



# Rukundo **SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**Mission:** *To empower Kabale, Uganda's most vulnerable populations through educational and economic opportunities that create pathways to self-sustaining communities.*

**Vision:** *A Uganda where all children reach their full potential.*

## **Rukundo Preparatory School (Flagship Program)**



**Overview:** The school's mission is *"to create world-changers through the power of high-quality education, love in action, and humble service."*

The first stage of Rukundo Preparatory School – Rukundo Nursery School – opened its doors on February 5th, 2018. The decision to focus on nursery school students was made to impact these children through early intervention. Our nursery school consists of three classes: 1. Baby Class (3 yo), 2. Middle Class (4 yo), and 3. Top Class (5 yo). In 2019, we added a Primary section with a P1 (1<sup>st</sup> grade) class, and the P2 class was added in 2020.

Our school focuses on small class sizes, high quality curriculum, and engaging instruction from the best teachers. We have two small gardens that help to offer two nutritious meals per day.

**Staffing:** The school has a head teacher (manager), and six additional teachers. Our school support staff includes four cleaners, a gatekeeper, a guard, and three cooks.

**Funding:** The school budget is supported by our monthly recurring donors and school fees paid by some students (which equal less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the annual budget).

**Plan:** Our plan is to expand our school by one grade level each calendar year, enrolling a new 3-year-old nursery school class of 30 students each year, and progressively graduating our top level to the next grade level until we reach P7 (7<sup>th</sup> grade). As soon as funds allow, we need to add a boarding section and busing service.



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## Community Center Programs

**Overview:** Going beyond the school's primary focus, we want to impact the entire community by using the school grounds as a community center for weekly children's events, health clinics, women's empowerment groups and more. We desire to build community support and buy-in for our flagship program, RI Preparatory School. Two of the programs are highlighted below.

### **Community Programs for Children/Teens: Amaani G'abato (The Power of Kids) Macy's Vocational Training Center**



**Overview:** Amaani G'abato, launched in early 2018, has grown to 100+ children attending each week. The program is open to any child in the community who is of primary (elementary) school age. Our staff engage the children each Sunday afternoon to play games, receive an educational lesson, receive social support, and have a safe place to discuss concerns. We provide a meal to each child to close out the program.

In 2019, we expanded this program to include vocational training for older youth, ages 12-20. By introducing entrepreneurial skills, we can help create self-sustaining adults, which leads to an economically stable community. The training center offers classes in Information Technology and Arts and Crafts. The computer center also connects existing partners in the U.S. with our participants in Uganda through SKYPE and pen pal, to foster cross-cultural learning and relationships.

**Staffing:** The teachers from the school volunteered to staff and run the AG program for a small stipend. The vocational center is staffed by two part-time trainers.

**Funding:** The AG program is also funded by our recurring donors. 2020 funding for the Vocational Center was provided by Macy's. We are seeking a grantor to support the vocational training program for 2021.

**Plan:** We plan to increase our support to the community as funds and resources allow.





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## Community Center Program for Adults: Women's Agricultural Cooperative



**Overview:** In October, 2018, RI secured a piece of land and built a structure for growing the oyster mushroom. The extra income from the mushrooms help 22 women to provide basic necessities for their families and pay school fees for their children. The profits and mushrooms from the project are split equally between the women's group and Rukundo's school, helping to sustain school operations and provide nutritious meals for our students and the community.

In October 2019, we launched our goat project by providing a female goat to each of the members. Goats are a reliable source of supplementary income and improved nutrition by providing manure to gardens, which is essential in this almost exclusively agricultural community. Goats are advantageous because they require low initial investment and inputs, have rapid reproduction rates, and are easy to maintain, able to thrive on readily available vegetation.

When each gifted goat bears its kids, the recipient is required to gift a total of two of those goats back to RI. The sale of the first round of goats will provide financing for the monitoring and supplies needed, making this program fully sustainable. RI will give the second round of goats to other women in the community, repeating the cycle of giving. Subsequent kids remain the property of the recipient, and the recipient will graduate to full autonomy from the program with full ownership of her goats after the goat bears seven kids: two donated for the program upkeep and five to keep.

**Staffing:** Agricultural experts, including a veterinarian, monitor this program bimonthly.

**Funding:** The mushroom and goat projects should be self-sustaining within two years.

**Plan:** Once the first co-op is running successfully, we plan to launch another women's group.



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## Other Programs

While in the process of raising capital to open our flagship program, Rukundo International Preparatory School, we began two other programs that have been extremely successful – the Scholars Program and the Girls Empowerment Program. These programs are shining examples of ways we empower the community through educational and economic opportunities. They are highlighted below.

## Scholars Program



**Overview:** The Scholars Program provides scholarships to high-performing students from rural areas who would otherwise be unable to continue their education, due to financial hardships. Under the direction of our social worker, this program strives to meet the educational, physical, social, and emotional needs of our students. Our Scholars are required to attend holiday retreats, where they receive additional training, mentorship, and guidance. In addition, Scholars are required to complete at least one student-led community service project per year, to foster and encourage community involvement. Their educational progress is closely monitored, and healthy home environments are encouraged by assisting caregivers. Supplemental care is provided on a case-by-case basis for additional needs such as school supplies, medical care, etc. We currently have 56 children supported through this program.



**Staffing:** We have a full time Scholars Program Coordinator, and full time Counselor.

**Funding:** The Scholars each have dedicated funding from one or more "sponsors" per child.

**Plan:** In order to demonstrate progress/growth at the local level, we add 1-2 students per calendar year.



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## Girls Empowerment Program (GEP)



**Overview:** The Girls Empowerment Program (GEP) trains coaches to deliver an activity-based curriculum that uses soccer language and analogies to promote healthy, responsible behaviors among Ugandan youth, ages 10-19. The program focuses on reproductive health, life skills, HIV prevention, and unplanned pregnancy and STD prevention. Using the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize students, participants are urged to share what they have learned in their peer groups, families, and communities to help stop the spread of HIV.

Financial literacy training and a student-led entrepreneurial activity is incorporated into the program, so that the girls can begin to learn good financial practices early. They are given a small microloan and are involved in choosing their own entrepreneurship activities.

The program is currently impacting hundreds of girls in seven rural Ugandan primary schools in Kabale. We have partnered with the District Education Office to have this curriculum built into the school curriculum once per week for all P6 (sixth grade) students.

**Staffing:** Molly (a teacher at a local primary school) and Babrah (RI employee) regularly monitor each participating school and the coaches who facilitate the program (two paid teachers in each school).

**Funding:** The entire program budget is covered by a yearly grant from the Women's Microfinance Initiative in Bethesda, MD. They plan to continue their support.

**Plan:** We plan to eventually expand this program to every school in the District. We have two U.S.-based team members working on analyzing the data for possible grants.