



Tusome
AFRICA

End of 2020 newsletter

DEAR READER

As we draw to the close of 2020, we look back at this year which has presented significant challenges not just to us as an organisation but to the global education community and we are grateful to be able to stand tall and proud. We take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights of this year as we usher in 2021 full of hope and vigour.

RE-IMAGINING AND RE-DESIGNING OUR PROGRAMMES

Faced with the unprecedented times, we have had to critically think of how best we can continue to offer support to the communities we work with while remaining true to the organisation's vision and mission. Our programmes have diversified to offer not only institution-based support but also community support as we navigate remote learning challenges in rural Uganda. We have taken significant steps in **enhancing our support for teachers, strengthening early childhood education and in reviewing our assessment programme.**



OUR FOCUS DURING AND POST-PANDEMIC

ASSESSMENTS

In reviewing our focus programme areas post-pandemic, we believe that assessment of learning loss is a critical priority as we reprioritise our support for rural schools. We believe that the first step for schools is to assess learning loss and then to invest in systems that continue to identify students' learning needs and strategies to get students not only back to pre-pandemic levels but to levels, they ought to have been at if the pandemic had not happened. We believe that learning gaps need to be prioritised.

Read more:

<https://www.tusomeafrica.org/blog/a-tale-of-four-students-in-a-pandemic>

SUPPORTING TEACHERS

Despite the challenges of the year, we are happy to announce that we have established the first-ever teacher resource repository in Iganga District. The centre will provide a safe space where teachers across the district, the examiners and the quality assurance team could access reference material, joint working space, computers and internet services. This space will not only support the assessment programme but will also serve as a centre for the teachers' continuous professional development with access to online courses, workshops, and have an opportunity to interact and learn from peers as well as tutors from the local teachers training college.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

We continue to push forward in building foundations for all future learning through quality Early Childhood Education Programmes. This year we have held two training sessions for Early Years Teachers exploring the learning framework and seeking to strengthen the delivery of learning at this very crucial stage. We have also signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SOGEA SATOM under the ISSA programme to establish three brand new early childhood education centres in Iganga District. We kick off the new year with this programme set to start in January.



OUR PARTNERS

We are grateful to all our partners and funders who have stood with us throughout this year. It was a difficult year but your faith and belief in our vision, as well as your continued support, has kept us going. Special thanks to;

- The Souter Charitable Trust for awarding us a grant at the beginning of the year in support of our work.
- Book Aid International; from whom we received nearly 2,000 books in support of our literacy activities.
- SOGEA SATOM: for the commitment to refurbish three Early Childhood Education Centres.

We would also like to express heartfelt gratitude to individuals who have gone out of their way to continually support our work throughout this year. Your regular gifts and donations to Tusome Africa have made sure that we have lived to serve another day and that many children have a shot at a quality education. Thank you!

To our staff, our volunteers, our Trustees in the UK and the Board in Uganda, thank you for your dedication and commitment to the vision and mission of Tusome Africa. We have come through a year that was filled with both challenges and victories. How reassuring it is to know that we can count on all of you regardless of what faces us! Thank you!

LOOKING TO 2021

This pandemic has brought to light many challenges, but at the same time, it has brought us opportunities to look at the way we've always done things and re-evaluate. Our staff has remained committed and continued to serve even amidst the uncertainties. Although travel has been restricted, teams have found ways to serve, planning and meeting online and finding ways to work around any obstacles the pandemic has brought.

We are keeping the lights on and we depend on your continued support. Consider supporting us, by donating directly or participating in the charity events planned next year.

<https://www.tusomeafrica.org/how-to-donate>

May your 2021 be extraordinary!

Stay in Touch

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