



The Kiryowa Community Development Initiative *Effecting Positive Community Change through Education*

ABOUT KIRYOWA

Kiryowa is an impoverished village community located 15 minutes outside of Jinja, Uganda with weak public health and education infrastructure. Seventy percent of the population lives in extreme poverty (less than \$1/day) and cannot meet the basic needs for food, water, shelter, sanitation and health care. More than half of the village population is under the age of 15. There are no other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working or providing financial support to development initiatives in Kiryowa – and as such, the community has been highly receptive to GIVE International's presence there.

After extensive assessment by GIVE International, which evaluated the immediate and long-term needs of the village, it was determined that the construction of a suitable primary school structure would serve as an important first-step in helping to lift the community out of poverty. This decision was made with the knowledge that three vital aspects in the successful delivery of education were already established: (1) teachers and school administrators in Kiryowa have their salaries paid by the Government of Uganda's Education Ministry; (2) student tuition is subsidized by the Government's Universal Primary Education (UPE) program; and (3) the Government-approved primary school curriculum was already being rolled-out at the former primary school structure in Kiryowa by qualified teachers.

Working collaboratively, Kiryowa residents came together and handed over two-acres of demarcated land to GIVE International, which has since been designated as the new primary school site (replacing the pre-existing dilapidated and undersized primary school structure that previously occupied the land).

ABOUT THE KIRYOWA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

GIVE International has been facilitating and implementing The Kiryowa Community Development Initiative (KCDI) since December 2011. The project aims to be a driving force in empowering children and youth in Kiryowa to achieve positive change via education. Providing the highest return of any social investment in the developing world, education is the best way to empower people with the tools and knowledge they need to promote and protect their rights and to become productive and healthy citizens.

Through school infrastructure development and by creating an environment where children in Kiryowa are given a fresh-start to build their futures, The KCDI is knocking down the barriers children currently face when accessing their right to an education. These barriers include: a lack of adequate school infrastructure for teachers and students, a risk of low attendance due to poor health, and a scarcity of water & sanitation facilities available to students.

Since its inception, the project has seen the construction of three new classrooms, three lined pit-latrine sanitation facilities, a 10,000 litre rainwater-harvesting tank, an administrative office, two teacher houses, and a schoolyard playground to better meet the needs of the children in Kiryowa. Additionally, several other community development initiatives (all of which are described on the following pages) have been executed simultaneously to bring together comprehensive solutions for improved well-being of the village residents. It is expected that all of these efforts combined will result in an increase in primary school enrollment and attendance, better school performance, and improved overall family health.



A SNAPSHOT OF GIVE'S WORK IN KIRYOWA SO FAR

Construction of 3 Classrooms:

To create a safe and healthy learning environment for the school's 85 students, while also increasing the available space for future student enrollment at The Kiryowa School, GIVE constructed three new classrooms and also equipped the classrooms with desks and chairs. Each classroom was designed to align with standards determined by the Ministry of Education. It is expected that these new learning facilities will encourage and empower more students to enroll in school, while providing a platform to succeed in the classroom. A fourth classroom will be constructed in July 2014.

Construction of Teacher Houses and an Administrative Office:

The construction of the two teacher houses has made it feasible for trained teachers to live conveniently in the village, ensuring that they can maintain a consistent classroom schedule and effectively deliver the primary school curriculum. In the past, teachers had to travel great distances to reach the school, which resulted in late arrivals and/or high levels of absenteeism. The new administrative office is providing teachers with a functional space to plan their day-to-day curriculum, as well as evaluate student work.

Construction of Toilet Stalls for the School:

To contribute to reducing the student to pit-latrines ratio and bring it closer to the recommended ratio of 30:1 down from 85:1, three toilet stalls were constructed at The Kiryowa School. The presence of these latrines within the school setting will make certain that there is a central, safe, and convenient setting for the collection of human waste. In addition, the toilet stalls will further contribute to the well-being of primary-level girls because the facilities will provide much needed privacy. Throughout a girl's school-cycle from ages 9 to 16, she will manage about 450 days of menstruation. As such, young girls, particularly after puberty, are less likely to attend school if they lack adequate sanitation. By simply providing adequate toilets, GIVE International will positively contribute to limiting the number of school days young girls are forced to miss.

Construction and Installation of a 10,000 litre Rainwater-Harvesting Tank:

Installed in February 2014, the 10,000 litre rainwater-harvesting tank is being used to collect and store rainwater runoff, which will be used for hand-washing (keeping students and teachers healthy) and for agricultural production (nourishing the school's vegetable garden).

Provision of a Playground, Sports and Recreation Activities:

To encourage holistic social and physical development both inside and outside of the classroom, GIVE International has supported the provision of sporting-equipment (soccer balls), recreation supplies (toys, skipping ropes), and musical instruments (drums) at The Kiryowa School. The construction of a playground was also successfully completed in February 2013. Combined, these provisions have created a more positive school environment, while providing children with tools to develop life-skills and healthy lifestyles.

Mobile Health Clinics:

To date, GIVE International has coordinated six mobile health clinics in Kiryowa. Staffed by doctors, lab technicians, nurses and other health professionals and supported by GIVE's volunteers, the clinics provide free and accessible clinical evaluations, as well as the distribution of essential medications for families who cannot otherwise afford health services. To date, 2,400 village residents have been served through GIVE's mobile health program.

School Breakfast feedings:

GIVE International has been running breakfast feeding programs throughout Jinja for almost nine years. Kiryowa now serves as the primary-site for school breakfast feedings, ensuring that the students attending The Kiryowa School have access to a meal before they enter the classroom. The Breakfast Feeding Program combats hunger, while improving a child's capacity to learn. In addition, it provides incentive for families to send their children to school, while students focus on their studies, rather than their stomachs.

Family Kit Distributions:

Working in partnership with teachers and community elders, GIVE has (and will continue) to identify the most impoverished homes in the Kiryowa community. These identified homes then become the recipients of "Family Kits". Designed to be a tool for improved health and wellness, a Family Kit includes: a treated mosquito-net, a mattress, a blanket, a water container, soap, and cooking pots. It should be noted that children in Kiryowa become infected with malaria between 2 to 5 times each year – weakening their ability to get an education and preventing their parents from being able to engage in income-generating activities. The mosquito-net that accompanies each Family Kit can protect five children for up to five years. To date, GIVE has distributed over 300 Family Kits in Kiryowa.

School Kit Distributions:

In Uganda, primary school education is free – but the country's under-funded education system does not provide *school supplies* for the students. Consequently, the poorest children are often unable to attend school because they do not have the proper books, paper, or writing instruments. To remedy this situation and to make sure that no child in Kiryowa misses out on the opportunity to attend school due to a lack of resources, GIVE has supported the distribution of 120 school kits (to-date). Each kit has a backpack, exercise booklets, pens, pencils, erasers, pencil crayons, colouring books, a math set, and a ruler.

Teacher-Training Program:

To provide teachers from the Kiryowa community with opportunities for professional development, GIVE is partnering with qualified Canadian teachers in the delivery of a teacher-training program. The program will provide a positive environment for cross-cultural collaboration between teachers, as well as opportunities for Ugandan teachers to employ new practices in the classroom. GIVE's assessment has revealed that Ugandan students are passive participants in the learning process, as they are rarely given the opportunity to explore, observe, and experiment. GIVE's cross-cultural teacher-training program will explore "competence-based education" and stimulate innovative thinking and critical problem-solving.

Classroom Furnishings:

As mentioned previously, each new classroom at The Kiryowa School has now been furnished with high-quality and locally-designed desks and accompanying benches. Each desk seats 3 children and is made with mahogany wood and steel bars – and provides a functional learning space for students.

PHOTOS OF THE PROJECT IN ACTION



Former primary school structure



New classrooms being constructed in January 2012



New classrooms being painted



Front view of the new classrooms



A GIVE volunteer constructing classroom desks



Another hardworking GIVE volunteer constructing desks



Desk construction accomplished!



Students making use of their new desks



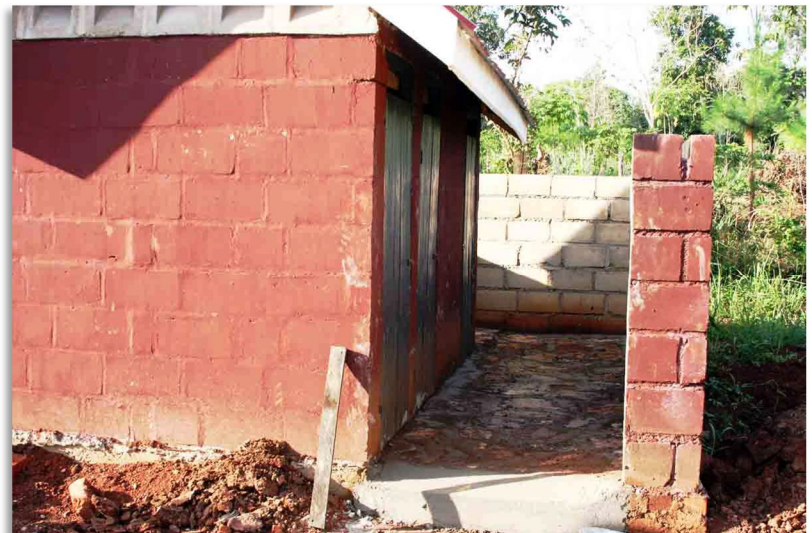
School breakfast feeding underway



Students wearing their school kit backpacks



3 new pit-latrines constructed



Pit-latrines completed and painted



Students enjoying their new skipping rope during recess



Students making use of new playground



Exterior view of teacher housing



Front view of teacher housing



Teacher housing floor



Inside one of the teacher houses



Happy students in front of the teacher housing



A young mobile clinic patient during a malaria lab test



Mobile clinic laboratory and testing centre



Mobile clinic "triage" site



A qualified GIVE volunteer administering a lab test



Mobile clinic pharmacy ready for business!



3rd classroom under construction in January 2014



Windows being installed in the 3rd classroom



New classrooms in use!



Exterior view of the completed classrooms & installation of downspouts for the new rainwater-harvesting tank



Newly constructed and installed 10,000 litre rainwater-harvesting tank



No longer needed, the former school structure collapsed in January 2014.