



## Christmas letter 2021.

December 2021.

At first, I would like to thank everyone who gives "Obumu Nederland-Uganda" a warm heart and who supports our projects financially. Thanks to beautiful gifts in 2020 and 2021, we were able to offer/ help "Emergency Aid" within our two projects. You see the word "Emergency Aid" because the corona pandemic has also had an impact on our two projects in Uganda.

How has the pandemic affected the people of Uganda?

After the turmoil surrounding the presidential election in January 2020, Covid-19 is having a major impact on people's lives in Uganda. Due to the lock-down in March 2020, all schools and universities were closed, there was no public transport, trade was not possible, has hit the population hard. Some relaxations have now been implemented, but Primary- and Secondary schools are still closed. Working online or getting an education at home was recommended, but in practice this is impossible. Due to the failure of the ministry of education to provide material and due to the cost high of internet.

Social facilities are not known in Uganda. Private schools that include our two projects receive no support at all. The closure of schools since March 2020 means a sharp increase in teenage pregnancies and more domestic violence. HIV/AIDS is on the rise this is due to the sharp rise in prostitution to provide food and make ends meet. You see many more children begging or at work. Teachers have to do all kinds of odd jobs or take other jobs to survive, or drag their families through the unpaid periods of the lockdown.

Less than 2.8% of the approximately 45 million inhabitants are vaccinated.

A major concern is that a significant proportion of students will not return once schools reopen. In addition, many people lost their jobs due to corona, which means that people are often unable or poorly able to provide for their basic necessities. There is hunger. Costs for medical care and/or school fees are becoming a major problem.

There was a small highlight:

During the first three months of 2021, the top class of primary and secondary schools was allowed to open to prepare for their final exams. The schools continued to be closed. An almost impossible job, because all those other months of teaching turned out to be impossible.



Kalungu: examen nakijken.



St. Charles: enkele examen leerlingen.

At the secondary RSCJ boarding school in Kalungu, the students of the graduating class and teachers worked hard and the majority passed at various levels at the end of March.

The St. Charles primary school was converted into a boarding school. Parents brought mattresses, girls slept separately from boys and there was hard learning from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week. Here too, all 20 pupils passed at the end of March.

However, after these three months, a new general lock-down was announced until an indefinite period of time. Don't be alarmed, the opening for education at all levels has been postponed again today as I write this until January 10, 2022. The reason for this is that the president wants more people to be vaccinated first. Heartbreaking!

How has the pandemic affected the work of the Obumu Nederland – Uganda Foundation?

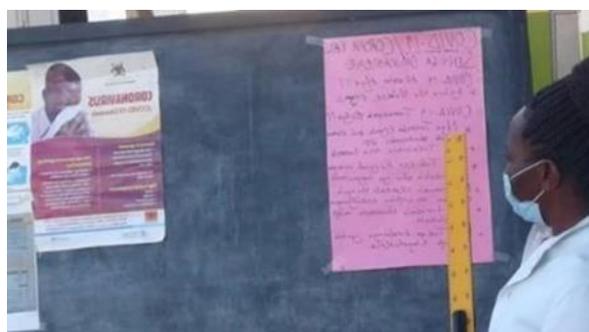
Due to the frequent contact with the sisters in Kalungu and the school board of the nursery and primary school St. Charles, in addition with our Ugandan advisors we have changed our plans. Many project activities were postponed or could only take place on a smaller scale. Making progress with the building construction in this situation did not seem appropriate to us. That is why a plan for corona emergency aid was immediately set up at the beginning of 2020.

In consultation with the sisters, the RSCJ secondary school in Kalungu opted to continue expanding the teaching packages for the students. In this way as many students as possible in the neighbourhood would be reached and stimulated to continue with study assignments at home. That is why we were able to transfer €2000, -- to the sisters in Kalungu, partly thanks to the donations in 2020 and 2021. Education at a good level is so important! Thank you again on behalf of the sisters in Kalungu for this opportunity!

The situation at and around St. Charles Kindergarten and Primary School is very different. The school is located in a small community deep in the South. Poverty, malnutrition, lack of protective equipment, limited information about infectious diseases and hygiene within the community demanded priority here.

From the start of the lock-down, the school itself took the initiative to distribute water under supervision to those who needed it, thanks to the groundwater supply at school.

- Through our Emergency Fund we were able to offer the school the opportunity to protect the population there by providing information and producing prevention articles. A nurse was hired to teach the women of the "Woman Empowerment Project", then the mothers of the students and the rest of the village community, in groups at school about hygiene and the consequences of/prevention against diseases in schools, in general and of course Covid and its variants.
- Face masks and soap are made by a few women from the "Woman Empowerment Project", which are sold for a small fee. The educational project for women, a separate committee led by Mr. Octa Veldhuijzen-Wennekers.



Education



Liquid soap

- It also became possible for our foundation to buy a generator so that the school remains assured of electricity when the network goes down. Important for the functioning of the water pump, communication, security.
- To make the school more self-reliant with regard to food, the vegetable garden project was started in January 2020 and this project was given a new impulse this year.
- In addition to our vegetable garden project, thanks to the contact with SOS – Malta (Claudia Taylor), 21,280 kilos of corn flour are purchased to be distributed by the school in phases to the poorest families and teachers. It's great that worldwide contacts lead to collaboration. Especially now that the promised support from the government also with regard to food is difficult to reach the population.



Vegetable project.



Result, among other things, cabbage.

- In October this year we were able to make a donation to help them pay their monthly fixed costs. This concerns costs for electricity and security.
- There are already some private schools that are being sold because they can no longer afford the fixed costs. It is understood that we want to prevent this!

I certainly cannot fail to thank you all very much for your financial help, also on behalf of the school board of this nursery and primary school St. Charles Lwanga.

“Support comes like manna from heaven,” we are told.

How good are we here during this pandemic!

In 2022, when the schools open and emergency aid is no longer needed, we hope to be able to continue with the progress of our original projects:

- Progress of the construction of the nursery and primary school “St. Charles” in Kifukamisa.
- Progress within the “Woman Empowerment Project”.
- The addition/improvement of the teaching materials for the RSCJ Secondary School in Kalungu.

More information can be found on our website: <https://www.obumu.nl>

In order to continue to support our projects, donations, large or small, are most welcome at:

Obumu Netherlands – Uganda

Bank account: NL47RABO 0323995020

BIC: RABONL2U

I wish everyone, also on behalf of the other board members, a lot of reading pleasure, good health, Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

Hermine van Asten – Wennekers  
President

