



WADU UPDATE REPORT

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024



MINISTRY GREETINGS!!!!!!!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, We hope this update report finds you well and flourishing in the Lord.

For two years now, Word and Deed Uganda has been meeting the Spiritual, Physical as well as emotional needs of the vulnerable Batwa children in South Western Uganda. We intentionally take a two-fold approach: caring for the vulnerable Batwa children whilst addressing the root causes of fatherlessness. Both folds are producing exciting and lasting fruit as the gospel of Jesus Christ leads the way.

We are glad to share with you the first ministry update for the year 2024. We praise God for the great provision to WADU and for His grace. It is always a blessing to us seeing the Batwa children grow in the love of God and being transformed daily.

The year started with a great opportunity of having 14 Batwa children get Sponsors to join Boarding schools and getting focused on life ahead. We thank God for this great opening and hope to see more Batwa children being reached, touched and transformed through the Batwa sponsorship scheme.

We strongly appreciate your partnership @ www.christiandevelopmentuganda.org.uk for ensuring that all the 200+ Batwa Children remain at school thereby accessing education and reaching their full potential. Many children can attend school but due to hunger find it difficult to concentrate and gain maximum out of their classes. Christian Development Uganda has closed this gap for the Batwa children in Southwestern Uganda.

WADU Staff Retreat; Pause-Reflect- Learn and Improve

The year began with another opportunity of WADU staff Pausing, Reflecting, Learning to Improve on their ability to manage and handle the ministry in a more focused direction.

There was an exchange learning visit to Kanungu to the Batwa Development Program founded and funded by the Kellerman Foundation designed to enable WADU staff meet with BDP staff, to observe and discuss about the different experiences of those involved in Batwa education and how community involvement has been important. The visit was designed to enable the visiting team gain knowledge about how BDP's work mainly in the rural context to address challenges affecting access to quality

teaching and learning of the Batwa children.

The main activities undertaken during the visit included:

- Participation in experience sharing sessions of BDP officers during which WADU team listened to the different experiences from a wide range of actors and beneficiaries.
- Visiting BDP projects to see where they were exposed to practical initiatives of parents involving profit making ones that generate income and help in solving some problems of the Batwa children.
- Interaction with school Batwa beneficiaries, BDP representatives about the functioning of the Batwa Education program.
- Learning from BDP about data collection initiatives and keeping the database of all school-going age children in the area.

PROGRESS OF THE VISIT



The visiting team achieved all the planned activities with a reasonable measure of success in the whole activity.

WADU staff had an opportunity to listen to presentations by representatives of BDP from different departments on achievements or successes, challenges and proposed actions for the future.

During the sessions participants asked questions for clarifications on different issues from the presentations and made suggestions on how these could be remedied. This was the main activity of day and was designed to allow us hear some examples of what BDP consider to be successes in contributing to better performance of schools as well as the challenges they meet.

AN IMPROMPT VISIT

Amos had a visit to WADU supported Batwa children in January and was greeted with smiling faces of children, who eagerly looked to see who had come in the newly bought WADU vehicle.

As we proceeded with him in the remote areas of Kabale District, he finally got time to meet, play and interact with the kids as the rest of WADU staff did the routine Centre day activities. The Joy that radiated from the kids touched him deeply that he was able to see how much of a home they had, filled with a brotherly care got from Word and Deed Uganda staff.

As we left the villages and held an evaluation meeting in Town, a thousand thoughts played and fought for incomparability in his head as most of his reflections were on the absolute poverty that these children live in and he was deeply overwhelmed by the love and care that WADU

has shown to these impoverished children.

“Generally the Batwa in this area have a very hard life, they find inconsistent jobs to do for other people around to get a little money. When this work is not found, they go hungry.

They live in congestion in their small houses. For example, you may find a family of 7 people staying in a single room, children and parents together.

When you get inside their houses, you find neither a bench nor a bed nor a mattress in the bedroom.

Those who do own a locally made bed will scatter grass on it to lay down in place of mattress which they cannot afford to buy for themselves.

They marry at a young age as teens after they leave school.

Their children attend primary schools but they never go far in their education because of the extreme poverty that does not allow them to pay school fees for their children. Children leave school very early to engage in small jobs in the neighborhood and in markets to earn a living

Children of the Batwa need regular finances to keep them in school.” Stephen WADU Evangelist explains to Amos.



HOLIDAY HOME VISITATIONS

WADU works with children from vulnerable Batwa families that are suffering from multidimensional poverty. The conditions in the families are often very difficult. This is done to ensure that the situation is not getting worse and that initiative is taken to improve the welfare and the social development in the home of the supported child.

During the home visitation exercise, the following is always assessed and discussed depending on the age and the maturity of the child:

- The welfare of the child in the school and in the home.
- The health and the hygiene of the child.
- Sexual education (age dependent) including prevention of early pregnancies and early marriages.
- During the home visitation exercise the following is discussed but not excluded to
- The condition of the home (pit latrine, mosquito nets, hygiene).
- The condition of the family (health, employment, income generating activities).
- The child's wellbeing in the family (the relationship between the child and the parent/guardian)
- The danger of early pregnancies, marriage if the child is approaching adolescence and preventive measures to these.
- Immunization status of the child.
- The future plans of the family.

Following up on the students

After a period of two weeks when students are at school, WADU team visits to see how the new students are catching up with the new normal. This is aimed at ensuring that the new students have fit in well and whether they don't have any worries or challenges that would prevent them from concentrating on their studies.

MIGHTY MEALS

The ultimate goal of WADU is to keep Batwa children in school, healthy and spiritually transformed.

Our school feeding program is the only meal the nearly 200 Batwa children receive on a consistent basis during school days. Hunger pangs which distract attention for school work= are now quelled as a nice meal is provided so that the children can concentrate and sickness kept at a bay.

£1 a day throughout Lent will help us provide daily food for around 200 Batwa children and keep them in school.

IMPROVED CHILD NUTRITION

Every Saturday WADU feeds the Batwa children with a hot

porridge of millet, maize soya, sorghum and sugar that has since reduced malnutrition levels.

Every beginning of year, WADU also carries out a nutrition assessment program to ascertain the nutrition levels of the Batwa children so as to determine which best course of action can be taken.

Phionah WADU Nutrition specialist does a routine assessment and we thank God that no malnutrition cases were registered at the beginning of this year. Thanks Christian Development Uganda for raising a weekly cup of nutritious porridge to keep bloated bellies deflated and reducing stunted growth among the Batwa children.

If you would like to donate any amount to help WADU provide a weekly nutritious porridge, please visit www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20036722 or www.christiandevelopmentuganda.org.uk or you can message directly to secretary.cduganda@gmail.com for further information.



EVANGELISM

Nothing can change a life so completely like an experience with Jesus Christ. WADU operates under the leadership of Jesus Christ and is committed to making sure the good news is shared among the Batwa in both Word and Action. It's hard to tear yourself away from hundreds of beautiful singing children when it comes to our Center day Evangelism and gospel outreach program. The children get a chance to share the word of God, have their hair cut and then part with a bar of soap and a tin of jelly to nourish their physical and Spiritual lives for the rest of the month.



SPORTS FOR TRANSFORMATION

Word and Deed Uganda encourages sports activities among the Batwa children as a way of enhancing their resilience, empathy, confidence and empowerment. By playing sports at a young age, children develop a better psychological mindset and social skills

During the long Holidays, the Batwa Children were training in different sports activities and were also able to participate in a week's football Tournament in Kabale Town, where they were able to explore life outside the Batwa settlement where they are exposed to the risks of reckless behaviors.



BATWA CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR

Very many vulnerable children have lacked a lovely childhood because they cannot afford to go to school like other children with the capacity, this greatly affects their childhood as they miss out on this fundamental ingredient that determines and greatly has the potential to somehow dictate how the future of someone will turn out.

WADU continues to provide support through partnerships in 9 different primary schools in various districts – Kabale, Rubanda, and Kisoro. WADU does this primarily by providing school meals and educational support materials to over 200 Batwa children.

Ministry monthly provisions

- 186 Batwa children supported with a daily school meal
- 186 Batwa children given a monthly Hair cut
- 186 Batwa children provided with monthly sanitary items
- 186 Batwa children supported with a monthly cup of Nutritious porridge

Summary of batwa enrollment

No.	Schools	No.of girls	No.of boys	Total--
1	Rwaburindi	9	3	12
2	Ncundura	25	5	30
3	Kagoma	6	5	11
4	Rutojo	13	8	21
5	Kinyarushengye	6	8	14
6	Kato Annex	18	14	32
7	Kato	7	3	10
8	Mukitojo	15	10	25
9	Kavumaga	9	27	36
	Sub total	108	83	191
	Rising stars	8	4	12
	Grand total	116	87	203

WADU RISING STARS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

This year, we expanded our child sponsorship program to include the children in primary schools.

The children were all provided with all the Scholastics in addition to school Uniform, Sportswear and all that was needed for their Education at Future Generation Nursery and Primary School in Rubanda District.

WADU believes that giving a child the best childhood plays one of the biggest roles in determining what kind of adult that will come out of that particular child.

The Rising Stars Education Sponsorship program is designed to work as a medium through which these vulnerable souls can be helped to get a good education by taking them to school and providing them with all the necessary requirements like school fees, books, bags, pens/pencils, uniforms, shoes, socks, and a continued follow up to ensure that indeed the above is put to a proper fruitful use. The final goal will be to rise up a new generation who will rise up from poverty and be restored in their relationship with Christ.

WADU would wish to thank Abigail the CDU-Sponsorship coordinator for securing sponsorship for all the 11 children on the Rising Stars program. All the selected children were able to report to school with their Tuition and school supplies paid in full amounts.

Summary of WADU sponsored children 2024

School	Total	Batwa	Non-Batwa
Future Generation Primary	12	12	0
Rock High School	4	2	2
Brainstorm High School	1	0	1
ACCT	1	0	1
Total	18	14	4



A NEW PLACE TO CALL HOME

It was a perfect, sunny day as WADU vehicle pulled into the drive way leading to all the 9 partner schools to pick the selected Batwa children on the Rising Stars program for their first day in a boarding school.

The children were amazed at whatever they came across on their way to the office and to school. You could see their eyes widen with eager and nervous anticipation.

Smiles erupted as they saw the future that lay ahead of them - a safe, secure and welcoming space where they could grow and learn and thrive. And most importantly, complete their primary education to further their chances of achieving their dreams. The first evening at school was like an entourage to heaven; electricity all around the school compound and the classrooms, dormitories and another community-home away from home. WADU representatives were there at the school to witness the students reporting and ensure they settle in well.





MEET RUKUNDO MIRACLE THE RISING STAR OF THE MONTH

Miracle aged 8 years in primary one is one of the Rising Stars in Word and Deed Uganda. At just three years old Miracle lost her father and her mother, a casual labourer spends most of her time outside her home struggling to take care of her family and could not afford taking miracle to school. At that point, Miracle believed she would never be able to attend school and get an education.

She is the only child in her family and stays with the mother and previously attended Rwaburindi primary school-one of the partner schools with WADU. She is well behaved and always calm even if the situation is not well with her..

The little girl would at times be left home alone for over a week and would sleep in the house alone on an empty stomach which hindered her from going to school for the last two terms in 2023 and so was not a constant learner at school despite being a bright girl. "Rukundo", literally means "LOVE" and God's love and favor have been upon her even in hard ships she was going through.

Miracle's story has touched every aspect of our ministry and that's why WADU staff decided to sponsor her among the Rising Stars so she can achieve her education.

Miracle is a bright young lady who is continuing to reach her God-given potential as she attends Future Generation Nursery and Primary School as a Rising Star. Miracle is now an inspiration to the children in the village because she now stands out as "a blessed one"

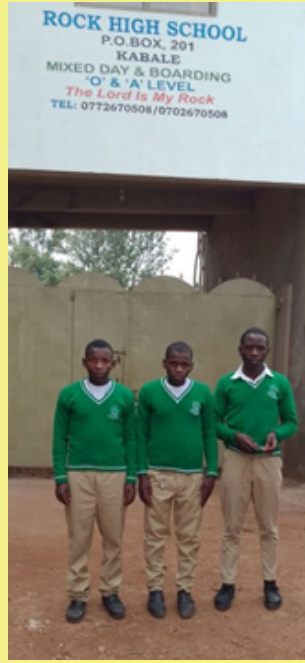
If you would like to touch a life like Miracle's and make them shine bright, consider sponsoring a child with us through sponsorship.cduganda@gmail.com



VISITATION DAYS

Schools in Uganda have utmost two visitation days in every term. And these are days set for parents and or guardians to go check on their children, take them some more supplies, some pocket money, review the performance of their weekly and or monthly tests.

On this day, the school policy requires parents or guardians to always show up for their children and share with them whatever they can and give them some parental care and guidance towards their academics, behaviors and relationship with others. WADU representative is always available for the purposes of checking on our students, because the Batwa parents cannot afford visiting their children with supplies at school and they can't even afford transport fares to and from the schools. This is also an ample time for review the performance of the students in their previous exams or tests, give them some carrier guidance and a thorough review of a child's school life.



LIFE IN A SECONDARY SCHOOL

Each year we are pleased to see young girls and boys graduate and others enrolled on the sponsorship program. We are happy to report that the first batch of Batwa supported children who successfully completed primary Education were able to join secondary Education on the WADU-CDU Child Sponsorship program.

The two Batwa Children (Gordon and John) were enabled to start a new school life at Rock High School in Kabale Town where they were facilitated with all the school supplies, Uniform and Tuition to enable them complete basic secondary Education here in Uganda.

They were warmly welcomed by their colleagues and are happily settling in a boarding school.

The continuing students were also enabled to report back to school and we continue to thank God for enabling us transform the lives of these children to develop to their fullest potential.

GOOD GRADES-DAVIS MAKES IT AGAIN

Davis was born on 22/08/2004 4th born in a family of 7 children to Gideon and Annet. He was selected on the sponsorship program in 2020 to join S.1 at Nyaruhanga High School. He was later transferred to Rock High School where WADU felt that he could easily be monitored and mentored. In the recently released Uganda Certificate of Education results, Davis was among the best students at Rock High School scoring grade 1.

He is currently doing his High School at the same school taking Biology, Agriculture and Geography and wishes to be an Agricultural extension worker to help farmers in the rural setting whom he sees struggling with poor yields and cannot sustain their families and unable to take their children to

school. We were thrilled with the good news of his passing and pray that he continues to thrive as we have high hopes in him.

Davis' journey to High school is a proud moment for both the parents, Sponsor and Word and Deed Uganda.

"I am happy that my studies were going smoothly without disruptions due to lack of school fees and other supplies. It has been a nice journey walking alongside Word and Deed Uganda. I know there are many needy children out there who would wish to study but cannot make it. I pray that Word and Deed Uganda reaches out to my brothers and sisters as well".

Davis remarks



CONCLUSION

WADU continues to make a difference in the lives of the young people who are unable to complete their education in different schools. The testimonies from the students confirm the significant difference the sponsorship program has made in the lives of the vulnerable children in Uganda.

At Word and Deed Uganda, we give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the sponsors that have continued to make a difference in the lives of the young boys and girls in Uganda.

Your generous giving has made this journey of making a difference in Uganda much easier. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the vulnerable children is fulfilling and affirming that they are not forsaken but valued.

Together, we are investing in the future of the young enthusiastic Batwa children who are ready to learn and change their lives holistically.



CDU supports 100 % of WADU BUDGET

Thank You