



The Kisoro Trust

Newsletter 2021

Dear Supporter,

Over the last 12 months, the work of the Trust has been impacted significantly by the Covid-19 global pandemic. On 20th March 2020, as part of the measures to control the spread of coronavirus in Uganda, the Ministry of Education closed all education institutions. The pupils of Kisoro Demonstration School had to return to their homes and planned events such as sign language training for parents, and Deaf Awareness Week celebrations were cancelled. Despite this, the Trustees of the Kisoro Trust agreed to make the April 2020 payment to the Kisoro District Association for the Deaf (KDAD), who oversee the project on the ground, as planned. This ensured that the salaries of staff were covered and that food relief could be provided to some of the most needy Deaf children during the lockdown.

We are grateful that so many of the Trust's supporters have continued to give generously throughout this difficult time, despite the hardships brought to many by Covid-19. As a result of this, and the temporary halt to payments to Kisoro, the Trustees have been able to achieve our aim of rebuilding the Trust's reserves to an acceptable level once again, thereby increasing the stability of the charity for the longer term.



Children being trained in arts & craft work during term one, pre-covid.



Computer classes being carried out by Penninah, one of the pioneers of the deaf project under the Kisoro Trust.

On 15th October 2020 some pupils were permitted to return to school in Uganda, and under the government rules 39 of the 52 Deaf pupils at Kisoro Demonstration school were able to recommence their studies. Standard operating procedures such as maintaining social distance, wearing masks, washing hands with water and soap, using sanitiser, avoiding handshakes and refraining from touching touch mouth, eyes and nose were put in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Dormitories had to be reorganised to ensure that children could be 2m

apart at all times, but as a result of respecting the rules, no Deaf children tested positive for Covid-19 and all were able to return to their homes for the holiday in good health.

Regular payments from the Kisoro Trust to Kisoro Demonstration school have now resumed in order to support the start of the new term.

Funds raised by the Kisoro Trust continue to be employed to meet the following objectives:

- Deaf children are served with a varied and balanced diet to help reduce the incidence of disease resulting from malnutrition. This includes a morning breakfast of porridge with milk, as well as vegetables and food crops from the school garden.
- Deaf children learn agricultural skills to enable them to live independent lives in the future by setting up their own businesses and income generation projects.
- Deaf children are cared for in their boarding accommodation through the provision of salaries for support staff such as matrons and night watchmen).
- Deaf children are provided with utilities such as water and electricity and have access to television; they are able to take advantage of watching news broadcasts supported by sign language interpretation.
- Deaf children and their parents are supported to communicate more effectively through the use of sign language. This year, owing to the mandatory universal wearing of face masks, there has been an increased awareness of the impacts that communication difficulties can have.
- Deaf children are given equal access to counselling and career guidance to introduce them to viable future employment opportunities. Advocacy work by KDAD is also protecting and promoting the rights of Deaf children, for example by ensuring that information on Covid-19 is available in accessible formats and that prevention measures are Deaf children friendly.

We do not know what the year 2021-22 will bring, but thank you for partnering with us in the adventure.





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To make a donation to support the work of the Kisoro Trust, please go to
www.kisoro.org. Thank you!