REPORT ON THE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT AT ST. JOSEPH SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

VVUMBA
In November 2014, Global Friends Foundation partnered with Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment to support the renovation of a four-classroom block at St Joseph Senior School Vvumba. The program is aimed at enhancing a better learning environment for the students. The four classroom block accommodated four classes with 240 students.

This report captures the progress of the construction from December 2014 to March 2015. The construction and renovation has been going for four months now. Completed activities include:

i. Conduct consultative meetings with the school management team and the sub county local leaders

ii. Conduct meeting with the school management team and Parents Teachers’ Association, Contracting the construction company

iii. Demolishing the wall between the two classes to create a main hall

iv. Removing the old plaster from the walls

v. Removing the old cement from the floors

vi. Building the walls to reach the roof

vii. Plastering the inside walls

viii. Changing the blackboards

ix. Cementing the inside classrooms

tax. Plastering the outside walls

xi. Demolishing the old cement for the verandas

xii. Making blackboards

Activities under progress include the following:

Construction of the block veranda

The veranda was in a poor state before in that the floor was destroyed. It also had no provision for students with disabilities. During the construction, the veranda was rebuilt with bricks, concrete stones and cement and smoothened for easy use and cleaning. Access points to the classrooms were built on the veranda and these included a stair case and access points for students with disabilities. These access points were constructed on both ends of the building for reasons for convenience.

The veranda behind the block was enlarged to give sitting space for students. Students utilize this space for revision during their optional subjects and conducting small group discussions.
Watering the cemented floors

During the construction, there was continuous watering of the floor in the morning and evenings by sprinkling water on the classroom floors and the block veranda. This was aimed at preventing it from cracking and strengthened it for use.

Putting window glasses

Putting window glasses ensured security for the block during the night, protection from harsh weather conditions like heavy rains and wind, but also most importantly controlled ventilation and aeration. All 20 window glasses were fitted in, this was done using pati substance and kerosene liquid. This process was very tasking as the initial window sizes were not standard measurement. Glasses had to be cut one by one, window slot per slot.

Electrical wiring of the building

The whole building was wired with electricity, lights both internal and external. Power sockets were installed in the main hall and all classes. This activity was aimed at creating opportunity for boarding students to study at night (prep classes), provide security lights to the school in the night and also support studying during dark rainy seasons. The power grid extension was picked from the initially renovated five classroom block.
Roughcasting the outside the building

The outside wall was rough casted using red oxide, cement, sand and water. This was applied on both the back and sides of the building block excluding the front. The mix of the red oxide not only gave the building beauty but also was the color standard for school. It also acts as protection for the walls since harsh weather conditions like heavy rains and students’ activities like touching, writing on it among others are inevitable.

Painting the block

This activity was aimed at providing beauty and building color standard formality for the school. The other element of the color was to support classrooms with adequate light and cleanliness. The inside walls were painted with soft white and skirted with gloss red oxide. The front of the building was painted with soft white and half way leveled skirted with gloss red oxide. The gloss red oxide was applied in classes to prevent cleaning routines from dirtying the wall and in the
block was mainly to prevent students activity from dirtying it. The doors were painted a dark grey color and the windows with a soft white.

![Painting the classroom block outside and inside](image1)

Students cleaning the new main hall after painting

**Beneficiaires say, “..........................”**

My name is Sylvia Namugenyi. I am 17 years old and in senior three. I am a day scholar. I stay in Vvumba village. My class senior three is using the school block. Before the renovation, the building had no cement and because of it, we were exposed to jiggers that not only made it uncomfortable for us in studying but also affected our self esteem since having jiggers is stigmatized in our society. With the well cemented floor now, jiggers have been dealt with and
The school has come out with the second best performing students (2) Kyankwanzi District in Uganda Advanced Certificate Examinations (Senior Six) with 16 points. Actually one of the students Muyanja Charles is an orphan who participated in the renovation of the first building and was the student who dearly welcomed and sung for the GFF team when it visited the school. He totally affiliates his success to not only the teachers but the improved study environment.

Muyanja giving a speech during the visit of GFF to the school in May 2014.

I am called Jovia Nazziwa. I am 16 years old and in senior three. I am in the boarding section. Before the renovation, you can imagine studying from a building whose doors or windows you could not differ since all were not closed up. It felt like we were studying from open space and not under a building. With the renovation of our classroom block, we feel very comfortable in our classes. St Joseph SSS Vumba is now one of the best looking and performing in Kyankwanzi district. Students from other schools admire our school because of the new look. I wasn’t to thank everyone who has made it possible for us to study in such a beautiful and safe environment. May the lord grant them blessings and long life.

16 year old Steven Ssekamate is a senior five student in day section. He says, “The building didn’t have plaster, it was a breeding place for pests like jiggers and lice. The un plastered wall also undermined our hygiene level. I am so happy to have to study from a cleaner and safer environment. I thank all the supporters of this work and I pray they also support other school who have poor studying environments”.

I am grateful to ARUWE and the partners for the successful and marvelous work of renovating this building for us. Most importantly, we now have a school main hall that we never had before. We believe also with the new space created we will be able to admit more students. The project is moving on well and I believe will be finished in time”, said Mr. Pintos, School secretary.
Students cleaning the compound in front of the renovated classroom to ensure a clean studying environment

**Handing over the building to the school**

This activity is awaiting a date which the school and ARUWE are working towards setting in consideration with the school time table. Preparations of the activity are underway and the students, teachers, parents, district and community leaders and education officers are eagerly waiting for it. We will be sending communication regarding the dates.

**Tracking changes**

ARUWE the school will design data capturing tools to track changes as a result of this project. Data to be captured include:

1. Increase in School enrollment  
2. School performance at senior four and senior six levels  
3. Teachers’ motivation  
4. Improvement in number of hours while studying are revising

**Compiled by:**

ARUWE team