



## A CHANCE FOR ALL!

Greetings from Dwelling Places!

We thank God for having brought us this far.

In this edition of snapshot, we would like to share some of the highlights of the month February. The government has officially opened up schools, and students at different levels have started returning to school in phases; therefore some of our children in both candidate and semi-candidate classes have resumed schooling.

Our child-to-sponsor letter writing sessions have begun and it is exciting for children to share how they feel about the year 2021 with their sponsors. We were also able to carry out a training with 157 schools administrators and head teachers on how they can monitor children's attendance in a manner that helps them identify early warning signs in prevention of children being trafficked for street begging, commercial sexual exploitation or any other form of exploitation on the streets. This was done in partnership with the Napak district local government, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and with funds from the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. Other community stakeholders including the Cultural and Religious leaders, and private sector actors (hotel, bar and restaurant owners, bus drivers and operators, taxi conductors, and *boda boda* riders, among others) were also engaged on their roles in protection of children from child trafficking (CT) and commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). We hope that the above engagements will result in increased awareness and vigilance in child protection and prevention of CT and CSEC, as well as the development of a concerted strategy to kick the vices out of Napak district and Karamoja as a whole; specifically because Karamoja right now is the biggest sender of vulnerable children to

the streets.

Our biggest highlight within this period is 22 years-old Chris (not real name) who is currently attaining tailoring skills at DP's skilling center in Napak district, a centre that was established specifically to provide skills to youth who have dropped out of school for whatever reason, to reduce their vulnerability to street begging and exploitation. Chris is a youth with physical disabilities, he does not have use of his legs and uses his hands to support him move from one place to another.



*Chris arriving at Dwelling Places' Napak Office skilling centre*

When Dwelling Places made a general call to the community for youth who were interested in acquiring tailoring skills on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, he was one of the 12 youths that turned up for enrollment. Chris' parents died at a very tender age, leaving him with a guardian who does odd jobs to feed the family.

According to Chris, he stopped in Primary two. *"Because of my disability, it was difficult for me to trek the long distances to school. The sharp stones on the roads would also always hurt my hands and knees while I moved to school, and yet my family did not have readily available funds to treat the wounds."* Chris narrates. Dwelling Places' skilling centre, which is a lot closer to Chris' home (2km away) has

provided a great opportunity for Chris to finally attain valuable skills in tailoring that he can use in the future to provide for himself and his family.

While Chris still has to crawl to come to the skilling centre, he is the most punctual student at the centre. He is always the first to arrive, and is very good with the sewing machines. He is also a very quick learner, and has made great progress in acquiring the skills. He has learnt how to make dresses, shirts, shorts, mend torn clothes, and even make masks in light of the COVID 19 pandemic.



*Some of the participants at the skilling centre*

According to the tutor at the skilling center, Chris is a very reserved person yet very talented tailor and all he needed was an opportunity for professional training to enhance his talent. According to Chris, his own blood relatives shunned and treat him as an outcast because of his disability. Asked what his future plans are, *“I would like to get my own tailoring shop,”* he said with a big grin on his face. Chris dreams of starting his own tailoring shop so that he becomes the professional tailor that he would like to be when his training ends. He however, requires a sewing machine and capital to buy items that come with starting a tailoring shop, such as thread, materials, a chair and space for rent which he does not have. We also hope that Chris can get a wheelchair to ease his movement. Donations towards this noble cause are welcome.

As Dwelling Places, we are forever grateful to you for your continued generosity that has enabled us to touch and change lives of vulnerable people like Chris.

## International Day for Street Children

IDSC 2021 is coming up on the 12th April and we have some exciting things planned! International Day for Street Children is run by the Consortium for Street Children and for the last three years the focus of the day has been on each of the Four Steps to Equality. This year's focus is on the third step - Access for Street Children. Street children all over the world are restricted from accessing essential services due to being unregistered, undocumented or not having a permanent home address. We are urging governments to remove barriers for street children to access essential services such as education, healthcare, food and safe housing.

Dwelling Places provides essential services to street children and we can only continue to do that with your help and support.

In Dwelling Places UK, we are running a silent auction on Facebook from the 5th-11th April. We have a Glasgow and Northern Ireland Facebook event as larger items will need to be collected. Vouchers and paper items can be posted so you can still have a look at our auction items even if you are not in these areas!

You can join our Glasgow event by clicking [here](#) and our Northern Ireland event by clicking [here](#).



The items in our auction are from local businesses and range from art to experiences to food boxes! If you would like to donate something to the auction please do get in touch with Ashleigh at [admin@dwellingplaces.org.uk](mailto:admin@dwellingplaces.org.uk).

You can also donate straight to Dwelling Places for IDSC [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support!



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET  
CHILDREN



The pandemic has highlighted how  
street-connected children are too often  
excluded from essential services

#AccessForStreetChildren