

A young boy is captured in mid-air, jumping joyfully. He is wearing a white t-shirt with the word "MindLeaps" printed on it and dark shorts. His arms are outstretched, and his face shows a wide smile. The background features a building with corrugated metal siding and a corrugated metal roof. To the left, there are some green plants, possibly banana trees. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of happiness and energy.

MindLeaps

FY 2018
Annual Report

MindLeaps harnesses the power of dance to guide vulnerable children and youth to safe spaces, academic opportunity & lifelong skill development to help them leap forward in life.



STORY OF ZANI



Zani is a 16-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who came to Uganda in 2013. She was orphaned at four years old and is now living in Nsambya, Kampala, with a mother and father who are not her biological parents. She speaks five languages fluently French, Lingala, Swahili, Mashi, and English.

Zani first joined the MindLeaps program in 2017 through the refugee organization HIAS. From the beginning she worked hard, and MindLeaps teachers recall a particular day during the second week when they were busy changing the music at one point during class. When they turned around, Zani was leading her peers in the warm up and counting out loud since there was no music!

Zani had to drop out of school due to lack of school fees. But her interests lay in dance and she continued to excel. Because of her love of dance and her commitment to MindLeaps, she was chosen to attend the Train The Trainer program and became a qualified MindLeaps instructor.

With the money she earns as a trainer, Zani is now the sole breadwinner for her family. Her guardians suffer ailments that limit their ability to work, so Zani is their source of support. She has continued to hone her dance and teaching skills by taking part in an intensive training program in Rwanda with the MindLeaps international team.

With her dedication and enthusiasm, Zani has not only become a role model for other refugee youth in her community, but has also enabled MindLeaps to reach many other disadvantaged children in local communities.

UGANDA

Uganda currently hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa.

A total of 1.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived as of 2018; 61% are under age 18.

MindLeaps rehabilitates urban refugee youth through our partnership programs with six local NGOs.

UGANDA

In 2017, in Kampala, MindLeaps partnered with HIAS, an international NGO facilitating the resettlement of refugees around the world, to work with urban refugee children. Building upon this experience, MindLeaps then went on to train talented youth from the HIAS program and alumni of the Ugandan traditional dance group, Rockies Troupe, to become assistant teachers of the MindLeaps dance curriculum. Upon completion of the Train The Trainer program, MindLeaps partnered with local Ugandan organizations to embed the dance methodology in existing organizations that help at-risk youth. These organizations include M-Lisada, Refugee & Hope International, REHORE, and Save Street Children Uganda (SASCU) where over 100 street children and urban refugee youth are given the MindLeaps dance curriculum weekly.





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