

UGANDA NEWSLETTER 2024



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REGULAR EMAIL UPDATES

EDUKID
Education for a brighter future

Dear Supporters,

As always, we are extremely thankful of your ongoing support of our Uganda project. Our staff have the honour of witnessing first-hand how your contributions positively impact the communities we support and how they contribute to helping to break the cycle of poverty. We look forward to sharing the positive impacts with you throughout this newsletter!

The start of 2024 has been a busy and exciting period. Students have recently returned back to school after their school holiday break, and we have been delighted to see so many students eager to continue their studies!

Our projects have continued to flourish. Over the past eight years, our partners, Solar 4 Students, have provided hundreds of solar panels to students enrolled within the Edukid programme. With solar, children have the opportunity to study during the evenings, improve the quality of their education and therefore improve their educational outcomes. See enclosed in this newsletter an update from Solar 4 Students and hear about their most recent trip to Uganda.

We thank you for your continued support and trust in our goal of removing the barriers to education faced by children living in poverty. Throughout the newsletter we have many inspiring stories to share with you, and we hope that they encourage you, as much as they have encouraged us!



AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Edukid works to remove the barriers to education for children living in poverty and conflict. Many of the children we work with in northern rural Uganda struggle to pass their end-of-year exams and progress to the next school year. On the whole, this is due to not being able to complete their homework or revision.



Being a country on the equator, Uganda sees the sun go down each day at 6:30 PM. All of the families we work with live in Bandas (mud huts), with no electricity, and so once the sun goes down it is pitch black. This means that the children we support are simply unable to study after school. Some families use paraffin candles to light up their homes so that their children can do their homework. The candles often cause more issues, as the Bandas have poor ventilation and so the fumes cause damage to the children's lungs. The candles also pose a fire hazard to the straw roofing of the family home.

Edukid is committed to breaking down the barriers to education that children living in poverty face. In this case, lack of electricity is a barrier to progressing at school and so **Edukid and Solar 4 Students** has developed a project that provides clean, safe and sustainable light.

One thing that Uganda has is lots of is sunshine! We are using this natural resource to provide light to the children we work with through solar panels that can be fixed to the top of the Banda roofs and can provide up to 8 hours of light for the 12 hours that it is dark!



Scan the below QR code to watch our Solar 4 Students video to find out more!





SOLAR 4 STUDENTS



**AFFORDABLE &
CLEAN ENERGY**



QUALITY EDUCATION

In 2017, driven by a vision of empowering communities through solar light, Natalie and Edukid established Solar 4 Students - an initiative that provided a safe and sustainable source of light for students living in very rural communities in Northern Uganda. Fast forward to **2023**, and the impact was profound - 522 solar panels have been distributed so far to children within the Edukid programme. The path towards a brighter and sustainable future has been created.

At the beginning of February 2024, the Solar 4 Students team travelled to Northern Uganda, Gulu, to distribute the final solar panels to children at Wilacic and Koch Goma Primary School. Throughout the week, the S4S team heard about the challenges the students face using paraffin candles, particularly for health and security. Importantly the children expressed their struggles to complete homework without electricity, and in the dark. During this week, the final 62 students in the Edukid programme received the gift of light for the very first time!

After sunset one night during the trip, the team visited a local family to light up their banda for the very first time with their new solar panels. The impacts were beyond imaginable, and the basic activities that were once a challenge such as cooking, reading, and simply spending quality time together, became not only possible but also enjoyable. With solar, children have the opportunity to study during the evenings, improve the quality of their education and therefore improve their educational outcomes.

Prior to this trip, 522 solar panels had been gifted to children enrolled on the Edukid programme. By the end of the week, all 584 children had received the gift of light!



PANEL #1



PANEL #584



SOLAR 4 STUDENTS



Hear from Solar 4 Students team lead - Natalie Corral:

"This is what it is all about! After 10 years, the 584th and final solar light has been switched on! The team visited a local family after sunset during our week in Uganda to light up their banda for the very first time. The impact goes beyond education, health and security. It's global love and connection! 💡❤️🌍"

The solar panel programme is not just about providing light—it's about empowering communities and creating brighter futures for children and their families!

Thank you so much to the Gulu community for inviting us into their hearts and homes and giving us the opportunity to show love through light."

THANK YOU!!

A very special thank you to Natalie and her friends in the USA! Your passion and love has ensured that all children within the Edukid programme in Northern Uganda have access to solar light - not only at home but also at school in Koch Goma!

Solar 4 Students will soon be supporting the Indigenous Awajun community in Peru to help 'Light Up The School'



THE BONGA GIRLS PROGRAMME



The BONGA Girls project is an empowerment initiative which aims to provide opportunities and create communities of support and reliable social networks for young teenage girls, particularly those with babies and young children, who have previously been denied an access to education.

The first group of girls - Cohort 1 - are currently completing their final assessments and exams of their vocational training course, including tailoring, hairdressing, catering and baking. This marks a huge milestone in their educational journey and they are currently preparing to graduate very soon.



The vocational training equips the girls with valuable skills, empowering them to pursue meaningful businesses to create an income to support their young children. The initiative recognises the importance of combining education with practical and life skills to enhance their skills set to become self-reliant individuals.

Additionally, the new cohort (cohort 2) have recently embarked on their journey and are currently engaging in life skills. There are 11 modules and some examples include:



Literacy and Numeracy

Family Planning

Health, Well-being and Sanitation



Financial Literacy

Food and Nutrition

Gender Equality and Human Rights



The BONGA Girls programme also focuses on building relationships and aims to empower the girls to uplift and inspire one another on their journey. The Edukid team recently met with the BONGA Girls and asked them about the impact of the programme. One particular individual commented,

"Before we came to Bonga, we were not friends. Now we are one big family!"



VOCATIONAL STUDENTS

Meet our students!



Obalim James Born

Obalim James Born is enrolled at Lacor Laboratory School, and is currently in year one of his studies. James is studying chemical laboratory and is so passionate about passing his exams. When speaking with James he said:

"Studying chemical laboratory to achieve a career in medical laboratory has been my dream since childhood".

Adyero Dorothy



Adyero Dorothy attends the local Community Polytechnic School and is currently in her first year of studies. Dorothy is studying for a National Certificate in Agricultural Production. Agricultural studies have always been Dorothy's favourite subject at school and she recognised the importance of knowing how to grow different types of crops sustainably - especially in the changing climate!



Lubangakene Patrick Alur

Patrick has recently enrolled for his first year studies at Koch Goma Motor Garage & Driving school. Patrick is passionate about working hard, and continuing developing his mechanic skills in order to help create an income in the future for himself and his family.

GRADUATE STORIES - Aber Sunday Margaret



Within our last newsletter we celebrated the graduation of Sunday Margaret who had recently completed her Certificate in Nursing.

Sunday Margaret worked incredibly hard throughout school and university and is now working in the local prison in Gulu and has been employed as a 'Prison Nurse for Juveniles'. Since her employment she has already helped so many young people!

Without education, this position she is in and the opportunities she is able to offer others within her community truly would not have been possible.

CONNECTIONS ACROSS CONTINENTS

Live zoom calls from Uganda!

Edukid's mission is to educate, inspire and empower individuals all over the world!

This February we held live zoom calls from our international project in Uganda to connect with both primary and secondary students within the UK. Over the calls all groups of students had the opportunity to ask each other questions to find out more about their schools, hobbies, values, cultures and of course their favourite football teams!

Each zoom finished with our UK students learning Acholi - the language spoken in Northern Uganda. The students in Uganda took the lead with this and successfully taught 1-10 and simple words and phrases such as - Hello, My name is, and Thank you. The students were very keen to learn Acholi, particularly the secondary students who will soon be travelling to Uganda and visiting the children.

Edukid's School Coordinator, Rosie, commented: "A particularly memorable moment was when Bickleigh Primary students sang a song from the popular musical, "Matilda" to the students in Uganda. This then encouraged and empowered Pauline in Uganda to sing a popular Ugandan song to her cross-continent friends both inspiring each other and creating beautiful memories."

Delighted smiles lit up the room and both the UK and Ugandan students were simply beaming with joy! It was truly a beautiful moment to be apart of, as cross-continent friendships were created.

Thank you to all the schools, both UK and Uganda, who took part with us in creating smiles, laughter, and lots of learning!



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

Kirsty's Story!



"Hi, I'm Kirsty, and I went on a trip to Uganda with Edukid.

During my time in Uganda, I found the experience very eye-opening: life there is incredibly different to here in the UK. From what I saw in the week I spent there, one of the main problems is the lack of education - particularly for young girls similar in age to myself. The lack of education for girls leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and many are often married off young to help families financially, and who are very often forced to bear children as single mothers. I quickly learnt that education helps children to get a foothold early on, so they can take control of their own lives and help break the cycle of poverty!



One moment that really stuck with me was watching how people collected their water. Firstly, the water collected by some families was very unclean - it was clearly contaminated and contained various sedimentary pieces. Secondly, there are some sources that are actually quite dangerous to access, and at one particular source we visited you had to kneel on a makeshift bridge made of logs (very unstable) and lean down to collect the water. Also, some families had to walk up to 5km from their homes to the nearest water source!



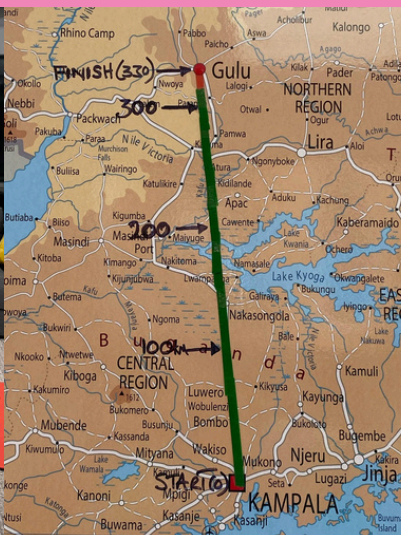
After my trip, I had a very different perspective on life. I know people always say these sorts of things, but you really have to be there to see and understand it. I am not a particularly emotional person, but going on this trip made me realise how much we have at home, and how a small amount of money can help to support a child's education. It is almost nothing to us, but everything to them! My experience motivated me, rather than upsetting me, as there is so much that we can do, and every little action makes a huge difference!



As a result of my experience and my motivation to help, I applied for a volunteering role with Edukid. My thoughts behind applying was if I could take the smaller tasks that take time, employees would have more time and money to put towards projects, and ultimately towards children's education. I am hoping the few hours a week that I put towards Edukid will make a difference to them, and that maybe my story will encourage more people to volunteer. My hope is that Edukid will have the resources to expand and change many more lives than they already have".

GENEROUS FUNDRAISING!

Global Citizenship Volunteering



We recently heard from Charlie, a student currently enrolled on the Edukid Global Citizenship Programme who is volunteering for his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards. During Charlie's volunteering he has been learning about the lack of access to clean, safe drinking water for the communities we work with in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

As part of the programme Charlie began fundraising for clean water in Uganda. Charlie said, "I want to raise money for clean, safe water in Uganda. I will be fundraising via a sponsored row & cycle across the distance of Uganda - from Kampala to Gulu which is 330km".

Football Kit Donations

Over the past few years, we have had several donations from local football clubs, businesses and schools donating sports clothing and equipment to school students and their football teams in Uganda. Recently, a school in the UK learnt about school children in Uganda playing football with no boots, rather they were playing bare foot. They decided amongst themselves that they would like to donate their boots to Edukid who can distribute them to children in Uganda.

Football is one of the most popular sports in Uganda, however the kits and equipment are sparse. Edukid would like to say a huge thank you for all the donations over the years of sports kit and equipment for children in Uganda. The smiles on the students face when they receive full, matching kit is so incredibly heart-warming! Thank you!



YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

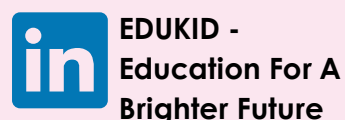
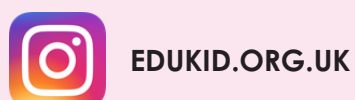
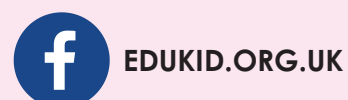
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued support and trust in helping us achieve our goal of removing the barriers to education faced by children living in poverty in Uganda.

With your help, this year we have enrolled over 500 children to our partner schools, colleges and universities in Northern Uganda. These children are able to access the quality education each and every one of them deserve! Additionally our in-country projects, specifically the solar panel programme, has positively impacted so many children, their families and the wider community. Such impacts would not be possible without the help of our generous UK and international sponsors! **THANK YOU!**

Love and best wishes,

The Edukid Team X





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