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A review of 2013 February 2014

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to the incredible people who support Wakadogo, with their time, knowledge and money. This generosity keeps over 360 children in post-conflict northern Uganda in school and learning. We're about a lot more than just putting children into school though: we're about ensuring they get a quality education, we're about ensuring that these children, especially girls, stay in school, we're about engaging the community to be part of their children's education and we're about providing nutritious school meals and a free basic health care facility.

What happened in 2013?

- We celebrated our 4th birthday in June 2013 with 312 students.
- We built and opened 3 new classrooms and 8 toilets.
- We built a Day Care space for toddlers of teachers – we're the only school in Gulu to offer this important benefit.
- Teachers from Kings' Dubai School visited us twice to train our teachers.
- We've transformed our school meals into highly nutritional school meals – thanks to The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation.
- We treated hundreds of children who had malaria, chest infections, skin infections and intestinal worms – for free.
- Our team in Uganda has grown to 21 staff, including a new Head Teacher to oversee both the nursery and primary school teachers.
- We're maintaining a classrooms size of fewer than 45 children per class – a huge difference to the 70 or 80 student average in other classrooms in Gulu.
- We have a cool new logo (see above)!

More classrooms

The more classrooms we build, the more children we can educate. We are now three classrooms away from being a full primary school. What's really exciting is these last classrooms were completed in February 2014. We will only be opening one classroom each year for the next 3 years though, so that we grow organically and allow the children to graduate through our classrooms into the latest classroom to be opened. This means that by the time students are in the later primary classes, they have received years of quality, child-centred education at Wakadogo School – which will stand them in good stead for the future. Toilets are also really important. They ensure that we have a hygienic and girl-friendly environment for our children and staff. Thank you to our anonymous donor for providing the funding to build these important buildings.





Quality not quantity!

Training our teachers to be the best teachers in Gulu has been our priority in 2013. Our partnership with Kings' Dubai School has been the catalyst for this development by visiting the school twice in 2013. They have trained our teachers to use innovative teaching methods that help children learn more effectively, from each other and from their environment. For example, they have learnt a methodology called 'Talk Partners' – where children help each other to spell a word and then show them the physical object and then test each other phonetically to ensure they have spelt it correctly. This way, children learn and understand the words quicker and more profoundly, rather than just memorising them and they also learn how to help one another. The government's local education division has applauded this learning and has highlighted Wakadogo as one of the best schools in the District. Our goal is to be the best school in Gulu! We



would like to thank Kings' Dubai School for their dedication to Wakadogo. We also received funding to bring on board an education advisor to assess our teaching and classrooms and provide bespoke training for our Head Teacher and teachers. As a result, teachers are sharing methodologies with each that work and there will be on-going teacher training workshops throughout 2014. This is just one of a number of initiatives to ensure we are providing good quality education at Wakadogo.

Yummy and nutritious school meals

Every child and member of staff gets at least one school meal every day. The students in older classes receive two meals a day because they stay in school longer. These are balanced, nutritious meals that include porridge, posho (maize flour staple in Uganda), beans, meat, juice, eggs, vegetables and fruits. This is a hugely important part of our school because for many children this is their only meal of the day. The students are visibly more energetic and healthy. We are investing a significant amount of funding, thanks to The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation, to make sure that these meals are such good quality.



Other great news

We're grateful to Integrated Hands for introducing us to Seonaid Whiteman who has brought music and drama to Wakadogo. We'll be building on this in 2014 by hiring a highly qualified music and drama teacher who will hopefully bring our students up to national-level music standard.



The tribe of the people of northern Uganda is called 'Acholi'. Their musical, dance and drama culture is rich and beautiful and we want to celebrate and nurture this at Wakadogo School.

We took 60 children on our second annual school trip to Murchison Falls. These trips are important, as they are fun. For many children, this is their first time out of Gulu. An adventure to see Uganda's beautiful Murchison Falls and to learn about the Nile River, to see elephants, hippos, giraffes and all of the other wildlife was really special for our students to experience as it helps to broaden their minds.

We're developing a playing field so that our students can learn all the sports required to participate in District-wide school games and competitions. This is an important element of Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports curriculum and



both the students and teachers have been very keen to begin participating. There will be much more to come on this in 2014!

Plans for 2014

- We opened our Primary 5 classroom.
- We're planning for more teacher training – with Kings' Dubai and our education advisor, Victoria Brown.
- We're building a library.
- We will further develop our school clinic and health sensitization programme.
- Our Parent Teacher Association and School Management Committee will be even more engaged and active in school life.
- Parents will play a bigger part in their children's learning.
- We will make our school girl-friendly – so that girls, especially adolescent girls – stay in school.
- We will develop our capacity to identify and support students with special needs
- The management consulting firm, ValuStrat, will help us develop strategic and sustainability plans for the future – all for free.
- We are launching a new website: www.wakadogo.org, created for us by Google volunteers Matt Gibbs and Jack Woodward as well as creative design agency Sareze Creative.

Fundraising and expenditure

Our fiscal year is September 2012 – August 2013 and this was a tough year for Wakadogo. Thankfully in the second half of 2013, many of our donors came forward and continued to support us generously. In the 2012/13 financial year, globally, we raised \$67,064. We collected \$12,4310 in school fees, an increase from \$6,120 in 2011/12. In the same financial year we spent \$85,113 on running the school. There were zero administration costs because we have no fundraising costs and no headquarter costs.



We are struggling to raise funds for the very important cost teacher salaries. We are so grateful to those donors who do not wish to restrict their funds to allow us to pay these salaries – our biggest monthly cost – so that we can keep the school running.

Thank you

'Thank you' isn't really enough to express our gratitude for our donors, volunteers, friends, Board members and our Advisory Board members. You are the glue that holds this small but powerful project together. This project simply couldn't go on without you. Thank you for believing in us and partnering with us. We would like to thank the following donors for their generosity:





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