



Wakadogo Annual Review 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021

Dear friends of Wakadogo,

Uganda and Wakadogo School is now in its second year of school closures. Uganda was ranked among the top 20 countries with the highest number of days of full school closures with only a brief period of 3 months of reopening between March and June 2021 of only some classes.

To ensure continuity of learning during the pandemic, Wakadogo has conducted 17,736 face-to-face home-schooling lessons to 944 students (510 girls/434 boys) both from Wakadogo and the wider community since September 2020. We are so proud of this accomplishment as we are one of the first and only non-governmental organisations doing this kind of education outreach. It has also allowed us to more than double our reach from 450 students to over 940 students!



The Musgrave Health Centre has also remained open to ensure that students and the community can still access treatment for other serious health conditions such as malaria and to support with the prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

Overview of Wakadogo

Wakadogo School is a nursery and primary school in a village called Acoyo, 8 kilometres outside of Gulu town in northern Uganda, which was heavily impacted by the atrocities committed by the rebel group, the [Lord's Resistance Army](#), until 2006. Our vision is to educate a new generation of children in northern Uganda by providing quality education that they need to shape a prosperous future for themselves. Wakadogo's mission is to create a safe, stimulating environment for the intellectual, creative, and physical development of the children of Acholiland.

Wakadogo School opened in 2009 and between September 2020-August 2021, we reached 944 (510 girls/434 boys) through our home-schooling programme and employed 35 people from the local community. We provided food packages during the peak of the first strict lockdown (Sept-Dec 2020) and provided home-learning kits to 448 children to ensure they can access curriculum and content at home. These learning kits included pens, pencils, crayons, exercise books, counter books and mathematical sets, readers and printed home learning packages developed by the Ministry of Education.

Home-schooling program

Wakadogo has received special permission from the Resident City Commissioner for our teachers to go door-to-door to teach children in nearby villages around Wakadogo School. Each child receives at least 3 hours of home-schooling per week and is given homework for the rest of the week. The teachers are reaching on average 18 households per day. This home-schooling approach ensures teachers continue to engage and interact with their students, provide assignments and, importantly, provide timely feedback. It also complements the low- or no-tech modalities (like TV, radio, SMS and printed learning materials) used in Uganda due to lack of electricity, internet and devices. Wakadogo is also exploring viable and contextually appropriate edtech options. We also plan to hire 4 more teachers to reach more students and increase the amount of time they are taught per week.

Our Primary 7 students wrote their final Primary Learning Exams in March 2021. They all passed their exams and have qualified to go to secondary schools once they re-open, we are so proud of them!

Impact of COVID-19

Behind every school is a safe child, a learning child. When schools close, children are at risk, with marginalized ones paying a heavier price. The economic impact of COVID-19 has hit the poorer families harder, putting vulnerable women and girls at greater risk of child marriage, sexual exploitation and abuse, and pregnancy. A UNICEF report stated that between March 2020 and June 2021, there was a 22.5 per cent increase in pregnancy among girls aged 10-24 seeking first antenatal care from 80,653 to 98,810¹. Being confined at home also has psychosocial impacts and can increase the risk of violence including gender-based violence, which disproportionately affected women and girls during the Ebola epidemic. In addition, approximately 2 out of every 10 children had less than a meal a day as they no longer had access to the meals provided under the school feeding programmes. We hope to provide more food packages in the coming months to ensure that no child is learning at home on an empty stomach. In August 2021, 20 of our teachers received their first COVID-19 vaccination, it is our sincere hope that the vaccination campaign in Uganda and indeed globally will help ensure that schools can reopen safely as soon as possible.

Musgrave Health Centre

The Musgrave Health Centre was opened on the school premises to ensure that children do not miss school because of common diseases like malaria. It was expanded into a standalone facility in March 2017 to serve the wider community in addition to Wakadogo School students and staff. Musgrave Health Centre has a catchment area of five villages including Rom where the facility is located, Ariya, Koch, Pudyek and Okeyomero. The facility comprises of a team of five including: a clinician, an enrolled midwife, a laboratory assistant, a vaccinator and a cleaner. The facility offers the following services:

- General medical check-ups
- Minor surgeries
- Laboratory services
- Family Planning services
- Antenatal services
- Post Natal services
- Immunization
- Dental services
- Health education
- Guidance and counselling

We have however seen a reduction in patients due to the pandemic as people are afraid to move around and large outreach initiatives that we did previously are not permitted due to COVID-19. In addition, the community assumes because school is closed that the clinic is closed. We are exploring all options to continue to promote our clinic within the

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/uganda/press-releases/prioritize-re-opening-schools-secure-childrens-well-being>

community. Currently, a team member from the Health Team joins the teachers to make home visits to ensure that our student health and wellbeing is being supported. Since 2017, we have treated 16,018 patients out of which 9,184 were students. Between September 2020 and August 2021, the health center treated 4,633 patients, of which 735 were students.

Global Financial Accounts 2019/20

We received our global **2019/20 financial accounts (Year Ended Aug 31, 2020)**. Our income for the year was CAD \$212,072. This includes CAD\$28,656 contribution from parents and caregivers of students at Wakadogo School – which significantly reduced in 2020 due to school closures from March 2020. Our expenditure was CAD \$144,013, a reduction of 16% from 2019 as we provided fewer school meals and fewer classroom and teaching materials were needed due to the closure. Medical expenses however increased due to the increase in staffing and activities at the Musgrave Health Centre.



Thank you so much for your support

We couldn't do this without you and thanks to you, 944 children in northern Uganda have been able to access quality health care and education despite the devastating pandemic and school closures. Thank you to each and every one of you for your amazing support and for ensuring that children in northern Uganda can continue to access education.

With our very best wishes,

The Wakadogo family

We want to say a special thank you to our most generous supporters:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous donors (9) • Peter & Christine Baltussen • Community Initiatives Program, Alberta Culture & Tourism • Sam Dennis • The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation • Katie George and Mark Cann • Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kampala, Uganda • Colin Hamilton • Zemina Hasham • Harvard Business School, Class of 2018, Section E • Estelle Imbert • Madatali & Dolatkhanu Keshwani & Family • Nina Hirji Kheraj & Naguib Kheraj • Kings' Dubai School • Hafiz & Neeta Lalani • In memory of Robert Louis • Fahreen & Josh Maguire • Al & Dee McIntosh • Stephen Mallaghan • Catherine Matson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Messick • The Musgrave Family • Catherine Nadeau • Anwar Nusseibeh • Tasneem & Naveed Osman • Herta Park • Kris & Munira Ramji & Family • The Robson • John Cumming Ross Limited • Rotary Club of Edmonton South • Toiny de Ruijter • Rossana Sabino • Timothy & Tanya Spangler • The Still Family • The Tsampalieros Family • Nino & Shirley Virga • Naznin Virani & Family • The Wade Family • The Walmley Foundation • Yvonne Moynihan & Ed Walsh • Bernard Walsh • The Wheeler Family Foundation |
|---|--|