



# KAMPALA, UGANDA

## THE PROBLEM

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**A poor woman in Uganda not only has to contend against the challenges of eking out a living in harsh conditions, but also with a culture that routinely denies her rights.**

Widows in particular are seen as an easy target for abuse. When a man dies, it is common for neighbors, relatives and other community members to steal the home and property from his widow and children. Local authorities lack training or simply do not view land theft as a crime. Land records are not readily available, making it nearly impossible for a woman to prove her rightful ownership (and making it easy for perpetrators to forge documents). Since 2004, IJM has been working from the Kampala office to serve widows and orphans in nearby Mukono County, where more than a third of widows reported experiencing attempts to take their land.

## IJM KAMPALA PROGRESS SINCE 2004



**1,200+**

restored to their homes and land



**200+**

survivors and family members receiving aftercare services from IJM



**92**

perpetrators arrested for land theft crimes



## THE FACTS

More than **115 million widows** live in **extreme poverty** around the world—with half a billion children depending on these widows for survival.<sup>1</sup>



An estimated 90% of rural sub-Saharan Africans have no proof of ownership for land where they live and work—leaving them vulnerable to violent land theft.<sup>2</sup>

Nearly 1 out of 3 widows in Mukono County reported that her land had been stolen in her lifetime, and nearly 1 in 5 victims reported a murder attempt on her life.<sup>3</sup>



“Thank you so much. Thank you for bringing hope. Thank you for listening to God and saying, ‘Let’s rescue the widows and the oppressed.’”

-Harriet

## How IJM Kampala Combats Land Theft

**We rescue widows and orphans** from violence and help Local Council leaders (the community-level representative of the justice system), police and courts restore the vulnerable families to the property stolen from them. This can mean moving women and children into safe houses while we work to stop the threats.

**We bring criminals to justice** by working with police and prosecutors to take them to court. IJM attorneys help build strong cases by gathering evidence that proves a widow’s rights and will expose the criminal’s actions.

**We restore survivors** by providing counselling, ensuring that children can go to school, and helping women begin income-generating projects. Once families are safe on their land, we empower them through training and by providing resources to rebuild their lives.

**We strengthen justice systems** by working with police, courts, land authorities and other local leaders to dramatically improve the justice system response to land theft so women and children are safe. IJM has helped establish and train specialized land theft prevention officers in local police stations, and we raise awareness through media and radio campaigns.

### IJM KAMPALA MILESTONES

- 2004**  
**IJM KAMPALA OPENS**
- 2012**  
**PROJECT EMPAANYI**  
We launch a partnership with local authorities to end land theft in Mukono through collaborative casework and capacity building.
- 2014**  
**6000<sup>TH</sup> PERSON TRAINED**  
We train our 6000<sup>th</sup> community member on how to prevent and report land theft.
- 2017**  
**AGREEMENT WITH CHIEF JUSTICE**  
We will work with the Chief Justice of Uganda to improve how the justice system responds to violence against women.



#### FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR JAMES FOSTER

James is an attorney who spent the past 4 years at New York City’s Emergency Management Department. Prior to his service with NYC James spent a year in The Hague working in the Appellate Chamber for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, then at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. James joined IJM in 2017, leading the Kampala team to protect women and children from violence.



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**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION** is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. International Justice Mission Canada shares in this mission.