

Nyimusa Foundation Newsletter Q4 (2024)

Dear Sponsors and friends!

Since we last sent our newsletter, we have accomplished some remarkable milestones in Nyimusa. It truly feels like all the hard work we have put in over many years is paying off and we can see how this is impacting the community around us. Your support has been instrumental in this work, and we really hope you feel our love and gratitude.

Just to remind you of Nyimusa's vision: To provide orphans and marginalized children away from poverty and to contribute to the future of Uganda where gender equality and independence are cornerstones. And! We want to be the most transparent and sustainable NGO in Uganda and to inspire local and regional actors to follow.

As we went into 2024, we had an ambition to bring 20 new orphans to our program but yet we are so happy to tell you that 11 orphans have been able to join school this year thanks to your support. With your help, we are now taking care of 86 children in their educational journeys, and lives! That is not a bad number! ♥

One of our success stories, to really demonstrate what the outcome can be when we offer a child education, is Kimuli Fahad. He graduated top 10 of all the students in the country in the national exams and was awarded a government scholarship due to outstanding grades. He is now pursuing a Bachelors' Degree of science in agriculture and eager to give back to the community. This achievement is a testament to the difference your sponsorships make.



As we move into 2025, our goal is to continue expanding our reach and providing quality education to even more children in need. We hope to add 30 more children next year, and with your ongoing support, we can make this a reality!



In addition to the education program we conduct outreach programs, and are working closely with an informal orphanage in the north-east of Uganda, in the region Kamuli. This home is run by an elderly woman called Margret and she has basically opened up her simple home to the orphans around her. From time to time this group of vulnerable people are starving and we support them with food and necessities. Almost none of the 20 kids goes to school but we have already onboarded 3 students into our program. Our dream is to offload this household more during next year, to make these children not only barely survive but to give them hope for the future. The ambition is to continue bringing more kids from this home on to our program. The team in Uganda goes there on a regular basis to help.



PROJECT AURORA

Project Aurora is the name of all the work and development going on at our 8 acres of land in Buwama, 69.4km from Kampala. Here is where we are building our “village”, the holistic project where we can offer our children a place to thrive. The dream is to build a primary school for up to 500 children (more about this dream below!) where all our own kids in the program will live at the site in “mama houses” (1 already completed!) and have a family. One mama and 8 kids in one house. To build relationships, family feeling and belonging. The remaining students will be other children that either have parents that can pay for themselves (so we get financial support to run the school) or children in the neighboring villages that need support to be able to afford school but have parents to stay with.

The ambition is to open the school on some level already by 2026! But we have a long way to go. Running construction is one thing, running a school is another! But we have partnered up with some really amazing experienced people who have started schools before. Let’s see. We intend to open with a smaller size, around 100 students divided over primary school 1-4 and also space for 2 classes of vocational school, for adults that for some reason haven't had access to education. This is work in progress - any input, support or ideas are highly welcomed!

Now to the status of the land and what we have already achieved!

Land Fencing

Land fencing was done to enhance safety and security from external risks or any disturbances. This has allowed Nyimusa to control who enters and exit the premises. This is essential for creating a secure environment, ensuring that only personnel, workers and caregivers have access to the children. Fencing has ensured children remain within safe perimeters, which is crucial, especially for young children, this helps protect children from potential danger outside the facility, such as traffic, animals and strangers.



Additional land purchase

We got an offer to purchase 1 acre of additional land, providing Nyimusa with an opportunity to offer more comprehensive services and plan for long term growth and sustainability. The land was bought with a tree plantation and after time the plantation will generate money that was used for the land purchase. This land will enable other revenue generating activities such as agriculture etc. Additional land will also create more space for, building more facilities and sports, helping to meet more diverse needs.



Coffee Plantation

With help from our very dedicated volunteer Amos, an agricultural expert, we have planted 1 acre of land with coffee plants. This will generate a steady income to the organization as coffee prices are not fluctuating as much as for example maize. This will drive financial sustainability to Nyimusa. The plantation is also offering employment opportunities for the local residents, empowering the community economically and reducing poverty in the area. And, our eco-conscious coffee plantation can demonstrate sustainable practices and promote environmental awareness, which can inspire similar efforts in the region.



Store House Construction and new toilets

We have recently completed 2 new buildings, a storage house and toilet facilities. The newly constructed store house at the Nyimusa site is designed to facilitate the storage and management of essential supplies during the day to day activities taking place at the site. This is helping Nyimusa in storing Agriculture harvest such as Corn, Food, Construction material and equipment. It also helps in stockpiling of materials and food for future use. This facility has a large storage capacity which enables us to buy everything in bulk leading to cost saving on transportation. In addition, during construction, for sensitive materials and equipment this storage unit provides a secure location to protect these items from theft, misuse and damage.

We have also built modern toilet facilities at our office for use by the children and workers.

Toilets have reduced the spread of diseases caused by poor hygiene such as intestinal infections and also encouraged adoption of good hygiene practices such as hand washing which is critical in preventing the spread of germs and infections among children. This has ensured children, mostly girls, maintain their dignity especially during their menstrual cycles and will foster the sense of privacy and security. Since boys and girls have access to separate and secure toilet facilities. This makes girls use them without the worry of inadequate sanitation.

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Rural Electrification

We have electrified the Nyimusa site! Funds have been allocated for the installation of electricity both at the Nyimusa site and within the surrounding community.

Electricity has allowed the facility to run smoothly, ensuring that computers, printers and communication systems are always running, this has increased efficiency in operation.

Electricity will also enable learning and educational activities to continue beyond daylight hours benefiting the organization children and the community children having extra hours of reading and thus improving their education outcomes.

Overall, the community benefits from lighting reducing crime and making it safer for children & women to move around after dark. Previously 97% of the community has been using kerosene lamps for lighting which is risky and also contributes to indoor air pollution which might cause respiratory diseases. This is really a remarkable contribution to Buwama as a village!



School Construction

Now to one of our biggest milestones and one that Sofia has been dreaming about since 2007 - we have started the construction of our first school. This is extremely motivating for everyone working on this project. We have now started to lay the foundation to what one day will become “*Aurora International Primary School*”. Anyone else but me getting goosebumps?!

Nyimusa Primary School will be operated in a way where a percentage of students will be from the potential private parents with funds to support their children and the other percentage will be the students Nyimusa sponsors. This will help enhance financial sustainability of the school by reducing dependency on external funding.

The school will support low income families to have access to quality education, which will increase opportunities for the future generation hence contributing to the breaking of the poverty cycle. Quality education leads to better job prospects and economic mobility for students from lower income families.

From the early stages of construction, the school will create temporary jobs, once the school is operational additional long-term jobs such as teaching and maintenance roles can emerge.

Nyimusa Vocational School will provide and equip students with productive vocational skills, which will make them job creators not seekers. These can help contribute more effectively to the economy, either through employment or entrepreneurship, thereby driving economic growth.



Next autumn, we will - in one way or another - have an inauguration of the **Nyimusa Village**. The trip will take place during week 44 (school break in Sweden) and if you are interested in visiting Nyimusa Foundation, and experience the beautiful Uganda, reach out to Sofia on sofia.graflund@gmail.com for more details.

Organizational growth

New Team Members

We are excited to announce the hiring of two new team members to the Ugandan team: An Administrator, **CHARITY VENLANDER KAAHWA** brings a wealth of experience in ensuring our day-to-day operations run smoothly, and an Accountant, **ISAAC ATUKUNDA** will enhance our

financial oversight, helping us manage our resources effectively as we grow. These additions to our team will help strengthen our operations and improve our financial management, allowing us to focus even more on our mission.

In Sweden we are so happy to have partnered up with **BENGT IVANSSON**, ex business manager (Sw. *näringslivschef*) from Skellefteå, who has built schools in Uganda before. He is running the construction work together with Derrick and the team, making sure we are fulfilling our goals in a safe and healthy manner! Bengt travels to Uganda on a regular basis.



Volunteer Program

We have also kicked off our volunteer programs. These programs help the organization with skill transfer which bring innovation, capacity building and resource mobilization but maybe more important is a remarkable experience for the volunteer!

Seeing volunteers from other countries dedicating time and resources to local issues has reinforced community confidence in Nyimusa, potentially boosting local participation and support. We want to receive volunteers with all kinds of experience and skills - reach out to Sofia (sofiagraflund@gmail.com) if you are curious to know more! I promise you, it will be an experience for life!



Some final words.

Thank you all for your support and generosity. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of many children and families. Despite that 2024 has been a challenging year in many ways, with burning wars in the world and economic crises, it has been a good year for Nyimusa; We have all our kids in school, and they are all healthy. What all could we wish for in times like this.

We are so grateful for all the continuous support and donations. Next year our goal is to continue building the site – our dream is to build a home for our children, and we will not stop until we get there! We also want to help more kids to get back to school, we have a long waiting list....

Stay Connected

For more information about our projects and how you can continue to support our mission, please visit our website www.nyimusafoundation.org or contact us at derrick@nyimusafoundation.org or sofiagraflund@gmail.com

Thank you once again for your invaluable support.

Warmest regards,

Derrick, Sofia & Team Nyimusa

Ps. adding our account details in event someone got a feeling to support us further while reading



Swish number:
123 164 79 57



From Swedish accounts:

Clearing number: 8327-9
Account number: 734 681 121-4
Account name: Nyimusa Foundation

From international accounts:

Account name: Nyimusa Foundation
IBAN: SE79 8000 0832 7973 4681 1214
BIC: SWEDSESS (8 characters)
SWEDSESSXXX (11 characters)

Nyimusa Foundation is a registered NGO in Uganda and a registered Foundation in Sweden. We are banking through Swedbank (Sweden) and Equity Bank (Uganda). In addition, we are audited by PwC and will provide receipts and purchase information upon request.

