



Pass It On Africa: End of 2015 Feedback Report

Development of Nyantonzi Primary School, Masindi, Uganda

In January Pass It On Africa generously gave £20,166 towards the development of Nyantonzi, representing the first instalment of a three year commitment. The project aimed to address the issues which the school community had raised and ensure that Nyantonzi has the long-lasting infrastructure to be able to thrive long term. Specifically in year one of the project we aimed to build a new classroom and equip it with desks and furniture and begin to enable the school community to effectively support the younger children as they embark on their educational journey.

This report provides an overview of the project's progress over the first year as well as some personal accounts from the teachers and pupils directly benefiting from the work. We hope you find it interesting.

Activity Progress: Much progress has been made at Nyantonzi during 2015 with all the planned activities being undertaken as outlined below:

CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION	The classroom has been completed and another class at Nyantonzi is now able to learn in a safe, dry environment.
DESKS AND TEACHER RESOURCES	As planned, pupil desks and teachers' furniture has now been supplied to ensure that everyone is adequately seated during lessons. In addition, a selection of literacy and numeracy books were supplied to the first three classes. This will ensure that they have access to age appropriate learning materials, helping teachers deliver effective lessons and increase pupil participation in class.
TRAINING TEACHERS	Following the development of the early years' teacher toolkit teachers from Nyantonzi attended training to enable them to use the contents to effectively engage younger children in the classroom. The skills gained from the toolkit will enable teachers to transform the way they teach over the coming years.
CHILD WELL-BEING	<p>Students have been selected and trained to become peer buddies and a peer buddy club has been established. The training workshops focused on what bullying is and the impact it can have on younger children.</p> <p>This scheme will ensure that vulnerable children will receive better support and guidance when they start school by having an older buddy. Selected teachers have also been trained to manage and support the scheme at Nyantonzi.</p> <p>A learning support club has also been established which will identify slower learners or those with special learning needs and help them with their studies before the problems become entrenched. This gives younger children with extra learning needs an adequate foundation for learning in later years. Peer learning support champions from the upper classes have been selected to support the younger children.</p>

PARENTS SUPPORTING LEARNING

Following the development of the pack to guide parents' involvement in their children's education, training was undertaken for parents at Nyantonzi School by a selected community facilitator who was trained by Build Africa staff. The pack shows parents how they can create low-cost learning aids at home, as well as increase their understanding of their role in their child's early education.

In addition, a school open day was held at Nyantonzi where children, parents, School Management Committee (SMC) members, PTA members and teachers could interact, review pupils' progress and discuss issues affecting children's learning. It is anticipated that this level of interaction will allow parents to become increasingly involved with school development and empower them to hold SMCs accountable in terms of providing feedback on their child's performance.

Voices from Nyantonzi

"Getting a new classroom at our school is more than welcome since the enrolment at our school has greatly grown; we now have 775 pupils with some classrooms having more than 80 pupils. With only 10 teachers, we are faced with difficulties of effectively attending to them as teachers.

The latrines at the school are also over stretched considering the high number they are actually almost full and there is high traffic in the toilet during break time. By receiving a new one the traffic shall be reduced and we shall be very grateful."

Isaac, head teacher



"Since I handle the young ones I know they face a number of challenges which affect their good beginning. We have already noticed some changes in their learning from the buddy system and it seems that they will even progress further.

The project is helping me as a teacher to be able to concentrate in teaching the pupils, while the older buddies are protecting and guiding the young outside the classroom. The training helped us to start the buddy club in the school. We picked the older pupils in classes five and six who are disciplined and active. It is important to help the young children to have a good start. It is critical for education. We have seen the older pupils taking care of the young ones. We feel there is improved cooperation in the school. We have also seen the young interact better and there is less crying when they come to school or when there is something wrong.

We also see the buddies coming to school together and the older ones escorting the young ones during lunch time when they break for the day. The attendance of the young ones has also improved and they are now more jovial and playful which is important in their early years of learning.

We feel that this project is able to build the relationship of teachers and pupils. We feel closer to the pupils and they can now address issues even without the teachers' presence. It is also nurturing the young ones, who are picking school up well and able to learn and play. It also makes easier the work of the teacher."

Faidako, teacher of class one



"The new classroom will help in the separation of the larger classrooms, which makes it very difficult to sit comfortably and be able to learn well and concentrate. Our boys' latrines are almost full and they are not enough, I am happy since the new latrines will help our school to have more latrines.

The buddy project has been helpful to us to ensure that we support the young ones. I have buddies whom I look after and they have progressed very well. They now come to school early and enjoy playing. It has been good to take care of the young ones since they are our brothers and sisters. It is good to see the young ones enjoy school especially after their first day, when most of them are brought to school crying.

Taking care of the young ones and helping them to learn the school rules and keep themselves tidy has been very interesting. I thought it would be difficult but I have enjoyed it since the young ones are very obedient especially when they are happy. It is very fun when they are happy because they play and smile a lot, they also share their food and will be seen writing and talking to each other. During break time they have their corner in the field where they like to play.

When our brothers and sisters come to school and are taken care of they enjoy learning and feel happy going to school, which is good for learning."

Monica and Francis, class six and buddy club members



Next Steps

Thanks to your recent generous contribution of £22,549 towards year two of Nyantonzi's ongoing development we will be able to continue to support the school next year. Priorities for 2016 include the construction of another classroom and the supply of desks and teachers furniture, as well as the construction of a new toilet block. We will also continue to support early year's education at Nyantonzi, continuing to work with the parents, children and teachers at the school to ensure that the youngest pupils receive the support they need to thrive within the school.

We will of course continue to provide regular updates on Nyantonzi's progress in the New Year, as well as comprehensive six month and annual reports. Thank you for your ongoing support of Nyantonzi Primary School.

