

# **GM 48- A BETTER KADONGO**

## **PROJECT REPORT**

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the construction team and I worked together towards renovating two out of four classes of the classroom block together with the outside veranda. This included removing the old damaged floors, levelling them out as well as cementing them to give them a flat and smooth surface. The walls of the classrooms were also smoothened with sand paper and later painted together with the exterior ones.

The whole process of refurbishing the classrooms has been a worthwhile experience made possible by the collaboration of all parties involved where my former high school provided the equipment (hoes, wheelbarrow, jerry cans, pick axe and spade) at no cost as well introduced me to the team I worked with during construction.

All in all, doing this project has enabled me to reach out and improve areas of my community –something I always dreamt of achieving but not at this age. The whole process has continued to show me the importance of being aware of the pressing negative issues on our societies and working towards making finding a solution. Now more than ever do I feel very motivated to work towards making many more projects as these and I really appreciate you- Colin, Jill and Ann for having entrusted me and provided me with the means to make a difference in community.

Thank you.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

On my very first visit to Kadongo Primary School back in 2013, what struck me first was the willingness and ambition the students had when we went there to teach them mathematics despite the poor conditions they were placed to study in. It is now that I realise that just the thought of me writing this project report having successfully completed the project ‘A BETTER KADONGO’ makes me feel like I have not only accomplished one of the greatest things I have ever set out to do but also worked towards making my community a better place.

I remember coming home from UWC Adriatic at the end of May being very excited about when I would start the project but also very anxious or rather nervous of what the outcome would be and whether it would be satisfactory.

Nonetheless, I made an arrangement with the headmistress as to when I could meet her so that we could start with the planning process. Two weeks into June, we had successfully come up with a budget which contrary to the one I had put in my project proposal, only two classrooms would be fully renovated –out of the four on the whole classroom block. We had also contacted the contractors that would do the construction bit and the painter with whom I would work to finish up the whole renovation process.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, the students were reallocated to another room and the desks were moved out of the classrooms. The construction materials (which included: lake sand, pit sand, stone aggregates and cement) were purchased and we were set to the start the following day – Saturday. On Saturday, the team started with removing the old cement with the pick axe so we could level up the ground/floors in both classrooms and the outside veranda. The next two weeks passed as we worked to cement the floors as well as filling up cracks in the walls both inside and outside the classroom.

The construction part went faster than we had expected and by the end of June, all that was left was painting. We started painting right after the cement/floor dried and hardened which was after three days and by 5<sup>th</sup> July, the students were ready to finally move back in. I remember that Friday morning, I happily strode into the compound of the school as the feeling -that I had started feeling when I started to see some improvement- peaked. As a way to celebrate, I bought a bag of maize flour and sugar which with the help of the school staff, we cooked porridge and served to the 700 students, and the teaching and non-teaching staff for breakfast that morning.

I got to interact with the students mostly in that last week after the renovation was complete and the happiness they showed made me feel contented as well as hearing about their big future aspirations despite their conditions made me yearn to continue doing such project if I ever get the chance to as I continue to work towards my aim in life which is to work hard to provide that quality education for all that I can.

The excitement and smiles on the faces of the children as they entered back into their classrooms were priceless. I am really grateful for having been offered the GoMAD funds

with which I was able to do something which I believe can be used by many more students in the forthcoming years too.

In the last week of the project, I was able to organise some students from my former high school to come and teach maths at Kadongo and saw this as an opportunity to tell them how I was in their position a few years ago as well as remind them to take advantage of any opportunity that would arise and reach out to the less privileged like the students they were tutoring. My gratitude extends towards my former high school -Gayaza High School who allowed the high school students to come and also freely provided all the construction equipment that was used during renovation including a wheelbarrow, pick axe, spade, jerry cans and hoes and this enabled me to cut on costs and buy more construction materials. The progress of the project was also posted on the school website (<http://www.gayazahs.sc.ug/>) and this publicized it and one of the positive feedbacks I received was the parents from the high school offering to fundraise funds towards the completion of the remaining two classes on the classroom block. This was like the best news I received. I felt proud for being a pioneer at the renovation of Kadongo because this morale boosted more people to contribute towards improving the environment in which those children study. Currently, funds are being raised by the school administration and renovation of the second half of the block would begin as soon as the target funds are reached.

If I were to do the project again, I think I would put into consideration providing stationery to some students within the budget means that would facilitate them throughout the rest of the academic year.

The money I was awarded was spent towards purchasing the construction materials, materials for painting, paying the labour and buying maize flour we used to make porridge for the school and I kept the receipts whenever I could for accountability purposes. The table below shows the cost of all the items in approximated U.S dollars.

Rate: 1 USD = 3690 UG. SHS

MATERIALS	QUANTITY	COST (U.S dollars)
Cement	25 bags	8.13 per bag
Lake sand	2 trips	40.7 per trip
Stone aggregates	2 trips	40.7 per trip
Pit sand	1 trip	27.1
Assorted nails	-	2.71
Bricks	500 pieces	27.1
Plaster sand	1 trip	67.75
For painting	ALL	170.7
Labour		379.4
Maize flour	50 Kg	24.9
Sugar	10 Kg	7.05
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1072.76</b>

**THANK YOU!**



