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A review of 2014 February 2015

A message from the Headteacher of Wakadogo School, Odong Charles Kigundi:

“The most important tool we are using in this community to transform the lives of children and to address the current challenges is the provision of quality education. The teachers are playing a big role in shaping the values, moral, intellectual and behaviour of the students in this school.

I would like to thank all the donors for the generous support in terms of finances, resources and capacity building being given to Wakadogo School at this moment when we are faced with post war challenges in our community. It has not been easy to provide quality education in the community where all the resources were destroyed during the civil war, but due to your kind support, we have been able to make it a success.



Headteacher of Wakadogo, Odong Charles

Wakadogo School is now becoming so famous in Gulu and many students are attracted to come and learn in our school. There has been an enrolment increase for 2015 as a result of excellent performance. I appreciate you all supporting our school. Thank you.”

Key highlights from 2014?

- We celebrated our **5th birthday** in June 2014 with 350 students.
- We built and furnished a **new library** – thanks to the Hazel’s Footprints Trust and a generous anonymous donor. This donor also funded our new school fence, an important asset to ensure the safety and comfort of students and their parents or guardians – especially in post conflict northern Uganda.
- Teachers from Kings’ Dubai School visited us in June 2014. They continue to support and **train our teachers** using team teaching, shared new skills in teaching Physical Education, setting up the school garden and they introduced a reward system for behaviour management. We are grateful for their enormous support to train our teachers.
- We introduced **music, dance, drama and athletics** as extra-curricula activities and Wakadogo students came 1st in the sub-county athletics competition – a proud achievement. We also came 1st in the Music, Dance and Drama Sub–County Competition and emerged 7th out of twelve giant schools in the District Competition.
- Parents and guardians became increasingly engaged and involved through Class Days, a day for them to come to school to learn more about what their children are learning and how to support them.



A front view of the new library building, December 2014



- Our **school meals** continue to be highly nutritious, with enormous thanks to The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation.

Nearly a full primary school

Wakadogo is now exceptionally close to becoming a full primary school. In 2014, we opened Primary 5. This year, we opened Primary 6. In February 2016, we will open our final primary school classroom – Primary 7. So what's next for Wakadogo's students? We want to ensure we are providing the best possible quality education so that students do well in the Primary 7 exams, so that they can transition to secondary schools or vocational training centres. We also plan to introduce life skills and vocational training so that students have other options when they leave Wakadogo.

Music, dance, drama and athletics

We introduced music, dance, drama and athletics in 2014 and the students' hard work and success in these areas was undoubtedly our proudest achievement of last year!

The students practiced hard and performed songs and drama about the risks of malaria and why parents should send their children to school. It is also a wonderful way of preserving the Acholi culture. The local government of Gulu was impressed by Wakadogo's participation and high standards.



A front view of the new library building, December 2014

Community involvement

The community has become even more involved in school activities this past year. They helped the school to clear the land for the playground, improved the road leading to the school, cut the grass around the schools' compound and participated in school meetings. The Parent Teacher Association also built a new pit latrine.

The Parent Teacher Association leadership has been instrumental in mobilizing the community towards these activities. We will continue to involve the PTA leadership and the community in all school activities so that they are part of the school and responsible for its success.

Kings' Dubai visited us again!

Six amazing Kings' Dubai teachers visited Wakadogo school again in June 2014 and spent an entire week training Wakadogo teachers in the most up to date teaching and learning methods.

They shared skills in using drama for learning and classroom organization. They started a school garden with the students and teachers and generously provided funds for school uniforms for the most marginalized children and for books and learning materials. They also brought with them Kings' Dubai sports kits for the students. They introduced 'differentiation' – where students are grouped into ability groups in class to enable teachers to support and challenge the children more easily.



Kings' Dubai teachers: Rach, Hannah, Kirsty, Elaine, Sarah and Robin visit Wakadogo School, June 2014



Hannah, one of the Kings' Dubai teachers said the following:

"It was a privilege to return to Wakadogo to work with the fantastic team there and see how far they have developed their school since our last trip. We had a busy week and teachers were happy to try new strategies and welcomed us with open arms into their classes. As always, our relationship is built on reciprocity and we thank the teachers and team at Wakadogo for being so open and ready to share their skills with us."

School trip and graduation

Last years' school trip was a visit to a national park in Uganda. The students loved seeing all the wildlife and the river Nile – for many children this was the first time leaving Gulu.

Graduation Day at Wakadogo School is a very important day for the school and community and over 600 guests attended. It's a day to celebrate the achievements of the student and to give them an opportunity to showcase everything they have learnt throughout the year.



Wakadogo school trip to Paraa National Park, Uganda with Board Member, Andrea Charbonneau, November 2013

The parents and guardians supported the event financially along with Wakadogo. The students performed and advocated for the need for parents to be responsible and support their education as well as protect them from malaria and other diseases. They also called upon the government to protect the children from child sacrifices, defilement and rape.

Free healthcare at Wakadogo School

Between September 2014 and the end of the academic year in December 2014, a total 550 cases of sickness from both the children and the staff received free treatment at the school clinic. Cough, malaria and flu were the most common.

In addition to treating students in the clinic the nurse has been committed to sensitising students through health workshops within the classroom.



School Graduation – December 2014 – with over 600 parents, students and community leaders and Board Member. Nilmin Williamson



Meet some of our teachers

Ocitti Charles, Head of Sports, Primary 3 Teacher



"I am Ocitti Charles, Head of Sports and Primary 3 class teacher at Wakadogo School. With great honour, allow me send my high felicitation to the esteem Board of Directors and our wonderful donors who are working round the clock to see that the school progresses.

Here are some of the achievements we made in 2014, training of teachers, construction of Library, children carried out agriculture in the school. They produced so many crops which helped in improving their diet. I am optimistic that 2015 will be better and we shall continue to improve in all areas. Lastly I kindly request you to keep the candles burning so that we continue improving the level of education which was affected by war in Northern Uganda and the poor children of Acoyo. May the Almighty Father reward you abundantly. Big thanks."

Lawach Leah Petra, Nursery Teacher



"I am Lawach Leah Petra Class Teacher K.3. On behalf of all the female staff of Wakadogo School, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the board and the donors for their cheerful support rendered to the school.

The reward box has helped us to improve on the children's behaviours, participation in class and good relationship among themselves. The school trip was a very good exposure to learners since the school also practices agriculture. Children were able to see the farm equipment and learnt how plants are cared for. Our plan for 2015 is to produce good children and promote team spirit among the staff. Many thanks."

Meet some of our students

Head Boy Wakadogo School - Okello Francis, Primary 5



"I am Okello Francis, Head Boy Wakadogo School. I am eleven years old. On behalf of my fellow students, I would like to thank you all for supporting our school with a lot of resources which our teachers are using to teach us very well. In 2014, we were the champion of Koro Sub County in both Athletics and Music Festival. We hope to do better in 2015 with your support. Thank you"

Head Girl Wakadogo School - Aloyo Fortunate, Primary 5



"My name is Aloyo Fortunate; I am the Head Girl Wakadogo School. I am twelve years old. I would like to appreciate you for funding our library, nutrition programme and many others that I cannot name one by one. My fellow students are very happy for your support that is making our school the best learning environment in Koro Sub County and Gulu District. Our teachers are very lovely and committed in their work. We are hardworking students, please continue helping us to catch up with the rest of the children in other parts of the world."



Plans for 2015

- We opened our Primary 6 classroom in February 2015.
 - We will open our library and hire a librarian to further encourage literacy and computer skills.
 - 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 even more girl-friendly – so that girls don't drop out.
 - We will develop our capacity to identify and support students with special needs and make our school more inclusive.
 - We will explore adding life skills and vocational training to the curriculum.
 - Sustainability and fundraising will be an important priority for us.
- We have a number of concepts, like an agriculture and animal husbandry project that we would like to pilot to generate funds locally to channel back into Wakadogo School.



Wakadogo teachers

Fundraising and expenditure

2013/14 was a promising year for Wakadogo. Thanks to the incredible generosity of a small number of dedicated donors, we raised \$198,414 between September 2013-August 2014. Of this, parents and guardians contributed a total of \$16,979 in school fees towards to the cost of educating their children at Wakadogo School, which represents 13.8% of the running costs. This is a very encouraging improvement in financial capacity and a positive indication of local economic development. We spent \$122,780 on running the school. There were zero overhead costs because we have no fundraising costs and no headquarter costs.

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:



<p>Foundations or Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Culture & Community Sprit, Community Initiative Program, Edmonton, Canada • Edmonton Mayfield Rotary Club, Edmonton, Canada • Goodenough College, London, UK • The Golden Jubilee Limited Partnership • Hazel's Footprints Trust, London, UK • Holy Trinity School, Ontario, Canada • Integrate Hands, London, UK • James Brown & Associates, Alberta, Canada • Jasper Place High School, Alberta, Canada • The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation, London, UK • The North London Line Dancing Group, London, UK • Kings' Dubai School, Dubai, UAE • Oliver Wyman, Dubai, UAE <p>Companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Plumbing and Lighting, Edmonton, Canada • Blue Star Mechanical Ltd, Edmonton, Canada • Silver Brown Consulting • Dell Middle East • Fancy Doors & Mouldings Ltd, Edmonton, Canada • Haweli Restaurant, Edmonton, Canada • Kordun Mechanical Services Ltd, Edmonton, Canada • Nu-Dawn Developments, Edmonton, Canada • RJI Capital Group • Roofings Ltd, Kampala, Uganda • The Valmont Club, London, UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Appleman Holdings Ltd, Edmonton • Trimark Trading <p>Individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous donor • Alexander and Anna Abraham • Nafees and Silvia Akbarali • Karim Amlani • Peter and Christine Baltussen • Shiraz Boghani • Ayaz Bhanji • Diane and Gerry Charbonneau • Julfikar Chatur • Sam Dennis • Grant Dewar • Roshan Esmail • Hani Farsi • David Flanagan • Katherine K Frame • Stan Gehring • David Gibeon • Dr Stephen Edmund Goodwin • Jeffrey and Fran Grubert • Ben Guido • Josh Hanfling • The Haji Family • Azim and Nazira Hassam • Moez Jadavji • Shiraz Jaffer • Aliya and Aleem Kabani • Salim and Munira Kara • Shahida Kassam • Mansur Khandani • Nadine Khoury • The Lalani family • Anil Ladha • Zaheer and Salma Lakhani • Shellina and Shaheen Lilani • Dr D A Lobb • Tracy Lochaden • Anil and Asifa Mawani • Farida Mawji • Emma and John McManus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilshad Meghani • Shiraz and Anar Merali • Mohamed Moledina, Hasni Suleman and Light Hearted Fundraising Event • Brady Mallett • Salim and Alama Murani • Amin Murji • Al-karim and Bashir Nathoo and family • Gregorio Oberti • Cristina Oberti • Dr Tashi Osman • Dipak Panchal • Herta Park • Evan Pearson • Mai Pearson • Blair Penner • Tee Perkins • Alzin Pradhan • Abdul Remtulla • Nizar Somji • Hasni Suleman • Mr and Mrs Suterwalla • Parin and Zahir Teja • Taslim Tharani • Aalia Thobani • Julia Tsampalieros • Yolande Tsampalieros • Sadru Valji • Naznin Adatia Virani • Moez Virani • Jane and Michael Virro • Femida Visnani • Marc and Ashley Wade • Nadir Walji • Ron Wahid • Mabs and Azmina Yusuf
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