

EDUCATION REPORT

2023



Bukulula Action for Children and Young People Uganda
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Annual Report 2023

Introduction:

The activities and effects of our education program for the year 2023 are compiled in this report. Making sure every child in our community has the chance to learn, grow, and realise their full potential has remained at the forefront of our unshakeable dedication. This was accomplished by using a multifaceted strategy centred on supplying necessary resources, encouraging holistic development through training in life skills and mentoring, and advancing high-quality learning practices through thorough evaluation and research.

Our education aim is to:

Enable vulnerable children and young people access quality, equitable, affordable, inclusive and sustainable education

Our Program Objectives:

1. Enhance Educational Equity and Access:

To ensure that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have access to essential resources necessary for effective learning. ACYP aims to eliminate barriers to education.

- Measurable Outcome-1: Increase the number of students receiving school supplies, uniforms, and scholarships by 10%.
- Measurable Outcome-2: Reduce the reported financial burden on poverty stricken families related to school expenses, as indicated by feedback surveys.



2. Promote Holistic Student Development:

To equip students with essential life skills and provide supportive mentorship to foster their personal growth, resilience, and overall well-being. ACYP aims to equip students with the necessary skills and guidance to navigate challenges, build resilience, and achieve their full potential beyond academic learning.

- Measurable Outcome-1: Increase student participation in after-school and weekend mentorship programs by 15% in 2023
- Measurable Outcome-2: Improve student self-reported levels of confidence, communication skills, and problem-solving abilities, as measured through pre- and post-program surveys.

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3. Advance the Quality and Effectiveness of Educational Practices:

To utilize assessment data and research findings to continuously improve teaching methodologies and learning outcomes. This helps to improve the quality and effectiveness of our educational practices through data-driven insights and research.

- Measurable Outcome-2: Demonstrate a measurable improvement in student performance in key academic areas, as indicated by assessment data, following the implementation of research-informed strategies of 2022/23
- Measurable Outcome-3: Implement a specific number of recommendations derived from educational research initiatives into program activities and teaching practices

Key Achievements:

1. Ensuring Access and Equity through Essential Resources:



- **Activities:**

- **School Supplies Distribution:**

105 children were successfully given necessary school materials. Textbooks, notebooks, pens, pencils, and other stationery supplies essential to their academic achievement were among these materials. By making these tools available, we hope to remove obstacles to education and establish a setting where all kids can succeed academically. To guarantee that every child received the right materials for their grade level and courses, the distribution procedure was meticulously overseen.

This program had a significant impact since it gave the kids the resources they required and increased their self-esteem and desire to learn. Because students were more prepared and excited about their studies, teachers reported more participation and engagement in class. For kids from low-income families who might not have otherwise been able to buy these essential school supplies, this assistance was especially important. Furthermore, the availability of these resources contributed to the standardisation of the educational process, guaranteeing that every student had equal access to high-quality instruction.

- **Uniform Provision:**

Supplied 12 pupils with school uniforms, reducing the financial strain on low-income families and promoting equality and a sense of community among the pupils. All students should feel equal and a member of the school community, and uniforms are essential to fostering this atmosphere. To lessen stigmatisation and foster a healthy school culture, we made sure that every child got the appropriate uniform.

Additionally, the uniform distribution helped families by relieving them of the financial strain of buying school supplies. Parents were appreciative of this



assistance, pointing out that it freed up their meagre funds for other necessities. Additionally, as students were more inclined to attend school consistently when they felt confident and at ease with their look, the uniforms helped to increase attendance rates. Since the children took delight in keeping their uniforms clean, the program also assisted in instilling in them a feeling of responsibility and discipline.

- **School Fees:**

We covered 25 students' tuition in 2023, relieving financial strain on low-income families and allowing for continuous education. This assistance was essential for low-income families because it allowed their kids to complete their education without worrying about getting kicked out for not paying their tuition. Our goal in paying these expenses was to give the students security and stability so they could concentrate on their studies.

The community was also impacted by the payment of school fees since it inspired parents to place a higher priority on education and make investments in their kids' future. Instructors noted that because they realised the importance of the chance they had been given, students who received this support were more driven and committed to their studies. This program improved the academic performance of the school as a whole in addition to helping the individual kids. Additionally, it strengthened ties and fostered trust between the community and the schools.

- **Tuition and Scholarships:**

In 2023, two students benefited from our tuition and scholarship programs, which provided access to higher education. These initiatives were created to support students who showed promise academically but were unable to afford high-quality education. We sought to develop their abilities and support



them in achieving their academic objectives by offering tuition aid and scholarships.

The academic success and personal development of the pupils demonstrated the influence of these initiatives. Numerous students who received scholarships and tuition aid performed exceptionally well in school, receiving honours and high grades. Because they understood how important it was to take use of the possibilities that were given to them, the kids who received this help also developed a feeling of duty and ambition. The success stories of these students acted as inspiration for their peers, motivating them to strive for perfection. Furthermore, the scholarships contributed to the development of an academic excellence culture in the schools.

- **School Meals:**

Our school meals program helped 114 kids in 2023 by meeting their dietary needs and improving their concentration and learning skills. Since cognitive development and academic achievement depend on proper nutrition, our program sought to guarantee that each child ate a healthy, balanced lunch during the school day. Our goal in offering these meals was to establish a favourable learning atmosphere where kids could focus on their studies without being distracted by hunger.

Because it encouraged wholesome eating practices and enhanced general wellbeing, the school meal program also had wider societal advantages. Parents were relieved and appreciative of the assistance, stating that it reduced their financial strain and guaranteed their kids a healthy diet. Instructors noted that students who took part in the program performed better academically and had more energy and focus, underscoring the need of meeting nutritional needs in educational assistance programs. Additionally,



the approach improved total school attendance and decreased absenteeism.

- **Sanitary Pads:**

In 2023, 130 girls received sanitary pads from our organisation, which improved hygiene and decreased absenteeism. Adolescent girls' health and wellbeing depend on having access to sanitary pads because they enable them to comfortably and dignifiedly manage their menstrual cycles. We wanted to make sure that no girl missed school because she couldn't get sanitary supplies, so we provided these necessities.

The girls' self-esteem and confidence were positively impacted by the sanitary pad distribution as well. During their menstrual periods, many girls reported feeling more at ease and secure, which improved their general wellbeing and academic achievement. By dispelling taboos and encouraging candid conversations about menstrual health, this program also gave the girls support and information. The program also included educational workshops on managing menstrual hygiene, which improved the girls' knowledge and habits even more.

- **Impact:**

When basic resources were made available, the financial burden on low-income families was greatly lessened, students were better prepared for school, and vulnerable children had more access to education. Student participation and attendance showed a discernible improvement, according to feedback from families and schools.



2. Fostering Holistic Development through Mentorship and Life Skills Training:

Activities:

o After-School Mentorship Program:

Eight students were successfully paired with committed community volunteers to serve as mentors. Mentors acted as constructive role models and offered academic support and direction. Strong relationships between mentors and mentees were developed by regular meetings and activities. These initiatives were created to give children extra help and guidance outside of the typical school day. We wanted to support their academic success, job goals, and personal development by matching them with seasoned mentors.

The mentorship programs addressed a variety of subjects, such as career advising, academic assistance, and personal growth. Students were given the chance to participate in insightful conversations, get tailored guidance, and acquire useful skills. In order to help the students, overcome obstacles and make wise decisions for their future, the mentors were extremely important. The pupils' enhanced self-esteem, drive, and academic success demonstrated the beneficial effects of these activities. Additionally, the mentorship aided in the development of solid networks and partnerships that would help the students in their future ambitions.

o Weekend Life Skills Training Workshops:

Held a number of interesting weekend programs that covered important life skills. 21 pupils of all ages participated in these workshops. The goal of these training sessions was to help the students acquire useful abilities that they could apply in both their personal and professional life. Communication, teamwork, problem-solving, financial literacy, emotional intelligence, and leadership were among the subjects covered.



Students were able to actively participate and practise the skills they were learning thanks to the dynamic and captivating life skills training sessions. The overwhelming majority of participants gave good feedback, with many saying that the program changed their lives. Additionally, teachers and parents observed changes in the students' conduct, self-assurance, and situational management skills. We wanted to set up the young people for success in their future aspirations by giving them these vital abilities. To improve the learning process, the training also featured role-playing exercises and real-world scenarios.

- **Impact:**

Participating kids' academic achievement, self-confidence, and social-emotional well-being all improved as a result of the mentorship program's priceless assistance and direction. Training in life skills gave students the information and useful tools they needed to face obstacles in the future and make wise choices.

3. Promoting Quality and Evidence-Based Learning through Assessment and Research:

Activities:

- **Monitoring Academic Progress:**

We used extensive monitoring systems in 2023 to keep tabs on every assisted student's academic progress. To make sure that our assistance resulted in measurable learning outcomes, this method included frequent evaluations, feedback meetings, and data analysis. We sought to pinpoint areas for development and offer focused solutions by closely observing the kids' performance.



We were also able to acknowledge the children's efforts and celebrate their accomplishments thanks to the monitoring system. In order to help the students stay on course and meet their academic objectives, teachers and mentors were essential in offering advice and comments. We were able to make well-informed judgements and keep improving our programs thanks to the insightful data gathered by the monitoring system about the success of our assistance activities. In order to provide prompt and efficient support, the system also assisted in identifying and resolving any difficulties or obstacles that the students encountered.

- **Impact:**

Our program's emphasis on research and assessment has promoted a culture of ongoing development. More focused interventions and improved teaching methods have resulted from data-driven decision-making, which has eventually improved student learning outcomes and made the educational system more efficient.

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

Even though 2023 was a great year, there were certain obstacles we had to overcome, such as the growing need for resources, the issue of finding mentors in particular fields, and the logistical difficulties of setting up seminars. These difficulties offered priceless teaching moments, emphasising the necessity of fortifying alliances, broadening hiring tactics, and optimising logistical procedures.

Looking Ahead to 2024:

Building on the achievements and knowledge gained in 2023, we will concentrate on increasing resource mobilisation in 2024 to provide vulnerable children with the means to attend school. Additionally, the mentorship

program's reach will be increased, new life skills training modules will be created, and research findings will be further integrated into practice. We are certain that our ongoing efforts will result in a better future for the youth in our community, and we are steadfast in our commitment to our objective of giving every kid the chance to learn and flourish.

Acknowledgements:

For their steadfast support and dedication to our educational program, we sincerely thank our committed volunteers, mentors, partner organisations, and kind contributors. The favourable results outlined in this report were made possible in large part by their contributions.

Conclusion:

For children in our neighbourhood, the 2023 education program has achieved great progress in guaranteeing access to education, encouraging holistic development, and advancing high-quality teaching methods. We continue to be committed to our goal of using education to empower future generations, and we are pleased of the great impact we have made.

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