



JANGU e.V.

Updates From Uganda 2013

In April I went again to Uganda for a month and want to give you a report and update about the wonderful things that are happening.



Not only did I visit many of our sponsored children, payed their school fees directly to the schools and provided the necessary school supplies, I also went to investigate more about the Ugandan educational system for my Master Thesis of the course “Peace, Development, Security and International Conflict Transformation”. I visited alternative initiatives such as Montessori schools and youth centres, where the students have more freedoms to explore their talents than in the regular schools.

Updates From our educational sponsorships

The best news first! All of our now over 50 children and young adults that we sponsor are doing very well. Two girls went on after their O-Levels and got married. One also had a baby. We congratulate them and wish their young families all the best.

Two O-Levels graduates decided not to join A-Levels but to go for practical trainings to be able to sustain themselves for the future.

The Ugandan telecommunications has improved a lot and new possibilities arise. Now it is possible at some schools to pay the school fees via “mobile money” through the phone. Especially for school in remote locations this brings a big advantage.

Support in our Jangu Team

Brian und Consolate are two of our oldest young adults that we sponsor. We have accompanied them throughout their high school years and in November they will sit their Advanced Levels exams.

The Ugandan government has set the rules that high school graduates need to wait for one year before they get their results that are needed to start university. So, both of them will have a year of break before they can continue their studies. We will provide computer training courses for both so that basic skills are mastered. These are needed for any university course.



Starting from December both will join our Jangu team and support us actively. Since they have gone through the whole school system and our sponsorship programme, they know best what problems the other kids might face, what their needs are and how to help them. They will be highly trusted, since they are considered their brothers and sisters and both are highly motivated and happy to be given the opportunity to help one another. They already have many ideas on how to improve the sponsorship programme. We will cover their full expenses and are very happy to have them as an important part of our team.

You are very welcome Brian and Conso!

The Ugandan educational system and a shared dream



Since our first sponsored “kids” that are now already of age and sitting their A-levels exams in November we are facing the challenge of what will come next.

The educational system in Uganda is not great, even the UN identified it as one of the worst in the world. Kids are beaten regularly, hardly allowed to ask questions and never taught to think critically or for themselves. They become experts in memorizing and recalling but if they need to apply knowledge they usually struggle a lot.

The job market in Uganda looks terrible at the moment. Even University graduates have trouble finding jobs because they just hardly exist. Only about 5% of the Ugandan population has a regular job on a five day a week basis. All the others do small and irregular jobs to survive or are subsistent farmers (about 68%).

So after their graduation students are expected to come up with creative ideas and become job makers and not job seekers. However, if you have been trained for 13 years to follow what other people told you to do, it becomes difficult to start a business or project on your own and

so many times high school graduates are highly unemployed and need to survive on unskilled jobs, for which they did not really need any education at all.

The kids that we sponsor, together with other people that all grew up in the Kankobe Children's Home have been starting to organize themselves to be able to help and coordinate each other. They meet regularly. The children's home was founded in the 80s and so it is estimated that about 3000 kids have been living in the orphanage at some point up till now. Out of the 3000 they were able to find about 150 of them and found out that only about five have a regular job and are able to support orphans themselves.

So the group saw the need to do something in order to give the children, after they leave the orphanage, a better chance in order to create a circle where grown up-orphans can themselves support orphans. The group is now in the process of registration for a NGO and I met with them a few times and we developed a shared dream.

I had the idea of creating an alternative secondary school in Uganda before arriving but before I could tell the group about my idea, they told me that their solution to how they can provide a better future for the kids leaving the orphanage is to construct a technical and practical school.

Unfortunately the prestige of the already existing technical schools in Uganda is very low and stereotyped as being for the drop outs and "stupid kids".



I remembered a project based school I visited during my Peace Education course at University for Peace in Costa Rica where we saw how the children and young adults were learning through making projects and trying their ideas. Mistakes and even failure are valuable lessons to be learned on the way to success and need to be made. Practical skills are learned through self motivation and the teacher becomes a facilitator and not a figure to fear.

Together we developed a dream to start a project based school in Uganda. I will use my Master Thesis for the theoretical framework, how and why the Ugandan educational system is failing and how a role model school in a project based learning style could bring about the needed change. Even the Ugandan government recognized, that technical and vocational schools are needed but how to raise their prestige and enrolment they have not yet any idea about. We want to work on an example how this could look like.

We will engage on the journey to write project proposals to the German government, the European Union, companies and Foundations as well as crowdfunding , private donors and anything that could contribute to the to the estimated € 100.000 we need to make the dream come true.

Any support, contacts and encouragement is highly appreciated. We will keep you updated about the progress.

Many greetings,

President Jangu e.V.
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www.jangu.org

