



School Fee Report



SEPTEMBER 2020

Background:

Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja (RHHJ) has a mission of providing palliative care and improving the quality of life of patients with life limiting illnesses and their families. Our ultimate goal is to make the patients as comfortable as possible and to support the patients' families to cope but also to be able to care for the patients.

Patients receive clinical and psychosocial care. School fees programme forms part of psycho social support. Children on the school fees program are either orphaned, sick themselves or living with a sick parent/guardian. The school fees program was born out of a combination of factors that included the economic/livelihood constraints in the rural parts of the Busoga region, shifting of meagre resources of families faced with life threatening illnesses to health care, family disintegration during sickness or after death of parents/guardians and; very importantly the request by sick parents/guardians for continued education of the children.

With a main objective of providing Psycho social support to patients and their families, the School Fees Programme is also aimed at helping to break the cycle of poverty by facilitating children to continue with their education in the face of life limiting illnesses of their parents or care takers.

COVID-19 & adjustments to school fee programme:

Uganda, just like other countries, responded to the COVID 19 Pandemic with infection prevention and control protocols/restrictions. The restrictions have relatively contained the spread of COVID 19 but have left very adverse effects to the patients and their families. The school going children have been equally affected as all schools and learning institutions were closed on 21st March 2020.

RHHJ, having started 2020 with a routine plan of supporting the children with tuition, scholastic materials and other requirements; first term started normally but was cut short and forced re adjustments of the School Fee Programme as opening schools still lingered in the unknown. The children on the school fees program are poor, orphaned or sick; schools had been a guarantee for meals and safety during the day. Many started moving in villages or to other relatives because of inadequate food. We feared for their exposure to abuse, wrong behaviour especially for the girl child and therefore made readjustments to the project; the funders were very understanding to our new plans. Budget lines originally meant for tuition fees for the children changed to allow the needed expenses in the new programme. Thus, the budget has been made from the funds available from the tuition of school fees- which with the closure of schools will not be paid to the schools.

The new focus was:

1. Provide the children on school fees support program with monthly food supplies and decent bedding/clothing
2. Support home schooling of all the children that benefit from school fees support
3. Ensure the girl child is supported

It is against the adjusted programs that we are reporting progress so far made



During the lock down, the social team kept in touch with the children and their families. The monthly children visits were done. The RHHJ Psychosocial support team are so committed that they have reached all the children in their homes and helped them to keep at home through counselling and encouragement. Parents/guardians have been guided on how best to inspire the children to keep active at home. This wonderful team also went an extra mile to find and bring home the children that had left their homes in search for food.



Food Support:



Every child needs food to live a normal, healthy and happy life. The economic constraints faced by families hit with life-threatening illnesses leaves them with inadequate food. Some of the children are sick and need food as their first therapy. Moreover, the meal provided in school is no longer available while the government keeps schools closed – and many families have now the extra burden of feeding the children.

The children were provided with a monthly food supply including; 10kgs of maize flour, 5kgs of beans, 1kg of sugar and a bar of soap to maintain their hygiene. It's through this food support that some of our children who had disappeared from their homes in search for food returned back to their respective homes. With this support, our little ones are healthy and lively. The children are always so excited and thrilled as they receive their monthly food supplies. The guardians/parents greatly appreciate the food.



Self-Study Materials & Reading Books:



Government revision handouts were to be accessed by the guardians through photocopying. Many of the children's families could not afford to do this, and so RHHJ made copies for each child. Other reading and story books were also provided to children. This helped to keep them at home revising and preventing them from loitering around in the villages. Story books will enable them to improve their reading skills and acquire knowledge that will keep them informed.



Bedding, Clothes and Girl Child Hygiene:



Most of the children on the schools fees program are from poor families lacking the most basic needs. School uniforms were the main clothes needed when in school. However the long time at home had left the children in very old and torn clothes. Moreover with the economic constraints, the care-takers or parents don't prioritize the children's dressing/ clothing. So, many are left to run around literally naked.

Some of our children were using papyrus mats, rags or the bare floor as a mattress. So, bedding was provided to our school children who were sleeping in very poor conditions. The bedding provided included; 23 Mattresses, 22 blankets and 20 pairs of bed sheets to keep them warm during the cold nights.

Clothes were bought and distributed to the children and their families and girls were given sanitary pads (Re-usable) for menstrual hygiene and comfort. The availability of these re-usable pads has helped to reduce the chances of our teenage girls to be lured into early sexual intercourse in the name of getting money to buy the pads.



House Construction:



This very special case where a house was constructed for one of our children Kipto an 11 year old child who is a child patient as well. Having lost both his parents, Ian is under the care of his big sister.

Ian's Sister made a hard decision to leave her marriage because her husband did not want her to live with her sick brother. Ian was not allowed to interact with his sister's children and even left to sleep alone in a small hut. It was not only a hard decision for her to separate with her husband; they also did not have a home to stay. Between her brother and her marriage, her brother was her ultimate choice but they had nowhere to stay. They were lucky to find a

Good Samaritan who housed them and gave her a piece of land where they cultivated and sold groundnuts; managing to get some money to buy a small piece of land.

RHHJ has helped Ian settle in a house built for him and his sister. It is a one roomed house but enough to be called home by Ian. They also needed 200,000/-(55 USD) to complete payments for the land which Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja paid up for Ian. This we hope will settle Kipto and enable him concentrate in school with shelter over his head and in an environment free from stigma and isolation. His sister can also now continue her farming to be able to take care for Ian. In her words she said 'Thank you so much for supporting me and my brother for the provision of a house'.

Achievements:

- The routine monitoring and home visits to our children have played a very big role in keeping our teenage girls safe and we continue to pray to the Almighty to keep them safe.
- With the provision of food support to the children, those that had run away from their respective homes due to hunger returned and are settled as they were assured of a meal.
- School materials and reading books have kept the children actively doing revision

Challenges:

- We were faced with the challenge of parents / caretakers who can't read nor write. This makes it hard for them to give a supportive hand to their children with the reading materials.
- Not going to school for all this time has caused a lot of stress and anxiety among these young people. This has resulted into some children losing interest in the self- study materials.

Recommendations:

- RHHJ recommends that our Primary seven candidates be enrolled in boarding section to allow them concentrate and organize for their final examinations.
- RHHJ recommends continuous food support to our children to guarantee a comfortable stay in their families during this COVID-19 pandemic until schools re-open.
- The team recommends that monitoring and visiting of the children in their homes should continue to ensure that the children's hope to return to school is kept alive. This will minimise school drop outs and keeps them focused to their studies.

The Death of Else:



On a sad note, we lost our girl child, Mukoye Else 15 years old. She was one of the newly enrolled children on the school fees program this year 2020. She was in Primary six at Makuutu Primary School in Mayuge district. She had been battling HIV/AIDS and was also being supported on RHHJ programme for adherence support. Her death was unexplainable because she did not fall ill, she was found in her bed dead. So no one can tell about the cause of her death which occurred in the month of June 2020.

May her soul rest in eternity and we pray that the Almighty God comforts and strengthens her family especially her grandmother who was her main carer since the age of three months (3 months) after the death of her mother.

Rest in Peace Else



Acknowledgements:

RHHJ is very grateful for all the continuous support from all our donors who have made it possible for the Psycho-social department and the whole team to provide all the activities mentioned above during this COVID-19 pandemic. To the administration, we appreciate your unending guidance, thank you.

We would also recognise those parents and caretakers for all their efforts to keep their children safe during this COVID -19 pandemic.

Finance Report:

FORO SCHOOL FEE SUPPORT - 2020 BUDGET FINANCIAL REPORT, 2020

Item	Total cost/ USD	Total Cost/Shs	1 st Quarter Expenditure (USD)	1 st Quarter Expenditure (UGX)	Bal. C/F (UGX)	2nd REPORT EXP. (UGX)	2nd REPORT EXP. (USD)	Bal. C/F (UGX)
School support-tuition and scholastic material for primary school	16,438	59,998,700				25,771,500	7,061	21,951,800
			5,483	20,009,900	39,988,800			
School support-tuition and scholastic material for secondary/vocational school	3,288	12,001,200						
			1,169	4,266,700	7,734,500			
Fuel for social work support/monitoring visits	5,590	20,403,500						
			822	3,000,000	17,403,500	7,360,000	2,016	10,043,500
Youth and Student day out	1,095	3,996,750						
					3,996,750			3,996,750
Stationary, folders photo development etc.	278	1,014,700						
			110	400,000	614,700			614,700
Social Worker	5,437	19,845,050	1,255	4,579,386	15,265,664	9,158,772	2,509	6,106,892
TOTAL	32,126	117,259,900	8,838	32,255,986	85,003,914	42,290,272	11,586	42,713,642
Exchange rate used: US \$ 1 = UGX 3650								

FORO – ADJUSTED SCHOOL FEES SUPPORT - FINANCIAL REPORT, 2020

Item		Total Costs per month		Total 7 months cost		2 nd Quarter Expenditure		Balance c/f to Qtr. 3	3 rd Quarter Expenditure		Balance c/f to Qtr. 4
	USD	UGX	USD	UGX	USD	USD	UGX	UGX	USD	UGX	UGX
Monthly food basket	10.3	4,500,000	1,233	31,500,000	8650	1,274.00	4,650,000	26,850,000	2,457.53	8,970,000	17,880,000
Stationary- Printing-art supplies	2,25	1,000,000	274	7,000,000	1,917	207.7	758,000	6,242,000	624.93	2,281,000	3,961,000
Library books/supplies				2,000,000	548	124.5	454,500	1,545,500	276.16	1,008,000	537,500
Fuel for social home visits		500,000	137	3,500,000	1,438	1,369.90	500,000	3,000,000	410.96	1,500,000	1,500,000
Volunteers		250,000	69	1,750,000	483	68.5	250,000	1,500,000	246.58	900,000	600,000
Totals for 7 months (June- Dec 2020)				45,750,000	13,036	3,044.60	11,112,500	34,637,500	4,016.16	14,659,000	25,771,500