

# Barbara Ofwono Buyondo

**Founder, CEO/Director/ Principal,  
Victorious Education Services (VES)**

**UGANDA**



*“A centre of excellence in nurturing people for victorious life. Our mission is to provide quality education that develops a wholesome person.”*



**B**arbara Ofwono Buyondo is the Founder, CEO, Director and Principal of Victorious Education Services Ltd (VES). She is a great teacher, passionate about education and loves children. Victorious Education Services (VES) was founded in 1999 with 3 staff and 30 students. In 2017, the school had 402 staff of which 60% were women, 4422 students and annual revenue of US\$ 2,344,049. VEC operates Kindergarden and Primary schools at 3 campus locations in and around Kampala and offers boarding and transportation services. It provides a holistic education that also includes classes on information technology and computer sciences, swimming, dance, life skills training, drama and music. VEC strives to not only improve the lives of its students but to contribute to the well-being of its staff and wider community. In this connection VEC has established a mutual credit union in which 217 of its staff (70% women) participate and that offers loans to employees from its current reserves of US\$ 260,000. The staff has can acquire loans and use them for personal development such as buying land, building houses and paying school fees for their children.

VEC runs a variety of health, environmental and educational programmes in the wider community benefitting many women and children. The institution offers Kindergarden-early childhood training at three Campuses that is Victorious Kindergarden at Central-Old Kampala), Victorious Kindergarden at Mengo-Rubaga and Victorious Kindergarden at Ntinda. The school offers Primary Education for pupils at 3 campuses that is at Victorious P/S-Mengo, Victorious P/S-Ntinda and Victorious Primary Boarding School at Mukono. In addition, it offers boarding services for pupils who come from far and those whose parents are working upcountry at Victorious Primary Boarding School-Mukono. The institution has registered an increment of sales due to the increased number of pupils except for 2016, when the war in South Sudan made some of the students leave. In 2015 the school had 4353 pupils, in 2016, it reached 4282 and in 2017 totaled 4422 pupils. VES's goal is to spread Victorious Education Services in major towns of Uganda. Currently it operates in Kampala, Mukono and just acquired land in Entebbe to set up a branch. It

counts on reaching 10,000 pupils in the next 5 years and to offer a fully-fledged institute from Kindergarden, Primary, Secondary, Vocational institute to a University.

VES has been engaging communities around her since 2006. It mobilizes community members to solve their own problems through meetings, sensitization programmes, trainings and problem mapping. In addition, there are environmental protection, education, health and community development programmes that support about 1500 people mostly women and children. This contribution has been recognized by several awards including the Uganda CSR AWARD 2016. VES plans to establish community libraries in selected communities in Uganda so that we inculcate a reading culture among the Ugandan population.

The school's success is because of a combination of factors the major foundation are the religious inspiration and the link to the community. Empretec workshops played a great role too. Having participated in Empretec training by Enterprise Uganda since 2001 to date, the knowledge acquired helped us to; brand the company, segment real clients, cost our services well, collect school fees professionally and practicing professional customer care that has contributed to retention and repete customers at 85% hence increment in enrollment. The Empretec workshops assisted in the design of a short term, medium and long-term strategy that has helped gradually and steadily improve the quality of the education services. It also taught to cast the vision to staff hence creating ownership and increasing productivity enabling VES becoming a centre of excellence in nurturing people for a victorious life and providing quality education that develops a wholesome person.



## **VICTORIOUS EDUCATION SERVICES (VES)**

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