



School Fee Report December 2020

Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja



A child on the RHHJ School Fee Programme receiving a Christmas packet of food.

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Introduction

Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja supports schooling of children who are either orphaned, have a sick parent/guardian or are sick themselves. The School Fee Program started in 2016 and has since grown from 7 children to 126 children today.

In 2020, the School Fee Programme supported 126 students; 10 newly enrolled and the rest were the students that we supported in 2019. As the term was opened in February 2020, RHHJ succeeded in supporting 126 children with school fees, scholastic materials and paying for their meals while in school. The 126 included Eleven (11) in Nursery, Ninety eight (98) in Primary school and Seventeen (17) are in Secondary and Vocational level. Education was one of the most affected needs by the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus, all schools and learning institutions were closed in March 2020.

Progress made before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

At the beginning of the first term of 2020, just before the COVID-19 Pandemic had reached Uganda, school fees for 123 of the students had been fully paid, uniforms and scholastic materials purchased and distributed to the students ready to start school. Each child was given a pair of shoes for comfort and neatness while in school.

This year, we considered placing fourteen (14) children in boarding school to enable them to have more time to concentrate and learn especially those in candidate classes in preparation to take a major examination. Given the challenges around our school fees support children, the fourteen children did not have conducive homes to support their learning. Boarding schools are more expensive option, yet a better alternative for children whose families have been broken down by the long, economically constraining and socially dis-functioning terminal illness.

All children on the School Fee Programme are supported with meals at school. The meals serve a dual purpose, both to enable children to concentrate better in class and to provide a source of nutrition as many of our children come from homes faced with adverse food shortage. Following the release of results of the 2019 Primary Leaving Examination (P.L.E – taken at the end of primary school)) and Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) in January 2020, we were able to help 7 children to join secondary school and 3 including Nanfuma Teddy, Ivan Kidubuka and Isaac Kamusiini Kidede were enrolled in Nile Vocational Institute (NVI) for hands-on skills training.

Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja has developed a students' monitoring program. The department follows a monthly children monitoring schedule. All children are visited in their respective schools and at home to check on their progress, regular school attendance and supportive guardians at home.



Progress made during the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions

In March 2020, schools and learning institutions were closed down. It has turned out to be a very long school closure that posed challenges to the learners across the country. The poor and under-privileged were most affected faced with:

1. Inadequate food hence roaming in village to find food.
2. They did not have access to nor could they afford to make copies of the limited copies of government provided study materials.
3. High risk of abuse especially for the girl child

With approval from the funding partner, Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja was able to utilise funds meant for tuition to provide support to the children and their families during the COVID-19 induced school closure. The adjustments focused on provision of monthly food basket, support home schooling of all the children that benefit from school fees support and focused guidance and care of the girl child.



Interventions during COVID-19 Pandemic

Counselling: The psychosocial team kept in touch with the children and their families through the monthly children visits. During such monthly visits, the children are counselled and encouraged to keep safe. The Parents/guardians were also guided on how to monitor the children and help them with the home schooling.

Monthly food support: The children were provided with a monthly food supply that included; 10kgs of maize flour, 5kgs of beans, 1kg of sugar source of nutrition and a bar of soap to maintain their hygiene. The food support has played a very critical role in keeping children at home and also caused those that had disappeared from their homes in search for food to return. The food support has been a source of strength and health to the children. Now the children are so happy and always so eager and thrilled to receive their monthly food supplies. The guardians/parents impressively appreciated the package.



Self -study and reading materials: The Government self-study materials were to be accessed by the guardians through making copies of the few copies available with Village level Local Council. The children's families could not afford to make photo copies and so RHHJ made copies for each child. A small mobile library provided other reading and story books to the 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 Fee Programme 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 increased financial constraints following the COVID lock-down, the care-takers or parents don't prioritize the children's dressing/ clothing. So, many were left to run around literally naked. Clothes were bought and distributed to 94 children and their families to keep them decent. Some of our children were sleeping in very poor conditions using papyrus mats, rags or the bare floor as a mattress. So, beddings were provided to our school children who were sleeping in very poor conditions. The bedding provided included; 55 Mattresses, 40 blankets and 43 pairs of bed sheets to keep them warm during the cold nights. Thirty (30) 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: the focus of the School Fee Programme is to keep the vulnerable children in school so as to break cycle of poverty. However, with time, we realised that some of these children not only need education but there were factors that could hinder them from settling, concentrate and remain in school such as poor housing. This house project is not under the School Fee Programme, however, the team found it necessary to put a one roomed house to make them comfortable in their respective

homes as well as securing their stay in school. Therefore, two (2) houses were constructed for two of our students (both on living on lifelong HIV/AIDS medication). One was being housed by a Good Samaritan and the second one shared a single room with her three brothers, and their father.

Start of Term Two

The students in candidate classes and those in their final year were allowed to report back to school to prepare for their final examinations. Six (6) candidates and 2 students at Vocational level reported back on 15th of October, 2020 to prepare for their final examinations. Tuition, registration fees and any other fees required were paid and scholastic materials were provided for all and all in the boarding section for proper concentration that would lead to better results.

Students' Day Out



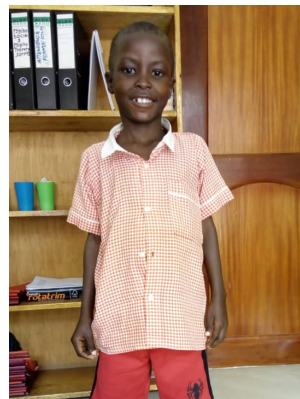
This year, the students' day out was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of learning institutions. However, Christmas food package was delivered to every child and their family. The Christmas package contained of 10kgs of rice, 1 kg of sugar, 1 bar of soap and a kilogram of meat per child. This package excited them and the parents / guardians were very appreciative and showered so many blessings to the team and to all our dear donors.

Achievements

- Our candidates were enrolled in boarding section to ensure that they concentrate and prepare for their final examinations.
- Monthly routine monitoring, counselling and home visits to our children have played a very significant role in keeping students especially our teenage girls safe. We continue to pray to the Almighty to keep them safe.
- With the provision of food support to the children, has been a great factor to those that had run away from their respective homes due to hunger. They returned and settled as they were assured of a meal in their homes.
- Provision of self -study materials and reading books were distributed to the students and they have kept the children actively doing revision.
- Our children have been dressed to keep them decent, and they provided them with proper beddings.
- Two one roomed houses were constructed for our vulnerable children to ensure that they are well protected with a roof over their heads (this is not paid by the School Fee Programme)

Challenges

- On a sad note, we lost two little lovely students. One was battling with endemic cancer (Kantu Abdul) and the second one was under HIV/AIDS care (Mukoye Else). They went to meet their creator, let's continue praying for their souls to rest in peace.



- We were faced with the challenge of parents / caretakers who can't read nor write. This made 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.
- The challenge of unsupportive parents / guardians who leave all the entire responsibility of their children to RHHJ. However, the psychosocial team is doing its best to educate them about their duties and responsibilities.

Recommendations

We would recommend that if funds allow or permit, we would like to increase the number of children on the school fees program to 150 students in 2021.

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.

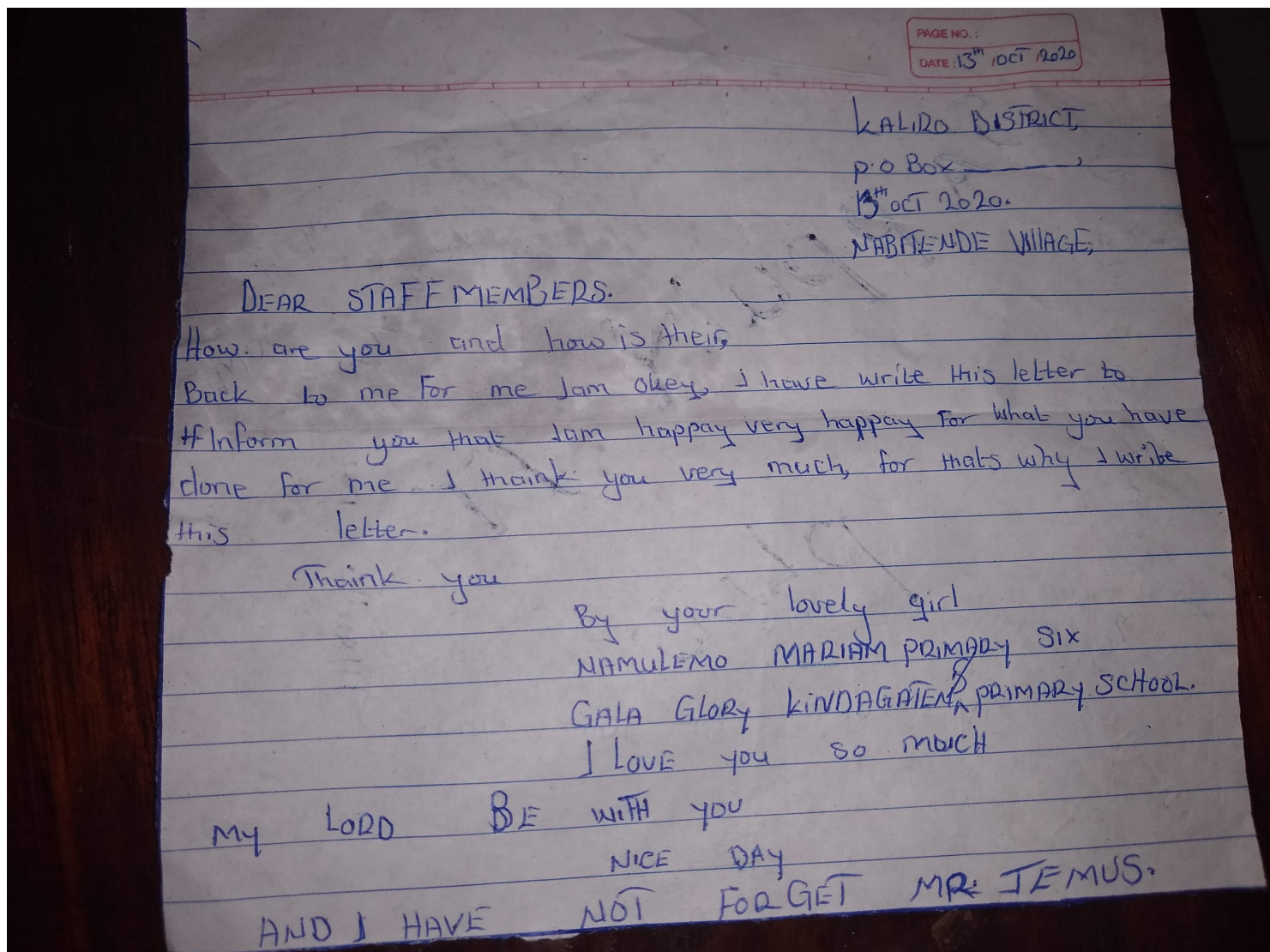
We recommend for alternatives like skills and hands for our children who seem to have started school at an older age so that they are catered for especially when schools re-open.

We recommend that all our students on the fees programme be provided with proper beddings especially to those poor sleeping conditions.

Miriam's Letter



Miriam is a total orphan; she lost her father at a very tender age, later on, her mother also the late Harriet IPN 273/16 who suffered from Fibro sarcoma also passed on while Miriam was 7 years old. At the time when her mother passed, she was cared for by RHHJ to manage her pains and symptoms till her death. Miriam is currently under the care of her elderly maternal grandmother. Her performance is average but we trust she will keep improving for better grades. Miriam wrote a beautiful letter to the team, unprompted, to thank us for our support:



Acknowledgements

RHHJ is very thankful for all the funding towards the School Fee Programme throughout the year. It's because of your support that RHHJ is in position to help some of our disadvantaged children to get the education that they so significantly need.

To the administration and the entire team of RHHJ, we appreciate your continuous guidance, support and team work. Thank you.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2021!

Finances

FORO SCHOOL FEES SUPPORT - MOTHER BUDGET FINANCIAL REPORT, 2020

Item	Beneficiaries	Unit costs/SHS	Total cost/USD	Total cost/SHS	1 st quarter expenditure USD	1 st quarter expenditure UGX	2nd quarter report UGX	2nd quarter USD	3rd quarter report UGX	3rd quarter report USD	Balance UGX
School support-tuition and scholastic material for primary school	120	500,000 /child	16,438	59,998,700	5,483	20,009,900	21,271,500	5,828	19,497,000	5342	(779,700)
School support-tuition and scholastic material for secondary/vocational school	12	1,000,000	3,288	12,001,200	1,169	4,266,700			5,087,000	1393	2,647,500
Fuel for social work support/monitoring visits	Social Programme	1,700,000	5,590	20,403,500	822	3,000,000	7,360,000	2,016	9,940,000	2,723	103,500
Youth and Student day out	Children on School Fee Programme	4,000,000	1,095	3,996,750					1,560,000	427	2,436,750
Stationary, folders photo development etc.	Social Dept	1,000,000	278	1,014,700	110	400,000					614,700
Social Worker	Social Dept.	19,844,010	5,437	19,845,050	1,255	4,579,386	9,158,772	2,509	5,967,079	1,635	139,813
TOTAL			32,126	117,259,900	8,838	32,255,986	37,790,272	4,525	42,051,079	11,520	5,162,563

FORO ADJUSTED SCHOOL FEES SUPPORT FINANCIAL REPORT (JUNE-DEC 2020)

APPROVED GRANT BUDGET								EXPENDITURE BETWEEN JUNE -DEC 2020				GRANT BALANCES	
Item	Quantity	Unit Cost		Total Cost Per Month		Totals for 7 months		Quarter 2 & 3		Quarter 4		UGX	USD
		UGX	USD	UGX	USD	UGX	USD	UGX	USD	UGX	USD		
Monthly food basket	120 pupils	37,500	10.3	4,500,000	1,233	31,500,000	8,650	13,620,000	3732	16,640,500	4559	1,239,500	359
Stationary-Printing supplies	120 pupils	8,333	2.25	1,000,000	274	7,000,000	1917	3,039,000	833	506500	139	3,454,500	946
Library books/supplies	Assorted					2,000,000	548	1,462,500	401	100,000	27	437,500	120
Fuel for Social Home visits	Monthly			500,000	137	3,500,000	1438	2,000,000	548	1,500,000	411	0	0
Volunteers	1 person			250,000	69	1,750,000	483	1,150,000	315	750,000	205	-150,000	-38
						45,750,000	13,036	21,271,500	5828	19,497,000	5342	4,981,500	1,387

Children supported with school fees this year - 2020

