



Greetings and a Merry Christmas from TUSOME.

As the final days of 2019 draw to a close, we are taking a moment to appreciate the selfless efforts made by TUSOME's staff, volunteers, trustees, partners and supporters. A great deal of our work, and the achievements we have had this year, could not have been possible without you. For the teachers, we are grateful for your continued dedication, this year has not been short of challenges but you have embraced your role with goodwill and done your best to provide the best education for the children we support.

2019 Highlights

In 2019 we came together, we acted together, we supported education and made incredible milestones .

It has been a great year for our *literacy enhancement programme*. We have recently refurbished the library at Nakalama Primary School and, with the help of the children, arranged it to make it fit for use and easily accessible. This brings the total number of libraries completed this year to 8! We are very proud of this achievement and share this with each and every one of you.



The transformation journey at Nakalama Primary School



Pupils help carry books at Bunalwenyi Primary School

In September, we distributed over 2,000 books to all the 10 schools we support in Iganga and Bugweri Districts in partnership with BookAid International. This brings the number of books given out this year to 4,000.



8 new libraries and reading corners!



We have achieved 15% of our target of 1 book 1 child in 10 schools.



60 % of our intervention schools are running debates, chess and book clubs independently.



All head teachers from our intervention schools trained on leadership skills.

Co-investment in project activities

When working with the school communities, we take an approach that encourages the school management to co-invest in projects, no matter how small their contribution may seem. This ensures that that we promote buy-in and ownership of the project but also ensures that the project is sustained long after we are gone.

We wish to recognise the co-investor of the schools project, Canon Ibula Primary School. We were given one room to refurbish as a library. The room was on a dilapidated block that was in dire need of a facelift.



New look of the classroom block at Canon Ibula Primary School

As we worked on transforming the room into a library, Ms Margret Mabangi, headteacher at the school, went the extra mile to provide shelves for the library and gave the rest of the block the much-needed upgrade. The school is now a proud owner of a library, a staff room and a newly painted classroom block.

It is initiatives like this that promote lasting change and encourage sustained self-development efforts.

The making of literacy and numeracy champions

Our Literacy and Numeracy programme is built on placing ownership of the project on pupil and teacher champions, by equipping them through mentorship to run and manage the library. This means that the pupils undergo instruction on library management and then in turn train younger pupils under a mentorship programme so they can continue with the activities without loss of momentum or creating a vacuum in librarianship. This year, Primary Seven pupils had to pass the mantle of leadership to their Primary Six peers. It was exciting to see the 'graduation ceremony' and to watch them pass on their knowledge to the next group of champions.

We also worked with pupils to rearrange libraries in different schools, as part of their training on library management. Working with the pupils to sort out the books by subjects and ability turned out to be a fun activity.



Cathy of TUSOME works with teacher Ivan and pupils at Bunalwenyi Primary to sort out books



P7 pupils pass on their chess knowledge to juniors at Canon Ibula Primary School

SHOUT OUT TO: Teachers: Eddie (Bishop Willis Demonstration School), **Enock** (Canon Ibula Primary School), **Sarah** (Nakalama Primary School) **and Ivan** (Bunalwenyi Primary School) for their dedication throughout the process.

Headteachers workshop



The workshop in progress

Providing visionary leadership is perhaps the most important skill of all in championing change. Skilled leaders provide vision, direction and inspiration. It is important also for change champions to be well informed about the issues, the opportunities, and this is what we embarked on doing with our 10 headteachers this quarter. We gathered together for a workshop where we engaged in hearty discussions of change within the schools. The discussions centred around transforming learning by enhancing teacher skills and behaviour.

The workshop held on 20th November 2019 was facilitated by Ms Rosalind Hancell from Reach to Teach, a charity that has been delivering school-based change programmes in India. The session was very successful and the headteachers made a commitment to work on one key area in their respective schools that they believed needed change. We can't wait to see the changes they will come up with.

Walking into 2020

October and November 2019 have involved a series of planning and strategy meetings as we get ready to hit the ground running in 2020. Following consultations with teachers, headteachers, the District Education Office and approval from our board, we are happy to say we have a solid plan for 2020 in place. We are looking to strengthen our ties and programmes in our schools to ensure that we have solid ground for sustainable impact as we think of growing and expanding our reach. We are also looking to 2020 as the year when we roll out two of our major programmes on Early Childhood Education and systemised regular school assessments.



Team TUSOME and the District Education Officials pose for a photo after the planning meeting.

Crowning the year

Join Tusome Africa in the
#ChristmasPotChallenge
and spread the holiday cheer!

We have put out three pots for primary school children in Eastern Uganda. Help us fill each pot with Christmas goodies and educational material that will improve a child's life.

Will you chip in now and be the joy bringer this Christmas?

Yes, I'll chip in a pair of shoes: £7
Yes, I'll chip in a mathematical set: £5
Yes, I'll chip in a set of board games: £11
Yes, I'll chip in a school bag: £15

To donate: <https://www.tusomeafrica.org/how-to-donate>
Mobile Money: 0752 899599

Share your donation stories #ChristmasPotChallenge
For more information: www.tusomeafrica.org

Will you help us crown 2019 with a Christmas gift in support of our educational initiatives in Uganda? We have set out three pots in the #ChristmasPotChallenge and we would be thrilled to have you help us fill them and spread the Christmas cheer. Follow this link to donate <https://www.tusomeafrica.org/donate>.

Finally, thank you to all our sponsors, partners, supporters and chief cheer leaders for a great year! We wish you a merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year! We have amazing plans for 2020 and we would like you to join us in making 2020 a pivotal year at Tusome Africa.