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transformed lives, changed communities



CELEBRATING GROUP EMPOWERMENT

Uganda | July 2023



Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to present our first semi-annual report for the Group Empowerment Program in Uganda. Your support has already made a huge impact on the lives of these wonderful children and their families. This report will highlight some of the amazing activities of the past six months and tell of the impact your gifts are making.



Festus Addei
Director of
Programs and
Projects

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to support the
children in
Uganda**

BOOSTING ATTENDANCE AND REDUCING CHILD LABOUR

Before this program, many parents struggled to afford school fees for their children. As a result, children would either attend school sporadically in the hope of evading fees, or spend their days working on sugarcane plantations alongside their parents. But now, thanks to your generosity, we're happy to report that **200 children were able to go to school every day!** Their school fees were covered, and in January, they received vital learning materials like textbooks, notebooks, pens, and pencils. **By investing in this program, you are taking a powerful stance in the fight against child labour, helping to shape a brighter future for these children.**

What's more, these students received healthy meals at school consisting of a healthy breakfast, usually porridge with milk, and a nutritious lunch consisting of posho (cornmeal), beans, and a variety of vegetables. As a result, the children's attendance and attention in class improved over the semester, as they no longer had to deal with hunger or resort to working in the plantations to earn money for food. They could fully concentrate on their studies and embrace the opportunities that education offers.



BUILDING CHARACTER

In addition to their regular schooling, these children actively participated in weekly sessions dedicated to nurturing their personal growth. **These sessions covered valuable topics like problem-solving, self-awareness, building meaningful relationships, strengthening their faith, managing emotions, and navigating the challenges of growing up.** By engaging in these sessions, the children gained valuable skills and knowledge that will empower them to overcome obstacles, find their voices, and positively impact others in their community.



LEARNING BY DOING

This past semester, the eager learners delved into exciting hands-on activities. They learned to make eco-friendly paper bags and envelopes, a skill that will make a positive impact on reducing plastic waste within the community. It's exciting to know that these changes are happening not just locally, but all around the world too!



The children learned how to mend and sew torn clothing. Not only does this reduce waste, but it also saves money for the children and their families. **These hands-on skills will ignite their creativity and cultivate a mindset of repurposing rather than discarding.**

One student in particular who has loved the sewing classes is Lynette. She joyfully shared, "I'm so happy because I've learned how to fix buttons on my shirts with a needle. It's such a simple task, and now I can't wait to help my sisters and friends mend their clothes too. I am so grateful for these new skills. Blessings to all my supporters!"



BREAKING BARRIERS

In the community, girls face the challenges of menstrual health management and access to proper menstrual products. Because of this, it is common for girls to skip school during their periods because they feel embarrassed and uneasy.

But things are changing thanks to the Group Empowerment Program. **All the girls in need of menstrual products receive them monthly, meaning they have what they need to handle their periods comfortably and with dignity.** With training and health education, the girls were taught how manage their periods for improved health.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Recognizing the need for school uniforms for the children, our partners in Uganda collaborated with students from the International Needs Uganda Vocational School in Buikwe. **With guidance, the students skillfully crafted 200 brand new uniforms!** This initiative not only helped International Needs Uganda cover some of the expense of running the programs, but also allowed the vocational students to apply their skills in a practical setting. Seeing this program crossover is so inspiring, and we admire the hard work and dedication displayed by these talented students!



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



The Uganda Group Empowerment Program is dedicated to ensuring every child receives the education, support, and love they deserve. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who have made this program possible. Your unwavering support and generosity have brought about remarkable transformations and touched the lives of so many children.

Thank you for your ongoing support and making a difference in the lives of the children in Uganda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Festus Addei', with a small star or mark above the end of the signature.

Festus Addei

PRAYER CORNER

We kindly request your prayers for greater involvement from fathers in this program. While most mothers have been actively engaged, prevailing gender norms in the community have hindered fathers' participation. Our partners are doing their best to address this through encouragement and regular meetings, and would greatly appreciate your prayers as they strive to foster stronger family connections and challenge traditional gender roles.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

EMPOWERING THESE CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF A PEER
GROUP WILL PAY DIVIDENDS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME



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