



Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

Katumba Parents' Humanist Primary School Report of School Director, Juma Irumba Siriwayo July 2024



Message to UHST supporters from Juma Irumba Siriwayo, School Director...

I am very pleased to share with you this report and to inform you that Katumba Humanist School's Board, staff, children, parents and the entire community are delighted with the continuous exciting achievements we continue to exhibit as a modern school in our remote rural community. This has only been possible because of the tremendous support that we have received from UHST supporters.



The Katumba community is proud of our new look school, which is the smartest in our District. The new buildings create an

environment which is conducive to learning. Our children and teachers look forward to coming to learn and work in our school each day.

There have been substantial improvements in academic performance and children's welfare due to the regular monthly financial support we receive from UHST. We are also very thankful to Humanist Aid Sweden for providing funds which enable us to educate 86 children, many of them single orphans, from particularly needy families who cannot afford to pay full school fees.



Children in our Reading for Pleasure Club

There has been a significant improvement in reading ability due to the big increase in the supply of books. Our Reading for Pleasure Programme, a unique feature of the Humanist schools, has become a game changer. Also, by downloading resources from the Rachel online repository we have had access many more e-books, information and videos. The recently donated Riso printer has enabled us to print multiple copies of materials so that no child goes without them.

As reading ability has accelerated it has enabled us to promote confidence in speaking in public in English.

A recent donation has enabled our Humanist Club to buy a public address system. This is invaluable for school debates and community events and campaigns.



Children with the new PA system



Humanist Club members collected firewood to help a disabled member of the community



Katumba Humanist Club organised a charity walk to raise money for food for an old lady living alone



Humanist Club members carried water to old lady with mobility problems

Our children and teachers have participated in football and netball competitions. In a recent football match our teachers narrowly beat Primary 7 children 1:0 in a nail biting close football match. Our children are proud of their new sports uniforms, which would not have been possible without the help of UHST and other donors. We are undergoing serious preparations for both boys' and girls' netball and football teams to face off with Buhundu Primary School - though we are still seeking funds for refreshments, transport and facilitation to attend fixtures.



Katumba boys' football team



Katumba teachers' football team

The regular monthly support funds from UHST have helped us to cover school running costs. Paying salaries on time each month motivates our enthusiastic teachers who work tirelessly to ensure we have happy children who excel in academic performance.



Teachers meeting in our new staff room

Your support has enabled us to keep in school the 5 orphaned children of our late head teacher, Mr. Biiramulhume Wilson, who suffered an untimely death. All 5 children are doing well.

We participate in the Green Schools Project to promote climate awareness among our children. Ecological awareness is being integrated into both social studies and science.

Since UHST provided funds to allow us to have solar panels fitted with an inverter and battery storage and to buy 3 laptop computers and a data projector our students have been busy using the computer to enhance their learning and to develop skill using Office software.



We are delighted by the efforts of Ethical Society of St Louis members to raise money to provide packs of Afripads for our girls. These have improved girls' attendance in class and raised their confidence and overall academic achievement.



Girls pleased to have their Afripads

We are very hopeful that by 2026 we will be able to cover all our running costs from local fee income, hence becoming self-sustainable.

Remaining Needs

1. We would like to build a small **boarding house** with separate halves for boys and girls. This will enable us to accommodate some local children who are either complete orphans or whose home circumstances are particularly stressful. Families would also like us to offer boarding to children in Primary 7, in the run up to their Primary Leaving Examination. They feel that by not having to walk several hours each day to school they will have more time to study and better access to books and support from teaching staff.
2. Many of our teachers have only had two years of training after taking their O-level Certificate in Education exams. It is now a government aim to create an all graduate profession, which means our teachers will need to upgrade over time by taking Diplomas in Education and then B.Ed's. The cost of a further year's training for one teacher is £1,500. (Currently UHST is

funding the School Director to gain a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. He already has a first degree in Biological Sciences and an M.Sc. in Phytobiology – but without a PGDE he is not allowed to teach.)

2. We would like to secure **scholarships** to enable our best candidates to attend Kasese or other Humanist High Schools.
3. We would like to buy additional **land to create a playing field**.
4. We need to build a **perimeter wall** to ensure better security in the school.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Board of Directors, parents, children, teachers and the school community at large I would like to thank once again UHST supporters for always being there to rescue us when local fee income is insufficient to meet the costs of wages, firewood, food, water and electricity bills.

I thank you for your generous support and for being our great heroes.

*Juma Irumba Siriwayo, Managing Director,
Katumba Parents' Humanist Primary School,
PO Box 1119, Bundibugyo, Uganda*

Making a Donation

Details of how to donate to help Katumba and other Humanist schools are on our website: <https://ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/donate/>

For further information please contact: stevehurd@uhst.org (+44 (0) 7773 972601).