

EDUCATION REPORT

2024



Bukulula Action for Children and Young People Uganda
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Annual Report 2024

Introduction:

This report summarizes the activities and impact of our education program throughout the year 2024. Our unwavering commitment remained focused on ensuring every child in our community has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and reach their full potential. This was achieved through a multi-faceted approach centered on providing essential resources, fostering holistic development through mentorship and life skills training, and promoting quality learning practices through rigorous assessment and research.

Our education aim is to:

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

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 15% compared to the previous year.
- 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 20%.
- 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.
- 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:**

Successfully distributed essential school supplies to 78. These materials included textbooks, notebooks, pens, pencils, and other stationery items necessary for their academic success. By providing these resources, we aimed to eliminate barriers to learning and create an environment where every child could thrive academically. The distribution process was carefully managed to ensure that each child received the appropriate materials for their grade level and subjects.

The impact of this initiative was profound, as it not only equipped the children with the tools they needed but also boosted their confidence and motivation to learn. Teachers reported improved engagement and participation in class, as students were better prepared and more enthusiastic about their studies. This support was particularly crucial for children from low-income families who might otherwise struggle to afford these basic educational supplies. Additionally, the provision of these materials helped to standardize the learning experience, ensuring that all students had equal access to quality education.

- **Uniform Provision:**

Provided school uniforms to 4 students, alleviating the financial burden on poor families and fostering a sense of belonging and equality among students. Uniforms play a vital role in creating a cohesive and inclusive school environment, where all students feel equal and part of a community. By ensuring that every child had a proper uniform, we aimed to reduce stigmatization and promote a positive school culture.

The distribution of uniforms also had practical benefits, as it relieved families from the financial burden of purchasing school attire. Parents expressed gratitude for this support, noting that it allowed them to allocate their limited resources to other essential needs. Additionally, the uniforms contributed to



improved attendance rates, as children were more likely to attend school regularly when they felt comfortable and confident in their appearance. The initiative also helped to instill a sense of discipline and responsibility among the students, as they took pride in maintaining their uniforms.

- **School Fees:**

In 2024, we paid school fees for 20 students, alleviating financial pressures on poor families and enabling uninterrupted education. This support was crucial for families facing economic hardships, as it ensured that their children could continue their studies without the fear of being excluded due to unpaid fees. By covering these costs, we aimed to provide stability and security for the students, allowing them to focus on their academic pursuits.

The payment of school fees also had a ripple effect on the community, as it encouraged parents to prioritize education and invest in their children's future. Teachers reported that students who received this support were more motivated and dedicated to their studies, as they understood the value of the opportunity they had been given. This initiative not only benefited the individual students but also contributed to the overall improvement of the school's academic performance. Furthermore, it helped to build trust and strengthen relationships between the schools and the community.

- **Tuition and Scholarships:**

Our tuition and scholarship programs supported 2 students in 2024, opening doors to higher education opportunities. These programs were designed to assist students who demonstrated academic potential but faced financial barriers to accessing quality education. By providing tuition assistance and scholarships, we aimed to nurture their talents and help them achieve their educational goals.

The impact of these programs was evident in the students' academic achievements and personal growth. Many recipients of tuition assistance and



scholarships excelled in their studies, earning top grades and accolades. This support also instilled a sense of responsibility and ambition in the students, as they recognized the importance of making the most of the opportunities provided to them. The success stories of these students served as inspiration for their peers, encouraging them to strive for excellence. Additionally, the scholarships helped to create a culture of academic excellence within the schools.

- **School Meals:**

In 2024, our school meals program benefited 120 children, addressing their nutritional needs and enhancing their ability to focus and learn. Proper nutrition is essential for cognitive development and academic performance, and our program aimed to ensure that every child received a balanced and nutritious meal during school hours. By providing these meals, we aimed to create a conducive learning environment where children could concentrate on their studies without the distraction of hunger.

The school meals program also had broader social benefits, as it promoted healthy eating habits and improved overall well-being. Parents expressed relief and gratitude for this support, noting that it eased their financial burden and ensured their children were well-fed. Teachers reported that students who participated in the program showed improved concentration, energy levels, and academic performance, highlighting the importance of addressing nutritional needs in educational support initiatives. The program also helped to reduce absenteeism and improve overall school attendance.

- **Sanitary Pads:**

Our organization supplied sanitary pads to 200 girls in 2024, promoting hygiene and reducing absenteeism. Access to sanitary pads is crucial for the health and well-being of adolescent girls, as it allows them to manage their menstrual cycles with dignity and comfort. By providing these essential items, we aimed to ensure that no girl missed school due to lack of access to sanitary products.



The distribution of sanitary pads also had a positive impact on the girls' confidence and self-esteem. Many girls reported feeling more comfortable and secure during their menstrual cycles, which contributed to their overall well-being and academic performance. This initiative also helped to break down taboos and promote open discussions about menstrual health, empowering the girls with knowledge and support. Additionally, the program included educational sessions on menstrual hygiene management, further enhancing the girls' understanding and practices.

- **Impact:**

The provision of essential resources significantly reduced financial strain on poor families, improved student preparedness for learning, and increased access to education for vulnerable children. Feedback from schools and families indicated a noticeable positive impact on student engagement and attendance.

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

Activities:

- **After-School Mentorship Program:**

Successfully matched 14 students with dedicated volunteer mentors from the community. Mentors provided academic support, guidance, and served as positive role models. Regular meetings and activities fostered strong mentor-mentee relationships. These programs were designed to provide students with additional support and mentorship outside of regular school hours. By connecting them with experienced mentors, we aimed to foster personal growth, academic excellence, and career aspirations.

The mentorship programs covered a wide range of topics, including academic tutoring, career counselling, and personal development. Students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, receive personalized advice,



and develop valuable skills. The mentors played a crucial role in guiding the students, helping them navigate challenges and make informed decisions about their future. The positive impact of these programs was evident in the students' increased confidence, motivation, and academic achievements. The mentorship also helped to build strong relationships and networks that could support the students in their future endeavours.

- **Weekend Life Skills Training Workshops:**

Conducted a series of engaging weekend workshops covering crucial life skills. These workshops reached 30 students across different age groups. These training sessions focused on developing practical skills that would benefit the students in their personal and professional lives. Topics included communication, teamwork, problem-solving, financial literacy, emotional intelligence and leadership.

The life skills training sessions were interactive and engaging, allowing students to actively participate and practice the skills they were learning. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing that the training had a transformative impact on their lives. Teachers and parents also noted improvements in the students' behavior, confidence, and ability to handle various situations. By equipping the youths with these essential skills, we aimed to prepare them for success in their future endeavours. The training also included real-life scenarios and role-playing activities to enhance the learning experience.

- **Impact:**

The mentorship program provided invaluable support and guidance, leading to improved academic performance, increased self-confidence, and enhanced social-emotional well-being among participating students. Life skills training empowered students with practical tools and knowledge to navigate future challenges and make informed decisions.



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

Activities:

- **Monitoring Academic Progress:**

In 2024, we utilized comprehensive monitoring systems to track the academic progress of all supported students. This system involved regular assessments, feedback sessions, and data analysis to ensure that our support translated into tangible educational outcomes. By closely monitoring the students' performance, we aimed to identify areas of improvement and provide targeted interventions.

The monitoring system also allowed us to celebrate the achievements of the students and recognize their hard work. Teachers and mentors played a crucial role in providing feedback and guidance, helping the students stay on track and achieve their academic goals. The data collected through the monitoring system provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of our support initiatives, allowing us to make informed decisions and continuously improve our programs. Additionally, the system helped to identify and address any challenges or barriers that the students faced, ensuring timely and effective support.

- **Teacher Professional Development:**

Conducted 0 professional development workshops for teachers focusing on evidence-based teaching methodologies, differentiated instruction, and effective assessment techniques.

- **Educational Research Initiatives:**

Undertook 1 research projects to explore the challenges of classroom based challenges affecting teachers' implementation of Competence-Based Curriculum learning within our local educational context.



<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/389797701>. Findings from these initiatives informed program development and implementation.

- **Impact:**

The focus on assessment and research has fostered a culture of continuous improvement within our program. Data-driven decision-making has led to more targeted interventions and enhanced teaching practices, ultimately contributing to improved student learning outcomes and a more effective education system.

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

While 2024 was a successful year, we encountered certain challenges, including increased demand for resources, difficulty recruiting mentors in specific areas, logistical complexities in organizing workshops. These challenges provided valuable learning opportunities, highlighting the need for strengthening partnerships, diversifying recruitment strategies, streamlining logistical processes.

Looking Ahead to 2025:

Building upon the successes and lessons learned in 2024, our focus for 2025 will be on expanding mobilisation of resources for enabling vulnerable children have resources to attend school. Also expanding the reach of the mentorship program, developing new life skills training modules, further integrating research findings into practice. We remain committed to our mission of empowering every child with the opportunity to learn and thrive, and we are confident that our continued efforts will create a brighter future for the young people in our community.

Acknowledgements:

We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, mentors, partner organizations, and generous donors for their unwavering support and



commitment to our education program. Their contributions were instrumental in achieving the positive outcomes highlighted in this report.

Conclusion:

The 2024 education program has made significant strides in ensuring access to education, fostering holistic development, and promoting quality learning practices for children in our community. We are proud of the positive impact we have made and remain dedicated to our mission of empowering future generations through education.

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