



UPDATE JUNE 2021 |

Construction is Underway!

Despite Uganda entering a country-wide full lockdown due to Covid-19 this month, Create Foundation continues to make progress!

After much forward motion in 2020, despite the global pandemic, Create Foundation faced a great deal of setbacks and delays in the early months of this year. Due to Covid-19, many government offices in Uganda have been closed since April of 2020, with staff only working remotely, causing paperwork across all sectors to experience significant delays.

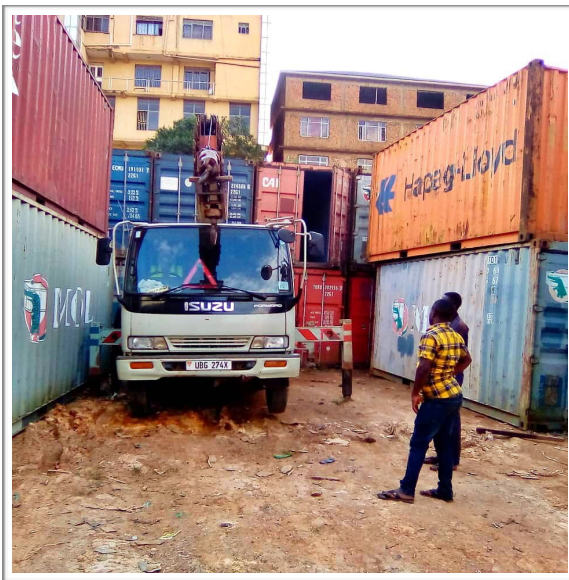
The pandemic also has brought about rapid and oftentimes, unprecedented changes in regulations and standards in various sectors, particularly in education and schools. We have been forced be patient and to roll with the punches, as there is not much else that can be done. Our team has worked tirelessly, amending contracts, plans and holding meetings to work through this process. The Ministry of Education has made significant changes in particular to standards for Secondary Schools and their

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campuses, with a focus on building structures providing students and staff adequate space to safely carry out activities. As such, our original architectural plans had to be modified to adhere to newly established standards. After much back and forth with our architectural team and the Ministry of Education & Ministry of Buildings, with of course, significant delays due to staff being out of office, meetings cancelled, etc., our updated building plans were approved!

After much delay, we were finally given the green light to proceed with construction of our classrooms!

On May 28, 2021, we began the first steps in building our classrooms! This started with purchasing a container to hold all building supplies and materials, and having this container transported to our land in Nateete Village, Nakasajja.



Progress of course, is always with its challenges! Due to Covid-19, here in Uganda we have had a strict curfew of 9pm since March of 2020. After many hours of moving and preparing the container for transportation, our team made their way to our location. After several more hours of driving from the city, it was getting late. As the transport truck made its way up our road to our land, there is a final hill, and as this truck was quite old (as most vehicles in Uganda are!) it had some trouble. As much as they tried, they could not get the truck carrying this heavy container up the hill to campus. The truck rolled back and couldn't handle the load. After many hours of trying, it was now approaching curfew and our team and the drivers had no choice but

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to spend the night in the middle of our open field under the stars, until it was safe to move in the morning. We of course, supplied our team and the drivers with tea and food for the evening, and had to deal with resolving the issue the next day.

The following morning, we hired another truck to tow the first one with the container up to the location. Shortly after 10 a.m. the mission was accomplished!

As per usual, the sweet children of the village came around to oversee the job! :)



In the following days, our construction crew began work on building our Askari house - a temporary sheet metal house where our Askaris (security guards) will stay, as construction materials need to be guarded 24/7.

Trucks were brought in with wood, sheet metal and supplies.

In the future, once our classrooms and the rest of the buildings are constructed, a security wall will be built around the entirety of the campus, and a proper, permanent Askari house will be constructed.



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Our team worked quickly, as the added pressure of the 9pm curfew cuts down the work day significantly. In just two days they constructed the house.

As required by law on all construction sites in Uganda, we also went to work on constructing a pit latrine for the construction crew. We employed a few men of our local village to carry out this task, employing them at a time where jobs are few, and the curfew has made it difficult for people in remote villages to commute to the city where most work is found.



After these tasks were complete, we had to have our land cleared once again. We previously employed people of local villages to come and clear the weeds and shrubs that had overgrown on the land, but then construction had come to a standstill. So once again, we employed these same people, now that we had the green light! (FYI- this is done by hand with machetes! No mowers!)

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Mid-month, our architectural team met with our surveyor and marked our land's perimeter for excavation. Trucks also began transporting in sand and stone which will be used for the building's foundation.



Though Uganda has managed to keep the number of cases of Covid-19 very low throughout the first year of the pandemic, cases have now began to soar due to a second wave of a new strain. Hospitals are full, and infection rate is now 17%. On June 18, 2021 President Museveni announced a 42-day full lockdown, which means all public and private transportation is suspended - only walking allowed. Schools, places of worship, bars, discos, sporting events, and cinemas are closed. Public gatherings are banned, markets are closed and a 7:00pm curfew is now imposed, country-wide.

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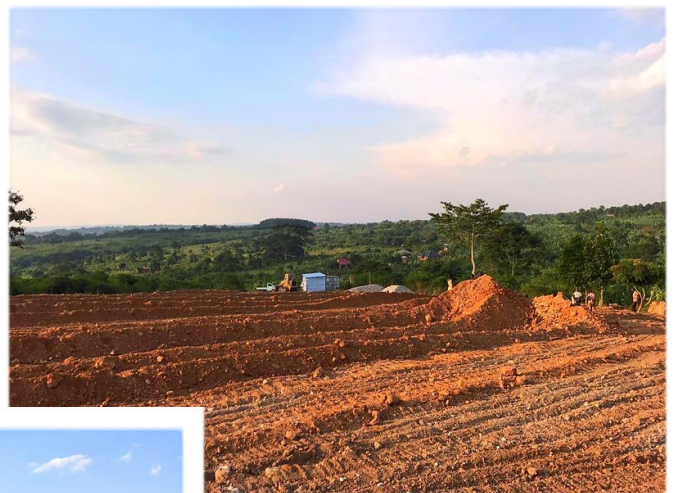
This timing isn't deal of course, but the health and safety of the people of Uganda are top priority. We hope we shall get through this difficult time and that all members of our team, staff, families and people of local communities stay safe and healthy.

Construction is permitted to continue at the moment, as it has been deemed "essential" by the President. However, transportation is still banned - unless in a transport/cargo vehicle, but only two passengers are allowed. If construction sites continue to operate, workers must sleep and remain at the site.

FORWARD MOTION - DESPITE LOCKDOWN

Amazing news!! Though we are in a 42 day full lockdown, we are making things happen! We are moving forward with construction of our classrooms, beginning with the excavation. This is all thanks to our Associate Director, who BIKED from Kampala to our site (13 MILES each way - a literal marathon!) each day to meet with the excavation company, surveyor and architects. We are so grateful for people so passionate and willing to go above and beyond for our vision, and making a difference in the lives of children in need!

Photos of the progress:



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OUR CLEAN WATER WELL UPDATE!

“Once you carry your own water, you will learn the value of every drop.”

Our Founder is permanently located in Uganda and has been spending a lot of time at our campus and gets to see first-hand our water well being put to use! The impact it has on the lives of people living locally has been life-changing, and it is heart warming to see. Especially now, with this second wave of Covid, giving people access to clean water not only for drinking, but for being able to wash their hands and practice good hygiene is so, so important!

These little children still have to walk quite a distance (about a mile!) after they fetch water to bring it home, and so our Founder offered to carry the water for them to give them a break. They may not look it, but those jerry cans are HEAVY! The medium sized ones are at least 20 lbs and you see tiny little children, sometimes even smaller than these ones, carrying them long distances. The kids got a kick out of the her carrying it for them and were giggling most of the way and snapping pics. But these are the moments we live for! These children right here will be one day getting a free education at our school, and we can't wait to see what the future has in store for them. Thank you to our generous donors who helped to make this possible, we are so grateful. #WaterIsLife



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We are so grateful to be moving forward with the construction of our school, despite the current situation in Uganda. Now more than ever, we know how important it is to continue our work! People were out of work for months during the first lockdown in Uganda last year. And unlike western countries, there were no stimulus checks, unemployment benefits or any other kind of assistance. In a country where most people are paid monthly, and live payment-to-payment, the lockdown was devastating.

And now, after people haven't even had the chance to recover from the financial stress of the first one, we are back in lockdown. The economic devastation may be worse than the illness itself. People, particularly from rural areas like the village we are working in, are suffering the most. They live on significantly less per month, and most travel to nearby trading centers or all the way into the city to work. But now with transportation banned, most businesses closing, and an even earlier curfew, working is almost impossible.

And children have been out of school for almost a full year now. Schools reopened momentarily - for less than two weeks, before the second lockdown was imposed. In Uganda, there is no "public schooling" system. If a child wants to attend school, they must pay tuition for each and every term. And for most families, the costs far exceed their income. And now, after months without receiving pay, whenever schools do open, even more children will be forced to drop out.

The situation is dire.

We are building this school for children in such situations. The majority of rural Uganda lives in poverty, on less than \$1.25 USD a day. Going months without income can mean life or death for many.

Unfortunately, schooling isn't always seen as an option, or even a priority, when it is a struggle to put food on the table. Our school will provide children who are victims of poverty the life-changing second chance to receive an education! Create Academy will give children in need a completely tuition-free education in an environment where they are encouraged, nurtured and respected.

We will never lose sight of our vision, and are so grateful to our supporters for helping us move forward, even in the most difficult of times. We are also so happy to be able to provide jobs to people in need during this time, which is allowing them to support and provide for their families and communities.

More updates coming soon!