

SCHOOL FEE REPORT 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO FRIENDS OF REACH OUT

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# INTRODUCTION

School Fee Support is one of the psychosocial support activities that the Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja (RHHJ) has put a lot of effort into, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic, where schools have been closed for almost 2 years. The lockdown greatly affected all our school going students and pupils who have been out of school. Some of our students, namely those in vocational institutes and candidates and semi-candidates, were given the opportunity to study and sit for their examinations earlier this year; however, even that small educational opportunity was taken away when the second wave of COVID-19 hit Uganda. All schools were again closed until further notice.

Under the school fee programme RHHJ has in 2021 has looked after a total of 120 children – 64 boys and 56 girls. 103 at primary level, 13 in secondary, and 4 in vocational level. During the COVID lockdown RHHJ has endeavoured to ensure our students are kept safe and with the hope of going back to school when schools re-open. Focus was put on the following initiatives:

## Feeding the Little Ones



All of our students were visited at home on a monthly basis and were provided with food aid which consisted of: 5kgs of maize flour, 2kgs of beans and a bar of soap to maintain proper hygiene. This food support helped so much, especially to ensure that our students stayed at home instead of trying to leave home, and often engage in risky behaviour all in the hopes of finding a meal. In addition, a Christmas package was also delivered to each and every student in their respective

homes and it comprised of: 10kgs of rice, 1 kg of sugar, a bar of soap and enough money to allow them to buy beef or chicken, a great luxury in Uganda especially for the poor.



## Self-Study Materials



The students were provided with home self-study materials for their revision and reading according to their classes. These reading materials have enabled the students to be active while revising/reading them and prevented them from roaming around the villages in an idle and disorderly maner as well as helping them keep up with their classwork and knowledge while they are away from school. The materials were prepared and distributed to each child, who was encouraged to revise them.

## Counselling and Emotional Support



All of the children were visited each month at their homes respectively. The monthly routine of monitoring and counseling visits were crucial in encouraging the children to exercise patience and make sound decisions while they wait for schools to open again. Many cases of child abuse, teenage pregnancies, and gender-based violence have been reported during the lockdown, especially towards the girl child and teenage girls. Therefore, the RHHJ team prioritized

and invested in continuous psychological/ emotional support and counselling to all school children and their care takers / guardians to ensure that students and their guardians are on healthy terms and relate well. These monthly follow- ups and visits helped our students stay disciplined while at their respective homes.



## Clothing Students and Providing Proper Bedding



School uniforms are usually the only decent clothes children own in the rural setting. Having been at home for 2 years in a row, most of them have outgrown their uniforms. Thus, the RHHJ Psychosocial team organised clothing for the pupils/students to ensure decency and dignity especially the young teenage girls who are at high risk of sexual abuse. All the children were also provided with bedding that included a mattress, a blanket and a pair of bed sheets.



## Face Masks and T-Shirts



All of the children in the RHHJ School Fee Support Programme were given 2 face masks each as a way of protecting them from COVID-19 infections. The children also joined the RHHJ Fight Against Women's Cancer event, wearing their pink t-shirts.

## Providing Comfort and Caring for the Needs of the Children



The girl child has very special needs which when not met, make them vulnerable to exploitation and exposing them to high-risk behaviours. Many teenage girls have fallen into the traps of some unscrupulous men and boys because they promise to meet such special needs. To protect these special girls from early marriages and pregnancies, their needs must be considered. The RHHJ psychosocial team is very considerate of the girl child and their well-being. All the girl children who

are of age were offered re-usable pads.



Both girls and boys were supported with underwear. Four pairs of nickers were given to each girl student and two boxer shorts were given to each boy student. These were greatly appreciated as the girls found it difficult to manage their menses without nickers. One girl said: **“I had one underwear which is also torn and therefore had to reserve it and use it during my periods”**

RHHJ has been a true mother to these children who are either sick or have been orphaned by sick parents.

## Partnership



RHHJ has gotten the wonderful opportunity to work with another organization called 'The AMAZIMA SCHOOLS' ministries that runs a beautiful school for poor and vulnerable children. 5 of the children in our School Fee Programme have been admitted into this prestigious school and will be able to study at this school on full sponsorships. We are glad that the 5 will be able to benefit from quality education. Additionally, it is

a boarding facility and therefore the children will have full protection and be provided for while they are in school. This was great news that will create space for more students to be enrolled in replacement of those who have moved to Amazima School.



## Shelter for Vulnerable Students on the Programme



Three houses were built for three students: Mariam in P.6 of Kaliro Route, Abdul in P.6 of Iganga route and Emmanuel in P.5 of Buyende route. Both Emmanuel and Abdul are under Hospice care. RHHJ supports vulnerable children to continue with their education after the death of their parents and guardians so that the cycle of poverty is broken and some of these children have no shelter or a place to call home. Both Emmanuel and Abdul are sick



themselves but were living in very poor shelters that provided no warmth or comfort. Sleeping outside in the cold adds more stress to their lives and makes it more difficult for them to stay healthy

as well as to adhere to their medication, not to mention the negative effect it has on their studies. We had to do something to help, so we provided them with a one roomed house each and now they are happy. When school resumes, we know they will be happy to be coming back to a decent home each evening. (Please note, that these shelters were paid by other donors.)



## Release of Primary Leaving Exams Results for 2020 school calendar

The Government released results for the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) for the academic year 2020 and we had six students who sat for their final examinations. Despite all the challenges of lockdown, our students excelled in their performance. Two of the children scored first grades, three second grades and one ungraded. Currently, they await schools to re-open so that they can start another level of their academic journey. One student completed his certificate in Tractor Operation from Nile Vocational Institution.

SN	NAME	AGGREGATE	GRADES
1	Umar Muzito	9	First grade
2	Antheri Menya	12	First grade
3	Lilian Mirembe	20	Second grade
4	Innocent Ssegane	22	Second grade
5	Mirabu Namuganza	22	Second grade
6	Waiswa Magero. H	36	Ungraded

## Fulfilling the Promise - Umar's Story



In 2019, one of our students called Umar - a 14-year-old boy - was enrolled on the School Fee Programme after losing his father (who was under RHHJ care) to Osteosarcoma. Umar was then left under the care of his mother who had no sustainable source of income and could not afford to keep Umar and his sibling in school. On enrolment onto the School Fees Support Programme, Umar promised to work hard for a first grade in his Primary Leaving Examinations. It was a dream come true when he had scored 9 aggregates! These good marks will enable him to secure a good secondary school. He is eagerly waiting for schools to re-open so that he can join high school.

Great thanks go to FORO and your donors for all the funds you provide to enable the disadvantaged students to further their education to ensure a brighter future! We appreciate it greatly.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Three houses were built for the 3 students that had no decent places to stay (supported by Rotary Holstebro).
- The children in their respective homes were supported with food on a monthly basis to nourish them and counselling has been on-going to all children.
- Primary Leaving Examinations were performed well and registered 2 first grades for the first time.
- RHHJ got into partnership with the Amazima Schools Ministries and 5 of our students were taken to study under their support . This has created space for more children to be enrolled on the fees program to further their education.

## CHALLENGES

- The unpredictability on the schools' program due to COVID-19 effects made it so hard and stressful for the students and caretakers because of living in the unknown.
- Teenage pregnancy challenge; two of girls on School Fees Support Programme got pregnant and escaped from home.
- We lost our P.6 pupil by the names of Kizito Kabonge, who succumbed to what was suspected to be Kaposi Sarcoma; his death was quick in that at the time of his death, investigations were still in the process to be done.

# FINANCES

Due to the continuing lock down, where schools were closed for most students throughout the year, and only a few were allowed back for a short time to sit their exams, RHHJ had to re-allocate the funds originally planned for school fees provided by FORO.

Originally allocated as of the FORO grant agreement:

School fees for 130 primary children @ UGX 600,000/year	UGX 78,000,000 / USD 21370
School fees for 25 secondary/vocational children @ UGX 1,000,000/year	UGX 25,000,000 / USD 6849
TOTAL	UGX 103,000,000 / USD 28,219
Grant agreement US\$ 1 = 3650	

The funds allocated was thus spent as follows:

Expenditure	UGX	USD
School Fees & Requirements (Primary)	14,086,200	3968
School Fees & Requirements (Secondary)	2,482,700	699
Home Schooling material (incl. printing)	23,663,500	6666
Monthly mentor support visits with home schoolers	36,000,000	10141
Travel for children to admission interview for scholarship	285,000	80
Food and basic material support	28,769,200	8104
TOTAL	105,286,600	29658
USD 1 = UGX 3550		

Challenges and solution taken:

- As the COVID lock down was not lifted, RHHJ decided to remain with the 120 children enrolled in 2020, due to expected higher costs to support the children while at home.
- Throughout the year the exchange rate was US\$ 3550, which partly caused the overspending of allocated school fee fund.
- The remaining overspending was covered from other FORO activities, where savings could be made.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RHHJ is very grateful for the financial support towards the School Fee Programme, thank you FORO and thank all the donors who are making it possible to help our children. A very special thank you, FORO, for allowing RHHJ to be flexible with the funds allocated, so that the children throughout 2021 were helped in the best possible way. With your funding, RHHJ is in a position to extend a helping hand to some of the deprived children to further their education thus breaking the cycle of poverty.