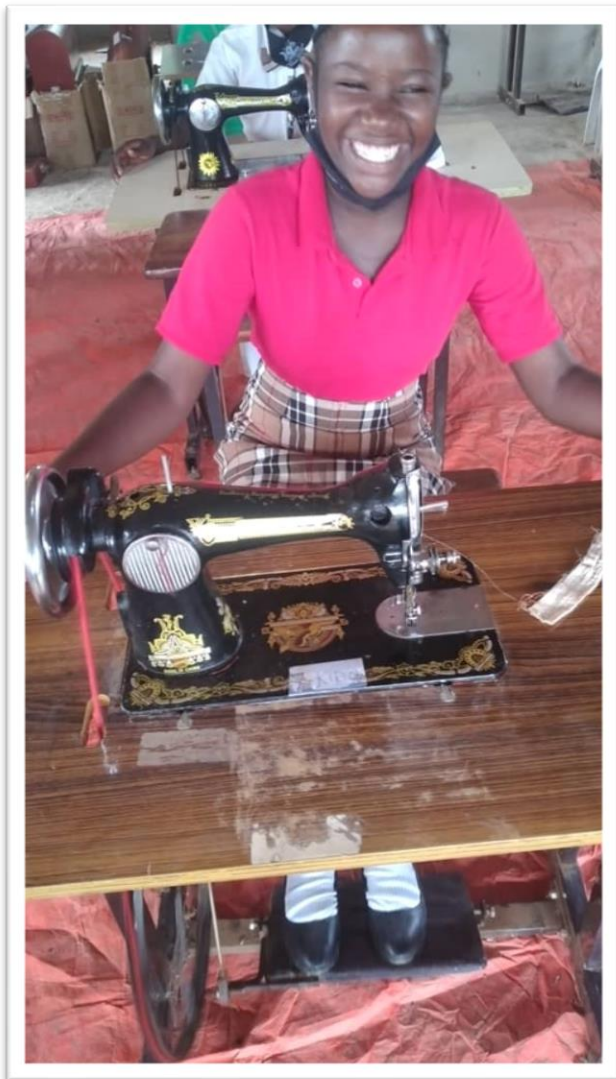


Rotary



Launceston College in partnership with Launceston Rotary Club



The DT Needlework Project
at Bunjakko Island
Vocational School, Uganda

Final report - January 2022

January 2022

It seems like a very long time ago we began a project to support students in Bunjakko to learn a new skill.

The idea first arose when we realised that lots of girls were missing school because they cannot afford sanitary items, so are absent from school each month. We decided to try to supply them with these items which were made of fabric, and therefore reusable.

After some discussion the students here thought that the girls in Uganda could make them themselves, producing more than they need so they can sell them to others, helping to raise money for their schools' fees, food, clothing and so on.

We need sewing machines! We approached Launceston Rotary Club who decided that this was something they really wanted to support. With their help we were able to buy 15 sewing machines, a knitting machine, an overlocker, as well as a supply of cottons, threads, scissors etc. This project was greeted with delight in Uganda, the staff and students realised that this could be a very important addition to their school and curriculum.

However, the Rotary Club decided they wanted to do more and the school would need a dedicated DT classroom for their new subject and resources. You can imagine the joy, the noise, the songs and the delight that was felt by staff and students when they heard this. This would be life changing for them.

The Rotary Club applied for a grant and held fundraising events, one of which was the most amazing community concert. I was in tears listening to lots of local choirs sing their hearts out to raise money for this classroom in March 2020. They were phenomenal and illustrated the power of collective community action for good. We had the money for the classroom, and then COVID arrived.

Schools all over the world had to change the way we teach, we went online, but in Uganda the students were simply sent home. This was devastating for them.

However, we continued with our plans to provide this new subject for the school and the money for the classroom was transferred. Covid made the building work for this classroom very difficult, workers were only allowed onsite at various times and the work was delayed often. After many months and some additional funding the classroom was finally complete.





The sewing machines and equipment were purchased, and Molly & Paul Wasswa (who founded the charity, Molly & Paul Childcare Foundation) set up a 'factory' in their house in Kampala and the machines were to put to work making thousands of face masks for the students and also to sell to help raise funds for the schools and orphanages that their charity supports during the pandemic.

Several months later it looked like the schools would reopen, we hit another problem. Climate change has brought many challenges to Uganda, and after many months of rain the island where Bunjakko is situated was cut off from the mainland by flooding. However, Ugandan people will always rise to the challenge and the sewing machines were transported by boat (alongside pigs, goats and people) to the school.



It was with great excitement that the equipment finally reached Bunjakko late at night after a long journey, and the singing during the unloading of the machines could be heard all over the island. The following day the machines were set up and tested by technicians ready for the students.



However, another lockdown was announced. Students were not allowed back to school, it was going to be many months before schools reopened in Uganda.



January 2022, staff have been busy preparing the school for reopening, painting, cutting grass, buying supplies.

Wednesday 12th January 2022 - Students are finally back at school. The first few days have been really difficult, parents are wary of sending their children back as they don't want to pay fees and then the government shuts schools again, but gradually they have been returning.



They have had their first lessons in the DT classroom, they are learning how to use the machines and sew in straight lines. They will learn invaluable, transferable skills. It will change lives.

What will the impact be?

- Students will learn invaluable skills.
- Girls will be able to attend school full time.
- Students will be able to make and sell garments to help pay for their school fees.
- The local community will be invited to attend evening classes to help empower them.
- The school will attract more students as they have a larger curriculum.
- The school will have more money for food and to pay the teachers' salaries.



The impact of the pandemic in Uganda is huge, it is estimated that 20 years of progress has disappeared. The number of teenage pregnancies and domestic violence has risen dramatically. We need to help young people get back to school, and this project will help do that.

We cannot thank Launceston Rotary Club enough for their continued support, it is simply life changing. We continue to support our partner school 'Bunjakko Island Vocational School', and are currently helping to buy food and supplies as the school returns to full capacity.

We will continue to share the progress of this project, and cannot wait to see the first creations from the students as they learn their new skills.

If you would like any more information about this work, please contact Mrs Thompson stfeit@launcestoncollege.or.uk

Webale nnyo





Bunjako Island

Vocational High School

MOLLY AND PAUL CHILD CARE FOUNDATION

A Mixed, Day & Boarding Voc. High School with 'O' Levels and Certified Vocational Studies, situated along the shores of Lake Victoria, 10km from Buwama, Masaka road.

Our Motto: " A Holistic Empowerment For Excellence "

MAIN COURSES

- 1. Uganda Certificate of Education (S.1 ~ S.4 "O" Level)**
- 2. National Certificate in Agricultural Production (NCAP)**
- 3. Electrical Installation and Systems Maintenance**
- 4. Design, Tailoring and Fashion**
- 5. Hairdressing, Beauty and Cosmetology**
- 6. Welding and Fabrications**
- 7. Music, Dance and Drama**

SHORT COURSES

Catering and Bakery | Beekeeping | Fish Farming
Driving Course | Computer Applications

SCHOOL FEES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • ADMISSION: 50,000 /= | • UNIFORM: 50,000 /= |
| • DAY SCHOLAR: 150,000 /= | • SWEATER: 30,000 /= |
| • BOARDING: 450,000 /= | • T-SHIRT: 25,000 /= |
| • SHORT COURSE: 300,000 /= | • APRON: 20,000 /= |

REQUIREMENTS

*Scholastics | Books | 1 Ream of paper | Vim Or Jik | Squeezer | 4 Toilet papers
Maroon t- shirt & long black skirt | Black covered shoes | 2 pairs of white socks
Mosquito net | Pads | Toothpaste | Bathing & Washing Soap | Torch | Gumboots*

"Bunjako Island Vocational High School"

Equiy Bank Account No: 1003200515232

P.O.BOX 197 Buwama, Mpigi District

Tel: +256 393 24 2775 / 0758 00 7728 / 0772 40 8311

Email: mollyandpaul.bunjakko@gmail.com | Web: www.MollyandPaul.Org

MoE Reg No. U1806

The Bunjakko Island Needlework Project

Why?

If every girl went to secondary school:

- Infant mortality would be cut in half
- 12 million children would escape stunted growth
- Annual GDP growth would be 1.5% higher
- The prevalence of child marriage would fall by two thirds

Objectives

- To set up a sustainable business model and learning opportunity for students at Bunjakko Island Vocational School.
- To extend the current classroom block to provide a dedicated, secure needlework room.
- Girls are often forced to stay away from school during their monthly cycle due to not having sanitary products. Our aim is for the girls to produce reusable towels, that they can also sell to provide an income to pay school fees.
- The project will consist of the supply of sewing machines, materials and teaching to allow the students to develop skills to produce garments and sanitary items to both wear and sell. It will provide the students with a skill that will enable them to work in this industry when they complete their education.
- This project will be set up in July 2020, and students will be required to keep records of all outgoings and incomings in order to evaluate the project. As the project progresses there will opportunities to develop the range of products. We also hope to be able to build a dedicated classroom in the future, to enhance this project further.

We emailed the director of Bunjakko Island to ask for advice and guidance with regards to the introduction and teaching of this project, this is the reply.

The proposed project would help students learn to make something that will give them skills, give them pads, clothes and provide them with money.

The project would mean that the more financially challenged students would not stay home in the days of the month when they do not have proper padding to have a safe and comfortable day at school.

The project as suggested would skill our learners of all classes ages 12 to 20 a skill that would provide a job for them in the future. Here it is important to note that all Ugandan formal wear is made by local tailors therefore this would guarantee our learners a job to do or a skill to fall back on in case their ambitions and interests lay elsewhere.

The project will start with at least 15 to 20 learners per class, and therefore the budget and cost research has been done in accordance to this number of learners per class.

A knitting machine has been added on the quotation in case funds are Available for it. This machine will teach learners to knit, and will mean the school can make its own school sweaters rather than source it outside. This will mean money coming to the school and money saved by the school by making its own sweaters.

I am pleased to attach the quotation

Molly Wasswa

Director Bunjakko Island Vocational School.

Proposed costings for the resources needed

ITEM. QTY. UNIT PRICE. TOTALCOST in Ugandan shillings.	GBP	GBP
Sewing machine; 15 x 350000; 5,250,000	73.00	1095.00
Over lock machine 2 x 450000;900,000	94.00	188.00
Design machine 1 X 1,300,000;1,300,000	271.00	271.00
Knitting machine 3x 400,000; 1,800,000	84.00	375.00
Zigzag machine 2x480,000; 960,000	100.08	200.16
Knitting yarn 50x 20,000; 1,000,000	4.00	20.00
Cone threads 15 x 26000; 390,000	5.42	81.00
Scissors 15 x 18000; 270,000	3.75	56.00
Hand needles 30packs X 1000; 30,000		6.25
Pins 30packs X 2000; 60,000		12.50
Machine needles 30packs X1000; 30,000		6.25
Tailor's chalk 1 box 60 X 1000; 60,000		12.50
Seam ripper 30 X 2000; 60,000		12.50
Oil bottles 30 X 2000; 60,000		12.50
Tape measures 20x 500; 10,000		2.00
Punching machine 4 X 50,000; 200,000		42.00
Buttons box 5 X 12000; 60'000		12.50
Velcro 5 X 25000; 125,000		26.00
Small spool threads 20 X 3000; 60,000		12.50
Exchange rate 4796 =£1.00		£2443.66

Interim report 1st June 2020

This report will be updated as soon as lockdown conditions are eased and we are able to fully report on the impact of this amazing project.

The grant was transferred to the school account on 7th May 2020, and received 8 days later. Molly and Paul Wasswa immediately informed me of its arrival and promised to send information as soon as they were able to travel to buy the machines etc. On Monday 18th May, following the receipt of permission from the Presidents' office, they were able to travel to purchase the items needed to begin this exciting project. Pictures arrived that day of some of the deliveries being made to Shalom House (the home of Molly & Paul). Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions all equipment will be kept at their house until travel to Bunjakko is allowed.

On Thursday 21st May, technicians were allowed to visit the house to begin the process of assembling the machines for use.

The following day after an appeal to parents of students who reside in Kampala, a workshop was created to use the machines to create masks for the students at the school. As Molly said to me during a phone call, 'our hands are not in lockdown, and our students need our help'.

Paul Wasswa travelled to Bunjakko on Saturday 30th May, again with permission to deliver these masks to the students (boarders) who have been in lockdown at the school as they were unable to travel to their homes.

Once lockdown eases, the equipment will be transported to Bunjakko for the students to begin their new subject and develop this project further.

We thank you for your continued support.

Emma Thompson



Molly Wasswa and Christine Sekkematte Kayigwa (Headteacher of Bunjakko) inspecting the machines which were set up in Shalom House during the lockdown.

Press release for website and Face Book

The Bunjakko Needlework Project

Launceston College, working in partnership with Launceston Rotary Club have been working to support the education of students at Bunjakko Island Vocational School for the last 3 years. This year, the project was to set up a 'Needlework Class' and create a vocational faculty that will provide opportunities for students to pay their school fees and develop new skills for future careers. With support from Rotary UK we were able to transfer a grant last week to Uganda and with permission from the President of Uganda's office, the machines were purchased on Monday. Due to the current situation, our annual trip to Uganda was cancelled and we are hoping that we will be able to see the impact on this work in 2021.

I spoke to Molly and Paul Wasswa, Directors and Christine Skkematte Headteacher at Bunjakko today, they are so pleased to offer this new subject, and whilst the school is closed during lockdown they have started to make masks for staff and students, so the sewing machines are being used immediately. Molly said 'our hands are not in lockdown, and we need to keep people safe', they want to send their heartfelt thanks to all their supporters in the UK and thank Rotary for all their help.

We would like to thank Rotary for all their continued support, this project will be life changing for the students in our partner school, and we are excited to see the progress of this project.

Objectives of the project.

- To set up a sustainable business model and learning opportunity for students at Bunjakko Island Vocational School.*
- To extend the current classroom block to provide a dedicated, secure needlework room.*
- Girls are often forced to stay away from school during their monthly cycle due to not having sanitary products. Our aim is for the girls to produce reusable towels, that they can also sell to provide an income to pay school fees.*
- The project will consist of the supply of sewing machines, materials and teaching to allow the students to develop skills to produce garments and sanitary items to both wear and sell. It will provide the students with a skill that will enable them to work in this industry when they complete their education.*
- Students will be required to keep records of all outgoings and incomings in order to evaluate the project. As the project progresses there will opportunities to develop the range of products.*

