



I am Akello Stella born in 1993 – Gulu District. I joined Daughters of Charity in 1999 after the rebels had attacked and slaughtered my other 14 family members including my father Nyero Benard. It was a terrible moment and a tough memory on my mind. War is something that hurts every one.

When Sister Rose rescued me from becoming a child soldier, I realised that there is someone to help the young generation to have a new life and dream again.

When I joined the Uganda Children's Charity Foundantion – UCCF now the Children of Uganda -COU programme, I started dreaming what I would like to be in the future and desiring to achieve and conquer the world.

In 2001, I started my primary school education at Mother Kevin Primary School at Kiwanga orphanage, life was peaceful and good with the possibility of building life again from the ashes of Kony's wars.

I completed my primary education in 2007 where I scored second grade in the National exams and joined secondary school at Mbuye Farm and life was tough, and managed to complete senior four in 2011 and still scored a second grade. My wish was to study the advanced secondary level which is two years (High School) but Children of Uganda's policy of sponsoring only the extremely bright kids could not let me do so and they instead supported me in a vocational course where I had no choice but to study anything they had on the table for me since it was take it or we drop you off our program.

I did a certificate in teaching with a promise from Children of Uganda to help me upgrade to the Diploma level which they haven't fulfilled upto date. My dream was to study “Law” at the University but now I did not even attend high school, am more like a half baked brick and I keep on wishing that maybe if I had parents, I would be living my dream. I still want to achieve my dream. Because through it, I will be able to help my Nation – Uganda to promote peace and justice to the marginalized, equality to all. Today, in Uganda, you are nothing if you are not a professional more so if you are an orphan, you are a social outcast!