance. The project's achievements so far suggest that sustainable juvenile rehabilitation requires more than custody or short-term assistance. It requires pathways to work, systems that function, communities that participate, and institutions equipped to deliver. It requires Rotary service to be both compassionate and strategic: close enough to respond to immediate needs, and ambitious enough to build structures that endure.

For Upper Kololo, the project's next chapter is not simply about reaching more young people. It is about strengthening a model that can be adapted elsewhere, one that connects rehabilitation to livelihoods, facilities to communities, and today's intervention to tomorrow's resilience. In every workshop, greenhouse, courtroom, classroom and village, the message is the same: a young person's past should not be the final measure of their future. With the right skills, partnerships and sustained commitment, rehabilitation can become renewal, and hope can become a system that lasts.

# Give Hope To the Youth



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“A young person’s past should not be the final measure of their future.”

# Pictorial





**Rising  
From  
Ruins**

# One Man's Mission to Farm Hope Into Kampala's juveniles

**A**s a teenager, Segujja Ssula followed his mother onto the streets of Kampala, where she preached to passersby. It was on those same streets that he fell in with the wrong crowd, and in 2016, at just sixteen years old, he was falsely accused of defilement and sent to Naguru Remand Home. Six months later, the High Court found him not guilty and set him free. But by then, Naguru had already begun to change him.

He had arrived with a rough, self-taught passion for small-scale agriculture, and instead of waiting out his time, he started teaching it to the other boys and girls on remand with him. He wasn't trained, but the other inmates started calling him *musomesa* anyway.

The nickname stuck. The moment he was released, he enrolled in a certificate course in agriculture and urban farming at Agromax, determined to turn his instinct into real skill. But earning the certificate only raised a bigger question in his mind: "For me I have a certificate, what about my peers? *Bagenda funamu batya?*" How would this help the ones still inside?

Most people run from the place that once held them. Segujja went back. He knew that returning to his old community meant returning to the same people who had framed him once, and might do it again, so instead he leaned into Naguru. He trained in poultry farming at Agromax and pushed to put his new skills to work at the remand home itself, pestering the home's in-charge, Madam Kyomugisha, for space to set up demonstration farms, something the juveniles could actually learn from and use once they were released.

**"These boys are brought here again because they have nothing to do out there, in a community that calls them criminals," he says. "They resort to the same things that got them in trouble. If they have skills, they can do something useful for themselves instead."**

It worked. Segujja helped build vegetable gardens, a poultry project, and even an aquaponics system at the home, inspired by one he'd seen in Kyanja and recreated from scratch with donated materials. Today, fish swim in a system he built with his own hands.

He still isn't paid to train the juveniles at Naguru. He does it anyway. **"My joy comes from seeing the boys and girls walk out of these gates with some skills," he says. "The blessing**

**will come from God. And who knows, from what I am doing, someone will hire him someday."**

Not every young person he's mentored has embraced it. Some want quick money and see farming as slow and unrewarding, but Segujja sees the comparison differently: agriculture, like raising a child, rewards patience and care. You feed it, tend it, protect it, and eventually it feeds you back. He trains the juveniles in agriculture, nursery-bed management, and poultry farming, skills that need little land and little capital to start once they're released.

**"Unlike some pastors who pray for hungry children instead of giving them food," he says, "I believe in sharing practical skills that they can actually use to change their own lives. Kisoboka!"** It is possible.

Segujja had been raised by a single mother who struggled to provide for him, and in many ways, he says, the remand home became a second set of parents, one that watched him grow from a falsely accused sixteen-year-old into a twenty-four-year-old father raising a healthy baby girl. Asked what he's learned there, he doesn't hesitate: discipline, patience, resilience, and the power of hope, even in dry seasons. He recalls one moment that tested all three, after misbehaving while helping out at a mentor's home, he was sent away twice. Rather than return to his old neighborhood and old habits, he chose to go back and apologize instead. **"I did not want to go back to the same groups that had framed me," he says. "Going back there could have led me astray again."**

Most of the children at Naguru arrive with some spark of their own, a pull toward tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry, poultry, or business. Segujja believes all they need is someone to notice it, name it, and believe in it long enough for it to grow. **"Training gives them a second chance to be better than when they came in," he says. "I understand their circumstances better than most, and I'm a living example that a better life is possible, even after the remand home."**

That belief hasn't gone unnoticed. During the recent Rotary Club of Upper Kololo's tenth chicken sale, Past District Governor Xavier was so moved by Segujja's work that he offered him land in Kamengo to farm on his own. "Just show Segujja some land and materials, with his hands there is nothing he will not accomplish in agriculture," says Madam Mary Kyomugisha, the home's in-charge.

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**A remand home shouldn't be the end of a young person's story, but a pause where they're equipped to write a better one, with real skills, mentorship, and a reason to hope, instead of a record that follows them for life.**

"He is the one behind all these gardens here. He is the one who set up the aquaponics. He recently brought me a baby of two years, and now I am a grandmother. Very many children here have been transformed because of him."

Segujja's story is exactly why **Give Hope To The Youth** exists. The Rotary Club of Upper Kololo built the project on a simple belief: a remand home shouldn't be the end of a young person's story, but a pause where they're equipped to write a better one, with real skills, mentorship, and a reason to hope, instead of a record that follows them for life. That mission is what puts resources and belief behind a young man who had already given years of unpaid teaching to the juveniles beside him. It's what turned a self-taught teenager once wrongly accused into a musomesa, for an entire home full of children walking the same road he once walked.

From a falsely accused sixteen-year-old to a mentor, a father, and now a farmer with land of his own, Segujja is what a second chance looks like when someone invests in it. And for every juvenile who's learned to tend a nursery bed, raise poultry, or build an aquaponics system under his hand, that same investment is quietly multiplying, one reclaimed future at a time.

What is happening at Naguru Remand Home is more than a rehabilitation program. It is a redefinition of what confinement can mean for a child. Through counseling, education, vocational skills, and moments of play and story, the home is choosing to see its residents not as cases to be processed, but as young people to be prepared, for trial, yes, but also for life.

The Rotary Club of Upper Kololo's partnership, anchored by the Give Hope to the Youth project and its global grant, is proof of what becomes possible when a community decides that no child is beyond reach. Boys and girls once defined by broken circumstances are now leaving Naguru with skills in their hands, money sense in their heads, and, perhaps most importantly, a different story about who they are.

Naguru Remand Home was never meant to be the end of these young people's stories. Thanks to initiatives like Give Hope to the Youth, for many of them, it is becoming the place where a better one begins▪

*Give Hope to the Youth is a partnership between Naguru Remand Home and the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo, funded in part by a Rotary Global Grant under the Basic Care and Urban Poverty area of focus, and supervised by Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.*



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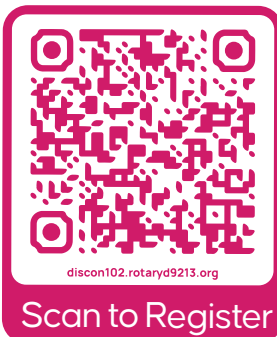
## Registration Rates

### Early bird Rate ending November 31st

- A. 102 Rotaractors - \$130
- B. 102 Rotarians - \$200

### Regular Registration ending January 31st 2027

- A. 102 Rotaractors - \$150
- B. 102 Rotarians - \$250



29<sup>th</sup> APRIL TO  
1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2027



GANG WA RESORT  
& SPA GULU CITY

