

MAY 2021



Singing Gorilla Projects **NEWSLETTER**

We hope you are well. Singing Gorilla Projects have continued the stellar progress from 2020, in 2021 – with the completion of several community projects in Uganda and the developments of the Empower Her project.

Uganda has vaccinated just 1.5% of their population. Despite Uganda's strong efforts regarding COVID-19 suppression so far, cases are starting to rise, in part due to the hot climate and lack of social distancing.

We have interviewed Pius Rwomushana, Head of Education in Uganda for an update on the progression of various community and education projects taking place.

Returning to School

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools closed. Finally, a year later, the schools have reopened for all children. In October, school resumed for final year students, provided hand washing and temperature checking facilities were available. For many schools, this was not possible, so they remained closed.

Pius said "The children have enjoyed returning to school. It has been difficult at home for many, as they have no reading material, and many do not own radios, which were used for lessons. Adjusting to learning at school is slow, the majority of schools lack teachers, meaning that a single teacher may be teaching around 50-60 students. This makes it extremely difficult for each child to receive adequate support".



To help children to make up for the time away from school, the weekly, monthly and end of term tests have been cancelled, with that time to be allocated to class work. Instead, the students will be continually assessed through class work and homework. Additionally, there has been a strong effort to encourage parents to ensure their children attend school.

Be sure to keep up to date with all our projects in Uganda on our [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)!



Community Projects

There has been excellent progress on community projects so far this year.

Between January and March 2021, four new classrooms have been completed in four separate schools in the area. Additionally, by the end of April 2021, another classroom will be completed at Kavumaga Primary school, while



roofing work will finish at Sooko Primary School and Kishaaru Primary School.

Pius commented on the importance of these developments;

“These developments are vital to the education of local children, as it creates a new and improved space for

many children to begin or continue their studies. We have also distributed new text books at Mulore Primary School and Rutooma Primary School, which will help improve the quality of the children’s education”.

Empower Her

The Empower Her Project has been one of the biggest successes of the year so far.

Pius stated: “The women involved have thoroughly enjoyed the project so far, and are happy and eager to make the most of this opportunity. So far, the girls have learned how to weave baskets and to make beads”. Now, the focus has turned to teaching them the skills required for tailoring.

However, the Empower Her Project requires support, as it is very difficult to provide the materials to allow them to learn these skills. More information on donating is available [here](#).

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May Fundraising

During May, Singing Gorilla Projects are taking part in Wonderful’s Miles Better Challenge, which aims to raise a cumulative £100,000 by covering 100,000 miles. There are a few fundraisers set up on behalf of Singing Gorilla Projects, which aim to raise a cumulative £700 and cover 550 miles.

If you wish to donate:

- **Luisa's** Fundraiser is [here](#)
- **Alex's** Fundraiser is [here](#)



In February 2021, a bio toilet with a girl’s changing room was completed at Ntungamo Primary School. The girl’s changing room is a standard feature of new SGP builds, as it encourages girls to stay at school whilst they are menstruating. In the past many would not come to school whilst having their periods. The changing rooms give the girls a private space.

Looking to the near future, SGP are planning to improve the infrastructure of schools in the area, through the development of more classrooms, bio toilets and pit latrines. Additionally, SGP are looking to equip each classroom with desks for some of the lower classes, as this is a challenge in many schools at the moment.

One of SGP’s big initiatives is to increase sponsorship to children in schools. This is aimed at the needy and those who parents are infected with HIV. [If you would like to sponsor a child’s education for a year, more information is available here.](#)

