

# ENABLING INDEPENDENCE FOR RUGANDO PARENTS SCHOOL COMMUNITY [KUWEZESHA UHURU]

England & Wales · Charity number 1202083

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-02-24

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** FOR THE RELIEF OF POVERTY OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN (AGE 3 TO 11) IN RUGANDO AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF GRANTS TO FURTHER THE PUBLIC BY: I. PROVIDING SCHOOL FEES FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO ATTEND II. IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABLE FOR LEARNING III. PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO STATIONARY, BOOKS, SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND SHOES IV. PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO PREVENT MALNUTRITION AMONGST SCHOOL CHILDREN.

**Activities:** We work with Rugando Parents School (Uganda), Director & staff, to identify projects which will strengthen the infrastructure and functioning of the school and local community. We identify finite projects, & run appeals in the UK until the project is funded. All money for projects is paid out to School Director in Uganda to fund the projects.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Uganda

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£6,868	£6,918	-	-
2023-12-31	£12,722	£12,770	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Barbara Denise Moss		2022-01-01
David Johnson		2022-01-01
Eve Hill		2022-01-01
Gillian McCall		2022-01-01
Patricia McCarthy		2022-01-01

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# Accounts

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## ENABLING INDEPENDENCE FOR RUGANDO PARENTS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees of the Charity have worked closely with the School Director, David Matsiko and his senior management staff. Most of the communication is via Messenger, where the SOS needs of the school are raised directly by David; I react quickly for any small needs but refer bigger issues to the Trustees for their approval. The system works well. I make payments via World Remit, and the money goes straight to the school: this is much easier and cheaper than expecting him to take a taxi into town to draw cash from an ATM or bank. We receive written estimates for all proposed work, and school receipts for all payments for purchases and labour. We also receive streams of photos of each stage of every project we fund.

These are some of the more significant sectors of our work for this period:

#### **NURSERY CLASSROOMS**

We funded the Plastering, Glazing and Painting of the 2 Nursery Classrooms. David engaged an artist who added murals to the paintwork, so the buildings look friendly and inviting.

We raised funds for 6 sets of Tables and 6 Chairs, (as opposed to desks), for the nursery children to use. David tells me the children vie to get their place on one of these: clearly, we must provide more of the same. We funded a shelved storage cupboard and Book Boxes for the Nursery.

We still plan to build a veranda along the frontage: this will be a shaded area for hot or rainy days, where children can sit and play. We also plan to fund play equipment.

#### **DESKS**

We raised funds for 25 two-seater desks, which were built by a local carpenter. This was an urgent need, as many children were doing their lessons sitting on the floor. These were commissioned at £50 each or 5 desks for £150: we were able to take advantage of the carpenter's deal! Commissioning work locally provides some stimulus to the local economy.

#### **TEXTBOOKS & BOOK BOXES**

The school had NO books for the children and very few textbooks for the teachers. We launched an appeal to supply a Book Box for each classroom. There were issues, in that we Trustees envisaged library shelving for easy access, but local wisdom prevailed: apparently rats and other creatures would eat any paper left out on shelves, so the project included provision of metal trunks, which hold the books safely. We managed to supply 6 Book Boxes at £150 each, and David and his staff chose age-appropriate books for each box.

We still need to find funds for 3 more Book Boxes.

When the teachers request specific textbooks related to the National Curriculum, we fund these.

#### **Adult Literacy**

We held two weeks of these well-received events. £150 per week for 30-50 adults from the Rugando Community, to have lessons on basic literacy and numeracy, small farm agriculture, handicraft. The lessons are provided by two Adult Education teachers, a male and a female, as

required by the Department of Education. We would like to hold these classes during every school holiday, funds allowing.

### **Bridging the Gap (Teacher Pay)**

This is a fund we launched last year and continues to be an essential part of our efforts on behalf of the school. A third of children do not afford their school fees at all. The consequence is that there is always a shortfall in funds to pay the teachers, as they approach the end of each term. We have learned that teachers are only paid for 9 months of the year, and receive nothing for 3 months, ie over the school holidays. This is far from ideal and must be exceedingly difficult for the staff to budget their own lives: it is not conducive to staff loyalty, and we aim to move to 12 monthly payments as soon as it can be managed.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

We funded a Christmas Party for the Top Class (Year 7), as they prepared to move on to Secondary School.

We funded a Refresher Staff Training Day, and this was well-received by all staff

Teachers were also funded to attend sessions at Kayonza Zone teaching days.

### **SOS FOOD PAYMENTS**

Because of the shortfall in fees, another confounder is a cashflow shortage for food for all the children. The Trustees would be very unhappy to see any child be excluded from the lunch queue, so we underwrite the food shortfall, term by term.

### **REPAIRS**

There are always emergency demands on funds, for unforeseen repairs: eg Tap Washers breaking, replacing broken Solar Hot Water Tubes, Wires coming loose from the Solar Power system; Toilet modesty wall collapsing in heavy rain; steel door tearing from its hinges etc.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

We funded emergency admissions or clinic visits, for both staff and pupils with acute illness

We sponsored David Matsiko to attend a National Event in Gulu, TIST which is a learning event about Tree Planting and Management

We fund the PO Box, taxis to and from town as required, registration for national exams, purchase of exam papers

### **CHICKEN COOP**

The Chicken Coop, which was our first major project success, has had mixed fortunes this year. We found that the staff were unreliable, partly because of their personal poverty, and not helped by a lack of literacy, when we tried to institute a stricter management regime. The chickens seemed to suffer repeated outbreaks of disease, despite the vet being called in. Ultimately, we need a more robust management system before we invest further in this amazing project. David and his staff are working on perhaps engaging some of the unemployed parents, in a cooperative team, to manage future flocks: this is a work in progress.

## **INCOME STREAMS**

1. Most of our income is from Donations in response to direct appeals on my Facebook page. Friends and family often share these appeals, so that there is a regular small income stream for general purposes, and a small number of Standing Order payments too.

2. We have launched Project -specific Face Book Appeals, for eg desks, books; These have been successful and mostly, they have reached their targets.

3. The money from Facebook Appeals is paid into a dedicated PayPal Account. This was a useful discovery, because we had not realised that the FB Giving Fund also contributes to the charities who use the FB Appeals.

We plan to make more use of this account, by advertising it as an easy option for donations, on all our FB posts.

4. WATCHMAN'S SALARY: We are very lucky to have the ongoing support of a regular donor who ensures that his salary is covered, every month. This is a vital job, as he keeps a close eye on the school, as his presence discourages interlopers, and other misadventure. We need to be aware that the donor is elderly, and this income stream could end abruptly.

5. UNITE COMMUNITY: Our branch of this UK national trade union continues to be very supportive of our activity and donates funds each time we have presented a project to fund: The chicken coop & classroom desks being two of those.

6. BWINDI HANDMADE CRAFT: This is a woman's cooperative in a neighbouring village. We sell their goods at our fundraising events, for a 10% commission.

7. Stalls at The Priory CofE Primary School: We were given free stall space, for these monthly events. They commenced in July, and each event raised between £50-£70. Unfortunately, the school found these events not to be commercially viable, and stopped doing them, after Christmas.

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD: £ 631

FUNDS RAISED: £ 6,868

FUNDS SPENT: £ 6,918

CARRIED FORWARD: £ 582

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# Accounts

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## ENABLING RUGANDO PARENTS SCHOOL COMMUNITY (Kuwezesha Uhuru)

### ANNUAL REPORT TO CHARITY COMMISSION 2024

Our Charity Registration came through in February 2023: an exciting moment of consolidation after being an informal group of friends raising ad hoc funds in the UK, for this Primary School and its community, in impoverished rural western Uganda. The Director would prioritise a project. He would obtain quotes on labour and materials, discuss these with me and agree the project. In the UK, we would raise the money and send it to the Director. As soon as the money was received, the work began: I would receive a flow of screen shots of receipts, materials arriving, workers get stuck into the task, and within 24 hours, the job was done, within budget.

Once we received our Charity Registration, we applied for a Charity Bank Account. We were told it would take about 5 months. After 17 months of time-wasting with one bank, we applied to a second bank, and our Charity Account was opened within a few weeks (in 2024). Hopefully, we, the Trustees, will now be able to go from strength to strength in establishing best practice.

The Rugando villagers survive on subsistence farming. There is high unemployment due to a lack of industrial or commercial activity locally. There are only rough roads and tracks in this mountainous' area: transport to the nearest town is by hired rides on stretched motorbikes (Boda Boda) and adds to the cost of essential visits to town. The school has a roll of around 200-220 pupils, a third of whom cannot afford their school fees of about £150 a year or £12.50 per month. They walk several kilometres to school and back each day.

Our aim is three-fold:

1. to finance infra-structure improvements to the school
2. to set up and pump-prime projects intended to become income streams, working towards financial stability and independence from charitable giving
3. to fund appropriate applications from people in the Rugando community, for projects that might provide local services or employment.

Projects we have run during this year, February-December 2023.

#### 1. EGGS BY EASTER

This project was commenced in February 2022 and is ongoing. We had commissioned a coop for 200 laying hens. The hens reached maturity and started laying, eventually providing enough eggs to start to supplement the children's lunch, along with some income from sales of eggs and cockerels. We were able to reduce the amount we were paying out for feed but continued to fund a chicken keeper. During 2023, we had some issues with infection and the need for veterinary interventions. Sadly, after many months, we discovered that both eggs & chicken feed were being pilfered by the chicken keeper and he was removed from post. We tried running a daily chart of egg laying, and a sampling of weight gain of the next generation of chickens. Record-keeping was problematic as the next chicken keeper could not read or write, but with the help of the Director, we continued charting and realised that the chickens were not gaining weight at the expected rate: the chicken keeper had put the chickens on half-rations, to make the feed last longer. We went back to paying for more food and the chickens soon started laying. We continue to explore the best way of managing this project. The flock is much smaller currently and we are not paying for feed, but the output is not adding significantly to the children's diet.

We feel sure the project can be made viable. We have invested in it and feel it is worth continuing to invest in.

Chicken feed, coffee husks, enhancer	£1170	
2 <sup>nd</sup> coop for new chicks /quarantine / veterinarian/ medicine	£ 400	
New chicks, cockerels	£ 300	<b>£1870</b>

## 2. CLASSROOM DESKS

There was a shortage of desks for children to sit at, and several children were being taught, sitting on the floor. We negotiated a deal of batches of 5 two-seater desks for £150 (as opposed £50 a piece, ordered singly) and over a period of 3 months, were able to provide 25 desks, seating 50 children. £150 was spent on Nursery Furniture, a table and 6 chairs; a further £300 was raised for another two sets.

25 Two-seater desks	£750	
3 Table& 6 chairs	£450	<b>£1200</b>

## 3. SOLAR POWERED HOT WATER SUPPLY

The school was spending a lot of money buying wood to burn, for hot water for washing and for cooking. It made sense to install a Solar Hot Water system, which would provide endless FREE hot water. The project was priced, commissioned and the system installed. The water temperature is controlled at 90 degrees C.

The Solar Heating tubes were more vulnerable than expected, situated at ground level and an early, stray football cracked two tubes: materials were bought to build a wired clad frame around the installation, and this has given adequate protection since then.

The spend on firewood has reduced by 2/3 since the installation.

Installation of the Solar Vacuum tubes	£350	
Replacement Tubes & protective cage.	£175	<b>£ 525</b>

## 4. BREAK PRESSURE CLEAN WATER GRAVITY TANK

This 2000litre tank provides two functions: it necessarily reduces the water pressure through the Solar Hot Water tubes; it also provides a sustained supply, for times when the local authority supply of clean water might be switched off. It required a steel tower to be welded, so that the flow is gravity driven.

Water tank, materials for steel tower, Labour		<b>£ 400</b>
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## 5. VEGETABLE GARDEN

An initiative to improve the quality of the meals provided for the children, this has been generously funded by donations from our local branch of Unite community. Collards, peppers, and aubergines have been grown; the work has mostly been done voluntarily, by teaching staff & the top class, as part of their curriculum. Ultimately, this project has the potential to double its volume, to provide vegetables for sale on the market, but currently, we do not have the organisational ability to expand.

The sweepings from the Chicken Coops are dug in as a free source of fertilizer.

Clearing and preparing the land, buying seeds & some implements	<b>£450</b>
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## 6. ADULT LITERACY & SKILLS TRAINING

The Director suggested that a Community Outreach project could be run, during the school holidays, while the school was not being used. He suggested that Adult Literacy & Skills Training could be offered to the mainly illiterate villagers, for free. He engaged two Adult Education teachers, a man & a woman, as is required in Uganda: they worked out a programme of basic literacy, numeracy and skills (including Family Planning, household budgeting, weaving, crop-growing etc). ; the course would be offered as 2 x3 hour sessions a week for 4 weeks, over the Easter & Summer holidays. The attendees would receive a bun and a bottle of pop, and we would also fund any resources required. This totalled £150 a week and we have run training for a total of 8 weeks (16 sessions), attended by 30-80 adults.

**£240**

## 7. TEACHER DORMITORY

The Director advised that having a two roomed dormitory for a male and a female teacher to be available on site, over each 24 hour period, would be cheaper than the current practice of placing them in local boarding rooms: this provision is so that every child can be met if they arrive early at school for any reason, or if they are unable to walk home at the end of a school day, eg in poor weather.

One of our local UK primary schools held a Skip 2B Fit challenge and raised £1750 that they donated toward the cost of this project. They had previously helped with raising funds for the installation of Solar Power Electricity for the school.

The money was used to erect the shell of a two roomed block, with two ablution rooms. We also raised a further £400 to put a roof on the structure. There has not been the opportunity to develop this project, because of the delay in obtaining a Charity Bank Account that would allow us to seek commercial donations.

Donation from The Priory School	£1750	
Funding for the roof	£ 400	<b>£2150</b>

#### 8. BRIDGING THE GAP (ongoing appeal)

Because between 20-35% of children default on payment of their school fees each term, there is a regular shortfall in money available to pay staff salaries. We appeal for funds to bridge the shortfall, and spread all money received for this project, in £12.50 blocs across each month of the remaining year. This has been an essential fund, as staff have regularly had to suffice on half pay or deferred pay, and therefore have little loyalty to the school. The Trustees see ensuring the staff is paid regularly at the end of each month, as a priority.

**£2500**

9. A monthly donation of £65 covers the pay of the watchman

**£ 780**

10. We raised funds for sending 4 staff on Continuing Professional Development training. This included the cost of fares, subsistence, and enrolment

**£ 400**

#### 11. SUNDRY EXPENSES

include Taxis to and from the local village, SOS hospital visits and treatment

Truck hire to transport children to football tournament, PO Box rental,

Exam Registration etc

**£605**

<b>Balance brought forward:</b>	<b>£ 973.00</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>£12,938.00</b>
<b>Funds Spent (February-December 2023)</b>	<b>£13,280.00</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ 631.00</b>