



PATHTOPROSPER.ORG

Independence Through Education

TEN YEAR SUMMARY



From **The Shelo Foundation** to **Path To Prosper** A 10 Year Summary of Our Work to Date

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Background (2006 - 2009)

In 2006, five volunteers founded The Shelo Samaritan Initiative in Bududa, Uganda. Inspired by a small spring called Shelo in Bunabwire Village, whose water nourishes the local land making it viable for cultivation and growth, Shelo was founded to be a similar source of hope.

The founders set out to provide vital support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) with housing, education, health and nutrition. In a generously donated building, and volunteer homes throughout the community, they began by supporting 37 children.



Three years later, in June 2009, Thomas Stewart visited Shelo for the first time, having heard about their work while volunteering for another charity in Uganda. Seeing their need for additional funding, Thomas set up The Shelo Foundation in the UK. What follows is an exploration of our last ten years as Shelo, all of which has led to our next chapter as **Path To Prosper**.

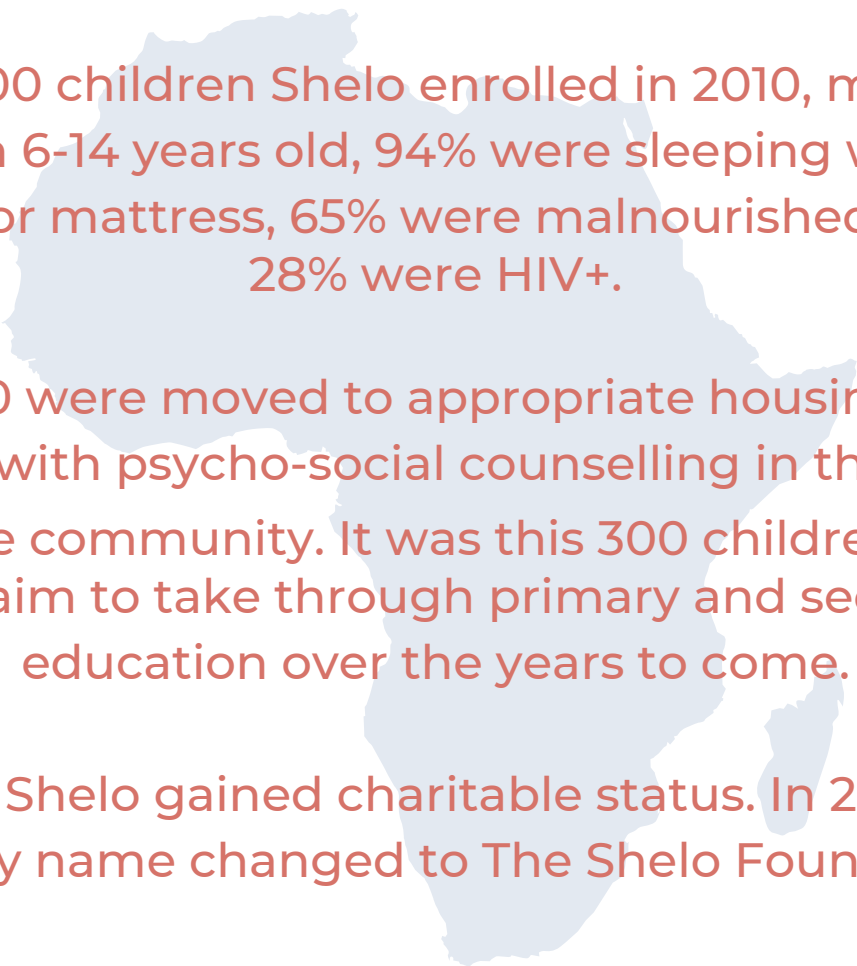


The Shelo Foundation (2010 - 2020)

Early Development

In 2010, Shelo began its first year with a rapid expansion. Mudslides in Bududa killed 350 people, including 60 children, and buried three villages resulting in thousands becoming homeless. In response to this crisis, Shelo grew from 5 to 20 volunteers, and accepted 300 children who were homeless or in child-headed households.

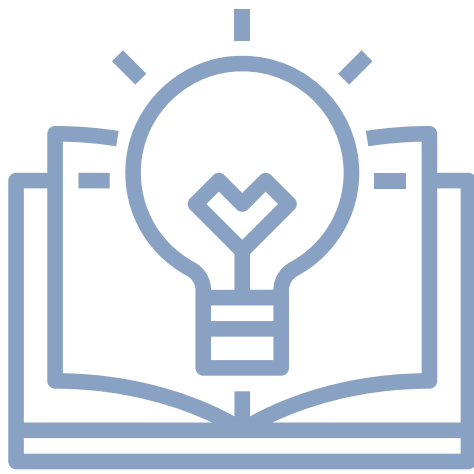
Mudslides would continue to cause widespread damage in Bududa over the next ten years, with Shelo providing support to these crises in 2012, and again in 2019.



Of the 300 children Shelo enrolled in 2010, most were between 6-14 years old, 94% were sleeping without a bed or mattress, 65% were malnourished, and 28% were HIV+.

All 300 were moved to appropriate housing, and provided with psycho-social counselling in their homes and in the community. It was this 300 children that we would aim to take through primary and secondary education over the years to come.

In 2013 Shelo gained charitable status. In 2014, the charity name changed to The Shelo Foundation



Education Programme

In 2011, Shelo launched a Pilot Education Programme which began in 2012, and included a weekly Centre Day where each child received additional education support. This ran until 2020.

The charity's full education programme started in May 2012, with all 300 children attending school. This was achieved by removing financial barriers to entry, and providing children with materials such as school books, pens, pencils, uniforms, and shoes.

In 2013, Shelo also began paying lunch fees for secondary school students, providing them with a nutritious meal each day they attended school.

**2013: 300 children attended school
(271 primary school, 29 secondary school)**

**2014: 300 children attended school
(237 primary school, 63 secondary school)**

**2015: 300 children attended school
(212 primary school, 88 secondary school)**

In 2016, we noticed that while Shelo children were able to attend and learn at school because they were being provided with the necessary materials, they were not progressing through school and moving up classes as taking those exams required additional fees. In addition, secondary schools in Uganda receive far less government funding than primary schools, making the fees for secondary education much more expensive.



Taking this into consideration, we decided to start paying **all school fees for secondary students**. We had limited funding available to us, but we gave priority to secondary school students as this is where we saw the greatest need. With full school fees, these children could take their exams and progress through school, as well as being provided with a nutritious meal each day that they attended school. Unfortunately, the redistribution of this limited funding resulted in a reduced total number of children we could support to 247.

2016: 247 children attended school
(164 primary school, 83 secondary school)

2017: 247 children attended school
(127 primary school, 114 secondary school)

2018: 236 children attended school
(111 primary school, 125 secondary school)

2019: 52 children attended school
(31 primary school, 21 secondary school)

After 8 years of supporting Shelo orphans and vulnerable children through education, we realised that although they could complete secondary school, they were unable to obtain employment afterwards.

In 2019, recognising the severe lack of support for professional training, we decided to shift our focus to providing Shelo's young adults with a professional trade to earn a living. Although a very difficult decision to make, we felt that this would ensure more vulnerable young adults could escape extreme poverty and create a better life for themselves and their families.

Thus in 2019 we supported the education of only the 52 Shelo children who were in their final year of primary or secondary school to make sure they could complete that part of their education, before shifting our focus to providing support for professional training only from 2020 onwards.

Supporting Shelo Children & Communities

Information & Data

Shelo has always put great trust in the community leaders of Bududa to select vulnerable children for our education programme. We also understand the importance of visiting the local community to maintain these relationships and to better understand the support that is needed. As part of this connectivity and research, Shelo trustees spent several prolonged periods in Bududa, Uganda over the years, gathering vital information on the children Shelo was supporting, the homes they lived in, and the centre days. They also met with the committee, staff members and caregivers to discuss future work. Understanding the need for data collection and a record of our work, we created a Child and Home Database in 2015, aiming to track the progress of each child through school, and create a record of the living situation for each child.



Healthcare & Female Empowerment

In 2015 Shelo launched our Female Sanitation Initiative.



We were provided with 45 packs of sanitary materials by Selsey Women's Institute, with each pack containing washable materials that allow a female student to comfortably attend school throughout her menstrual cycle. Prior to this our female students often missed up to a week of school each month due to their periods. In 2016, these female sanitation packs were distributed to 45 young women, and another 45 students attended a Days for Girls workshop where they were taught about hygiene throughout their cycle. Each also created their own pack of washable materials that they could use to comfortably attend school at all times. In total, 90 of our female students could now attend school comfortably and uninterrupted as a result of this initiative. In 2017 Shelo recruited a nurse, who was supplied with medications to treat common illnesses and infections in the orphans and vulnerable children we supported in line with government guidelines. In 2018, Shelo children were able to receive treatment throughout the year against infectious diseases such as pneumonia and malaria.

Nutrition & Meal Programmes

From the outset, we recognised that the children we supported were not receiving adequate nutrition, which is critically important to progressing through school. Throughout our early years we supported the nutrition of our children through the following programmes.

School Nutrition

All of the children that Shelo supported through secondary school were provided with a nutritious meal every day they attended school. These meals not only provided additional financial support to families struggling to feed their children, they also provided the children with an additional incentive to come to school, and the necessary nutrition and energy to engage, focus and learn.

2013: School lunches provided to Shelo's 20 secondary school students

2014: School lunches provided to Shelo's 63 secondary school students

2015: School lunches provided to Shelo's 88 secondary school students

2016: School lunches provided to Shelo's 83 secondary school students

2017: School lunches provided to Shelo's 114 secondary school students

2018: School lunches provided to Shelo's 125 secondary school students

2019: School lunches provided to Shelo's 21 secondary school students.

Christmas Meal Initiative

In December 2012, Shelo launched a Christmas Meal initiative that delivered a meal to all of the homes supporting the 300 children enrolled in Shelo's school program, with an estimated 1,800 meals provided.

2013: 1,800 meals provided to homes.

2014: 1,800 meals provided to homes.

Home Nutrition Programme

In 2015, we launched the Home Nutrition Programme to replace the Christmas Meal Initiative, aiming to more sustainably support nutrition throughout the year rather than just for one meal.

We began with 2,700kg seeds for planting delivered to the 300 Shelo children, with each child receiving 4kg maize seeds and 5kg of bean seeds for the year.

2016: 2,700kg of seeds, 300 children

2017: 2,223kg of seeds, 300 children

2018: 1,416kg of seeds, 300 children



In 2017, this initiative was restructured to allocate seeds per household rather than per child. Due to limited funding, the volume of seeds saw a reduction the following year.



The Next Chapter

From our beginning in 2010, The Shelo Foundation has strived to provide essential support for children living in extreme poverty in eastern Uganda. Over the years, led by our Ugandan team, we honed in on secondary school education, especially for girls, which is commonly believed to be the most powerful developmental tool in the world for tackling poverty. To date, we have enabled 319 children to attend school, 62 of which have completed their secondary education, 136 of which completed primary education



Over the past ten years, we saw that Shelo children who finished primary or secondary school are rarely able to find employment and become independent. In 2019, this realisation led to the beginnings of our next chapter. That year, three members of Shelo UK visited Uganda to assess the existing programme, to conduct interviews with Shelo children about their thoughts on tertiary education, and to research the feasibility of a tertiary education programme, visiting training centers, institutions and vocational schools near Bududa. We also tentatively launched a Shelo tertiary education programme with funding provided for Nashimolo Joel to attend University.



As a result of this extensive research, we now understand how professional training and qualifications could empower these young adults to lift themselves, their families and communities out of poverty. To see this change, we needed to become an organisation that could drive this change. This is what has led us to transition to **Path To Prosper** from January 2021, a charity dedicated to providing professional training to vulnerable young adults living in extreme poverty.



As a charity, our core values have not changed; our focus remains on developing innovative, sustainable solutions, and to tackle extreme poverty. We remain dedicated to the people of Bududa and Uganda, and we will continue to provide consistent support for the individuals and communities we have worked with over the past ten years. We will embark on this next phase of our journey in the same local area where we have been for the last decade, offering the first places in our new program to Shelo children who have completed primary or secondary school, so that they can complete the education cycle and become independent individuals.

In the future we wish to offer these opportunities to even more vulnerable young adults in Bududa and Uganda. Furthermore we wish to ensure our future programmes are sustainable and ultimately remove the need for aid. More details on this can be found in our Strategic Plan.



THANK YOU

