



## The Bantwana Initiative of World Education

Across all our activities, we aim to **strengthen systems and support local organizations and individuals to maximize impact** for lasting change. Through 15+ years of comprehensive HIV programming, the Bantwana Initiative of World Education has demonstrated the importance of **collaborative, targeted capacity and systems strengthening** to move towards 95-95-95 goals and wrap-around care and socioeconomic support for vulnerable children, orphans, youth, and adults.

We approach capacity development holistically, building strong, trusting relationships with partners **to promote accountability, transparency, and local ownership** of solutions and strategies.

Our partners include national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, community- and faith-based organizations, schools, clinical partners, and private sector institutions. Using assessment tools, coupled **with a deep understanding of partners' needs and open communication**, we determine capacity gaps and agree with partners on technical assistance to be provided.

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ABOUT BANTWANA**

[bantwana.org](http://bantwana.org)



14-year-old Mercy\* is one of thousands of girls and young women supported by Bantwana-trained social workers in Uganda.

She was abused during the COVID 19 school closures and became pregnant. Her father was enraged, and wanted to throw her out of the house. Henry, a social worker, intervened.

"Henry referred me to the hospital for antenatal care, where I was also tested for HIV," Mercy says. "He supported me to deal with shame and stigma, and helped me and my parents [communicate] about this and other difficult issues."

Despite worries that she would be teased, Mercy returned to school with support and counseling from Henry.

*\*Pseudonym used to protect confidentiality.*