



Children are Uganda's Hope for the Future

Education is the key to a brighter future for Uganda's youth. Almost half of Uganda's population is under the age of 15¹ and only 53%² of the country's children complete primary school. Among the reasons for this are the need to work to help with the family's livelihood, child labor, teenage pregnancy, abduction into the military and early marriage. Poverty is the main obstacle children face to receiving an education. Their families often cannot afford the tuition and other school charges. School uniforms, books, writing materials and even soap are too costly for many poor families. Furthermore, family conflicts, lack of knowledge on the part of the parents, poor school infrastructure and lack of motivation for education contribute to the difficulties with obtaining education. Some cultural issues also affect educational outcomes.

Other factors which may affect children's education are malnutrition, disease and lack of clean water.

¹ Learn Facts about Uganda, Poverty, and Development

<https://opportunity.org/our-impact/where-we-work/uganda-facts-about-poverty>

² Ibid.

Medical care is not always accessible. Although access to electricity has risen to 42.1% in 2020³, more families in rural areas are still in need of it. This makes studying at night difficult.

Many children in Uganda are orphans due to HIV/AIDS, war and other circumstances. At least 12.3% of children in Uganda are orphans, including one parent families,⁴ which makes the need for assistance with their education crucial. Many families cannot afford to send their children to school due to a lack of funds.

The majority of the poorest children live in rural areas of Uganda where most families are peasants. 41%⁵ of Ugandans live on less than \$1.90⁶ per day. Some families depend on their children to help with the farming and thus cannot send them to school.



The landscape of Uganda can make traveling to school difficult for children. Some rural areas are mountainous, hard to reach or to leave especially during the rainy season. In most of these areas, access is by foot on narrow and extremely eroded earth roads and paths. Students often walk miles to school.

Drought and famine are some factors that can cause more hardship for children, which can impact their ability to attend school. Factors such as the recent world economic downturn makes it especially

³ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?locations=UG>

⁴ <https://www.newvision.co.ug/news/1306753/life-orphan-uganda> Vicky Wandawa, New Vision Sept 14, 2012

⁵ Learn Facts about Uganda, Poverty, and Development

<https://opportunity.org/our-impact/where-we-work/uganda-facts-about-poverty>

hard for families in developing countries like Uganda to obtain enough food to feed their families. This in turn impedes a child's ability to learn.

Importance of Education

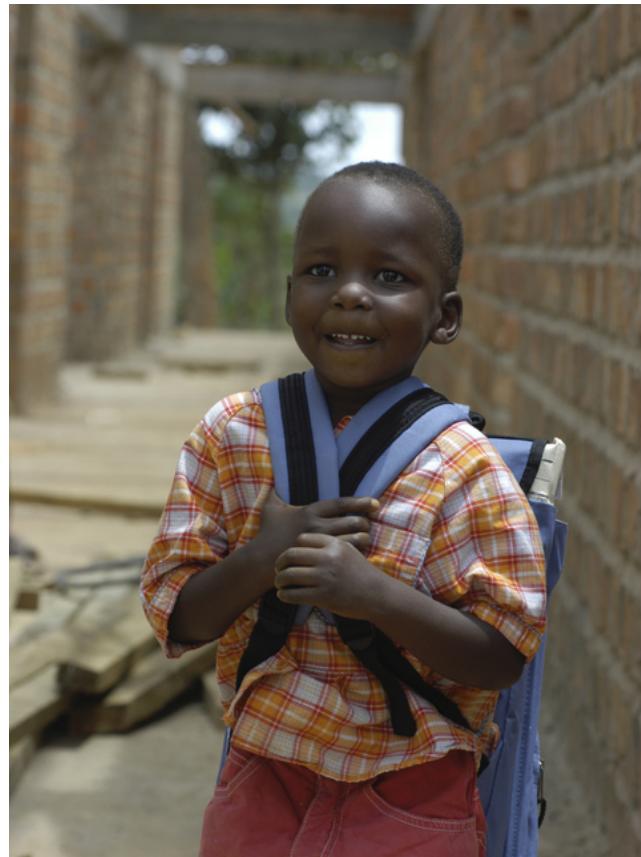
Education is a human right for every child. Education leads to an improved quality of life, and every child should have this opportunity. It leads children to an understanding of the world around them, as well as enhancing their social development and skills. Helping each Ugandan child to receive an education is vital to their ability to achieve their full potential and to thrive. Education empowers the child to become an effective agent of economic change in the society. Children who do not complete school have little chance of lifting themselves out of poverty and moving beyond subsistence living due to lack of skills.

AfriCan Educate is a nonprofit organization which helps children to go to and remain in school in Bucundura, a village in southwestern Uganda. The organization has also recently completed a Catholic nursery and early primary school in the same village. St. Charles Lwanga Nursery and Early Primary School opened in January of 2022 and is offering hope to children whose families would otherwise be unable to send their children to school. Over 70 kindergarteners and first graders are being educated in that school. For more information please visit: <http://www.africaneducate.org>.

There are more than 40 indigenous languages spoken in Uganda, depending on the tribe and region people are from.⁷ They grow up speaking their native dialect. English is the official language spoken in Uganda, and national tests to enter middle school and secondary school are given in English. Children in rural schools are at a disadvantage because they are not taught English until grade 4 unlike children in the cities and in private schools.



⁷ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-languages-are-spoken-in-uganda.html>





Education is important in helping to provide a secure future including the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. These items are not taken for granted in developing countries.



Many children are needed to help at home with chores such as fetching water and firewood, washing clothes and other activities. This can leave little time for studying.



Young girl helping wash family clothes

Stories of children who are being sponsored by AfriCan Educate



Jonathan Ampumuza's story: Jonathan Ampumuza is a first grade student at St Charles Lwanga Nursery and Early Primary School, Bucundura Uganda. His mother is Angela Atusasire. Jonathan is 7 years old. His father abandoned the family after demanding that Jonathan's mother Angela abandon the Catholic Church and join him at a church that he had started in a village far from Bucundura. Angela refused to shift from both her faith and home. The husband then abandoned the family to go and run his church. Angela has several children in different schools. AfriCan Educate was able to find a sponsor to support Jonathan in our new school, St. Charles Lwanga.



Arinanye Abigail, girl of 6 years.

Parents: Rucia Kemigisha (mother); Muramuzi Alex (father). They have six children, one in high school and the rest in primary classes. Parents are very poor and the family literally lives from hand to mouth. The husband lives away from home as he does manual labor to earn something small to feed the family.

Albina Aheisibwe, girl, 5 years. She is in nursery school at St. Charles Lwanga school. She also has a sibling in our school and their mother works so hard to pay. The dad is not focused on the education of the children. AfriCan Educate has gladly found a sponsor for Albina in our school.



ARINEITWE GLORY'S STORY

I'm Arineitwe Glory, a beneficiary of AfriCan Educate, who grew up as an orphan since I lost my father when I was 8 years old in 1997. After his death, life changed since I could not get the basics I needed as a child like school fees, shoes, books, and clothes. I used to walk barefoot long distances to school without a uniform.

I suffered a lot until Father Robert Tumwekwase started supporting me partially in 2002 and in 2005, Father Robert took me to a better Secondary School where I studied my O' Level and A' Level. He continued to support me and other vulnerable children in our community.

By 2007, AfriCan Educate began to support me and other children. Since then I never lacked anything as a child in school. I successfully finished my O' Level in 2008 and A' Level in 2010, performed well and prepared to join university.

UNIVERSITY (SUPPORTED BY AFRICAN EDUCATE)

After A' Level I joined Kyambogo University (year of entry: 2011) with the support of AfriCan Educate and had all the basics I needed as a student at the university.

All the university dues were paid in time and I was given all that I needed as a student for all three years at the university and performed well. I graduated early in 2015 and was so grateful for the great success that I didn't get by myself alone but through the good hearted sponsors at AfriCan Educate.

GETTING A JOB AFTER UNIVERSITY

When I finished university, I started looking for jobs and doing some small side businesses to keep me busy. In late 2015 Father Robert connected me to his friend at Electro Commission Uganda where I worked for 1 year in the Department of Voter Education. I acquired skills, knowledge, working experience and earned a living.

I continued searching for more opportunities and adding onto the skills that I had gotten from school. By good chance I got a friend who connected me into graphic designing and printing since I had studied Fine Art at A Level. It was easy to learn graphics.

I'm now self-employed in graphic designing and printing and my business is doing well. The skills I acquired at the university dealing with people in the community were helpful to me. All this was achieved because of the education background that AfriCan Educate gave me.

HOW I HAVE BENEFITED

AfriCan Educate helped me to get education until I graduated without suffering. AfriCan Educate helped me to acquire knowledge and skill on how to go about life. It enabled me to look at life in a different perspective (sharing and helping others is a goal). I am also able to help some students, like shopping for them which I would not have managed if I hadn't gone to school.

I take care of myself and sustain better living conditions for my son since I'm able to earn a living. With my little earnings I help my family and other people. I pray that God continues to bless me. Many people have benefited from the program and are now successfully employed. I pray that God continues to bless AfriCan Educate to support more vulnerable children to achieve their dreams successfully.

APPRECIATING AFRICAN EDUCATE

I extend my grateful appreciation to AfriCan Educate that supported me to get my education from secondary school up to university level. I'm very sure that all the beneficiaries of AfriCan Educate feel the same way and are so appreciative. I pray to God to give you all your heart desires and bless you because you have brought a great change in my life and the whole Bucundura community at large. Besides me, many children especially orphans and children from poor families are attaining their dream of education because of AfriCan Educate. I kindly request the team to continue supporting "other" vulnerable children since all their hopes of success are in African Educate. Lots of love and appreciation from me and the whole community that benefited and are still benefiting from AfriCan Educate. AfriCan Educate is a blessing to the community.



Ronald Tayebwa's Story

Dear African Educate,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for the generosity of heart you have shown in sponsoring me. I was born from a poor family where school fees and scholastic materials to use at school were difficult to get. Having my parents divorced forced me to grow up with my grandmother who was ill and a widower and could not help me out to go to school.

It was then that our dearly beloved Fr. Robert Tumwekwase picked me up and made me join the African Educate Organization; since then my life changed. I was being provided: school fees, soaps, uniforms, shoes, underwear, pens and more scholastic materials to use at school. "May Almighty God bless them abundantly always."

I managed to finish my Primary Level, Ordinary Level, Advanced Level then later Tertiary Institution where I acquired technical skills in plumbing. African Educate's contribution made it possible to continue making strides toward my goal of advancing. I am always excited to be part of the African Educate family!

It was on 8th November 2020, I joined the Uganda police force, as a way to continue chasing my dreams, goals and being patriotic to my nation. As our country is a third world country (still developing), there was no way to get a job early, so I decided to join the Uganda police force as a way to get something to be doing in a competitive country.

I went down for a 12 month probationary training course. On November 12, 2021 I passed. As a police officer I deployed in a counterterrorism police update.

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for the recent construction of St. Charles Lwanga Nursery and Early Primary School. "May God reward you abundantly!" My sincere appreciation goes to the African Educate Board: Fr. Robert Tumwekwase, Madam Ann Ball, Madam Linda and Mr. Peter Griesbach, Michael Hanrahan and all supporters of African Educate. I hope that we can one day collaborate on something big. I look forward to continuing our work together and hope that God will continue enabling you to sponsor the children of Bucundura.

I remain yours sincerely,

Tayebwa Ronald
AfriCan Educate graduate

Ronald Tayebwa



Counterterrorism police

Written by Linda Griesbach and Fr Robert Tumwekwase, board members of AfriCan Educate, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. Exceptions: autobiographical stories by Arineitwe Glory and Ronald Tayebwa

For more information visit [AfriCan Educate website](#)

Resources

1. Learn Facts about Uganda, Poverty, and Development

<https://opportunity.org/our-impact/where-we-work/uganda-facts-about-poverty>

2. Life as an Orphan in Uganda Vicky Wandawa, New Vision Sept 14, 2012

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/news/1306753/life-orphan-uganda>

3. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?locations=UG>

4. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-languages-are-spoken-in-uganda.html>