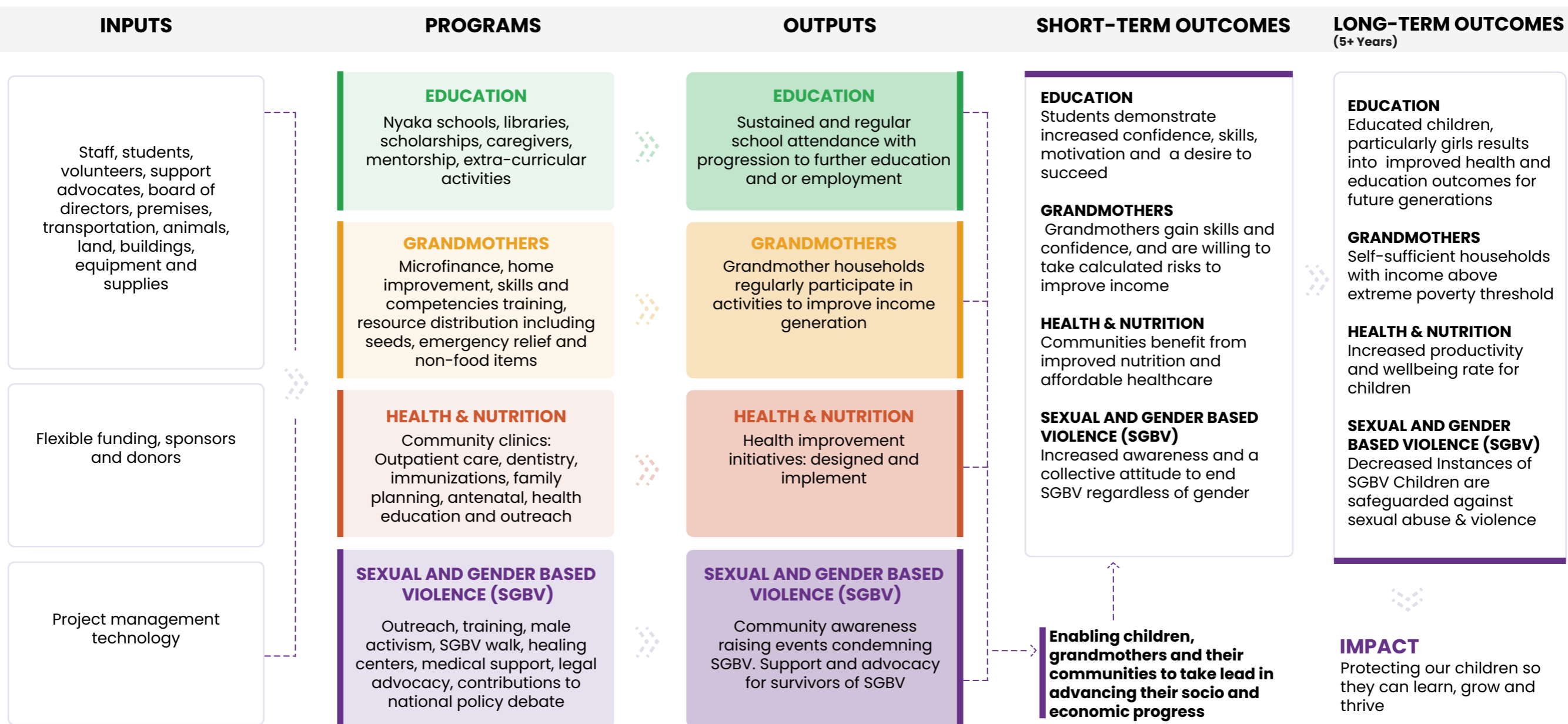




Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change shows what needs to happen to achieve our mission:

Working with communities to nurture and protect children, so they can learn, grow and thrive



MISSION

Nyaka works with communities to nurture and protect children so they can learn, grow and thrive.

PEOPLE (Who? & Where?)

Nyaka serves orphans and vulnerable children, their grandmother caregivers or guardians along with a few communities located within southwest Uganda.

REASON (Why?)

To break the cycle of poverty through education for our children's sake.

BIG IDEA (How?)

An holistic, social-ecological approach that surrounds each child with a comprehensive support system.

PROBLEM (What?)

There are about 21 million children in Uganda - 56% suffer from multiple deprivations. 78% of the affected are rural based, and majority are girls. 9.5% are orphans (UNICEF, 2019). The deprivations include lack of access to Health, Education, Shelter, Food, Water, Safety and Employment. Consequently, children are denied opportunities to grow with dignity. Learning is impeded and their chances to thrive in future, diminish. Nyaka is working with communities to nurture and protect rural children, while providing solutions to the underlying deprivations, and supporting the attainment of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ASSUMPTIONS AND RISK FACTORS

- Target community is keen and willing to participate.
- Stable economy and political space.
- Funds and partnerships that invest in children are available and adequate.
- Providing children with comprehensive support can bring about significant positive changes in their lives and pave the way for a better future.

THEORY OF CHANGE OVERVIEW



The Theory of Change concept for development programs was established in the 1990s with an aim to effectively evaluate development initiatives. This concept has become a widely used tool globally. Nyaka has developed its first Theory of Change that will allow us to ask critical questions about how we can positively impact children, and communities, and do even better in the future.

What is it? And why did we develop it?

WHAT IS NYAKA'S THEORY OF CHANGE?

Nyaka is a Non-governmental organization that works with communities to nurture and protect children, enabling them to learn, grow, and thrive. Our Theory of Change is a strategic framework that helps us understand how to continuously measure our efforts to protect and nurture children leveraging evidence-based practices.

Our Theory of Change will further help us explain how and why we expect changes to happen. It identifies long-term goals and works backwards to identify all the necessary conditions that must be in place to achieve the desired change. These conditions are called outcomes, and they are linked together in a program measurement framework.

The theory of change is also a framework helps us identify the interventions that will lead to the necessary outcomes, which are preconditions for achieving long-term goals. By linking activities to long-term goals, we can better understand how change happens and plan more effectively. It also helps us measure progress towards our goals beyond just program outputs.

OUR ASSUMPTIONS

- 1 Providing children with comprehensive support can bring about significant positive changes in their lives and pave the way for a better future.
- 2 The community has shown a keen interest and willingness to actively participate in the efforts required to nurture and protect children so they can learn, grow and thrive.
- 3 The success of the program is predicated on a politically, economically, and socially conducive engagement space that limits disruptions for Nyaka, its partners, and communities.
- 4 This requires availability of adequate resources and partnerships that invest in the learning, growth, and thriving of children.

WHY DID WE DEVELOP IT?

Progress has been made in addressing deprivation among children in recent decades, especially those living in rural communities that are hard to reach and often the last mile. These children face various challenges such as limited access to quality education, healthcare, sanitation, food security, and limited opportunities for decent employment.

Nyaka's mission is to ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive by providing a comprehensive support package designed to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage. Nyaka is committed to supporting communities while partnering with supporters, donors, and the government to achieve this goal.

The Theory of Change breaks down the support package into component parts: Education, Grandmothers, SGBV prevention, and Health & Nutrition. These programs are further analyzed to demonstrate what each one does and what the outcomes/impacts are, demonstrating how each program contributes to the overall mission.

HOW DID WE COMPILE OUR THEORY OF CHANGE?

The process of formulating a Theory of Change began in late 2021 during the refinement process of our program monitoring and evaluation systems. This included the establishment of our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Accountability (MEAL) department, the appointment of a new MD, and a refreshed grant mobilization strategy.

The methodology we used proved to be an interesting learning experience, helping us to align our understanding of the impact of our human resources, monetary and non-monetary support towards achieving our mission. We recognize that social change is a complex process that requires a clear and harmonized theoretical view that everyone within and outside the organization understands.

Nyaka collaborated with a long-time consultant to initiate the process by engaging the current staff teams located in Uganda, the USA, the UK, and Canada (forming the Nyaka Global Team). Initially, each team produced their own version of the ToC. Several meetings, discussions, and consultations were conducted to generate consensus and identify the necessary information that Nyaka needed to consolidate for the final development of the ToC, which was produced in November 2022.

As an organization, we now recognize the need to further refine our internal capacity to gather, analyze, and utilize data for decision-making, program development, and partnerships. It is exciting to move forward into a data-driven future based on self-generated evidence that can clearly demonstrate the impact of Nyaka's work on children and communities, all for the sake of our children.





Theory of Change

NYAKAGLOBAL.ORG