

Website Requirements Information

A. Content & Branding Assets

1. All Text Content:

- About Us (Name, Mission, Vision, History)

Huruma Global Support Initiative Limited (HGSI) is a dynamic social enterprise committed to transforming lives in underserved communities. We are driven by the urgent need to combat poverty and champion equitable access to quality education, understanding these as foundational pillars for sustainable development. Our operations are deeply rooted in the principles of long-term sustainability and directly align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 4: Quality Education.

At HGSI, we believe in a holistic approach to community development. By strategically focusing on the economic empowerment of men and women, alongside dedicated efforts to enhance educational opportunities for all children—both boys and girls—we aim to break the cycle of poverty. Our initiatives are designed not just to provide immediate relief, but to cultivate economic resilience, nurture foundational literacy and critical thinking skills, and foster a generation equipped for a brighter future aligning with the global goals of ending poverty and promoting inclusive education for all ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a dignified and prosperous life.

Mission:

Our mission is to create a positive and lasting impact by equipping men, women and children with the resources, education, and opportunities necessary to break the cycle of poverty and build brighter futures.

Vision

Break the cycle of poverty and build brighter futures.

We envision a world where the cycle of poverty is decisively broken, and brighter futures are a reality for all. We dream of a future where every individual—every man, woman, boy, and girl—regardless of their starting point, has the genuine opportunity to thrive, empowered by education, dignity, and unwavering hope. We believe in a world where poverty is not just reduced, but truly eradicated, allowing every person to unlock their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities, shaping a more prosperous tomorrow for everyone.

In this vision, we see:

- *Men and Women as formidable agents of change, equipped with the essential skills, resources, and unwavering confidence to lead fulfilling lives and passionately pursue their dreams.*
- *Children, both boys and girls, empowered by access to quality education and nurturing environments, laying down a robust foundation for a lifetime of continuous learning, remarkable growth, and undeniable success.*
- *Communities that are vibrant, resilient, and truly inclusive, where every member feels deeply valued, actively supported, and genuinely uplifted.*

At HGSI, we firmly believe that by empowering men, women, and children comprehensively, we ignite a powerful ripple effect of positive transformation. This impact extends far beyond individual lives, sparking lasting change at the grassroots level and fostering sustainable development that resonates globally. We passionately see a world where every man stands confident and self-driven, every woman's boundless potential is fully unleashed, every child's future shines brightly, and the shadow of poverty is permanently replaced by widespread opportunity, inherent dignity, and shared prosperity for all. Together, we can turn this bold vision into a tangible reality, one empowered man, woman, and child at a time.

Values

At Huruma Global Support Initiative (HGSI), our work is guided by core values that define who we are and the lasting impact we strive to create. These principles are woven into every program, interaction, and decision.

Compassion:

Deep empathy for those facing poverty and educational challenges drives us. We respond with genuine care and dedicated action to foster hope and make a tangible difference

Integrity

We uphold the highest ethical standards in all we do. Transparency, accountability, and honesty ensure that every contribution is utilized effectively and responsibly to achieve our mission

Dignity

Every individual has inherent worth. Our programs empower men, women, and children to lead dignified lives, building self-reliance and enabling them to shape their own prosperous futures

Respect

We deeply respect the local knowledge, cultures, and aspirations of the communities we serve. Our initiatives are collaborative, culturally sensitive, and inclusive, valuing every individual's unique contribution

service

Our dedication is to actively serve those in need. We provide essential resources, education, and opportunities to overcome poverty, focusing on long-term impact and a more equitable future for all

- Services/Goals (Descriptions)

Our Strategic Pillars: Driving Holistic Development

HGSI's impactful work is structured around three interconnected strategic pillars. These pillars represent our commitment to fostering comprehensive, sustainable development, addressing the root causes of poverty, and building resilient communities. Each pillar is supported by targeted program areas designed for maximum impact and measurable outcomes.

PILLAR 1: Empowering Men and Women with Sustainable Livelihoods

This pillar is dedicated to fostering economic independence and resilience among adults in marginalized communities. We aim to equip men and women with the essential skills, knowledge, and resources needed to generate sustainable income and uplift their households through Peer-to-peer mentorship programs, vocational and Financial Literacy training, business Mentorship and Seed funding

PILLAR 2: Enhancing Access to Quality Education for All Children in Marginalized Communities

This pillar focuses on ensuring that every child, regardless of gender or circumstance, has access to quality education and a nurturing learning environment, laying the foundation for a brighter future through our PLE Empowerment Project dubbed “A bright future begins with a book”, the “1K Project” peer-funding model in schools, Man of Tomorrow our boy Mentorship Program, distribution and training on making of reusable Sanitary pads and strengthening learning with extracurricular and holistic support.

PILLAR 3: Strengthening Community Development Through Infrastructure Improvement

This pillar aims to enhance the overall well-being and resilience of communities by improving access to essential services through sustainable infrastructure development like supporting construction of clean water systems, sanitation facilities and provision of renewable energy solutions.

Our History

Our Story:

"It started, as so many profound things do, with a simple, almost forgotten place: Murambo village. Our family's roots there had seemed to wither after we lost loved ones. Why return when the heart of our connection is gone? But a casual family chat, a reunion in a WhatsApp group, sparked a question that refused to be silenced: What about the family we didn't know? The relatives still in Murambo, perhaps struggling?

That question led to action, beginning with the local primary school. There were only seven P7 students, desperate for scholastic materials and revision guides. We dipped into our own pockets, a small gesture that yielded a huge return: the undeniable sparkle of hope in those children's eyes. We knew then, with absolute clarity, this couldn't be a one-off. It had to be bigger. It had to be sustainable.

So, we registered a social enterprise, establishing the foundational structure and operational framework to scale our initial impact responsibly. Not just for Murambo, but because we saw the universal truth in those seven children's faces: every child, everywhere, deserves a chance. From that red dust, a profound belief blossomed – that compassion knows no borders, and a helping hand can reach across villages, across countries, and the world. Our journey began with family, extended to a village, and now, it's a commitment to fostering hope and opportunity wherever it's needed most.

Join us. Be part of this ripple effect of change. Learn more about our operations and impact on our impact page

- Contact Information (Address, Phone, Email)

Email: info@hurumaglobalsupportinitiative.org) Address :

P.O.Box 180486, Kampala - Uganda

Phone: +256748020214

donate : airtel pay code 4392361 (how do we have a landing page?)

- Team (description and socials)

Meet the Hands Behind the Hope

Behind every life transformed, every community strengthened and every brighter future at HGSI, you'll find a team driven by deep empathy and unwavering dedication. We are a diverse group of passionate individuals, united by the belief that compassion can change the world. Our hands-on commitment, local understanding, and shared vision are the driving force behind the Huruma Global Support Initiative and bring hope as we put EMPATHY IN ACTION.

Discover the faces and stories of the HGSI team who make it all possible

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Meet the team



Nabukalu Diana: The Founding Catalyst

Chairperson, Co-Founder & CEO

Nabukalu Diana is the Founding Catalyst behind Huruma Global Support Initiative (HGSi). Her journey began with a quiet ache—witnessing children and families brimming with unfulfilled potential, weighed down not by a lack of ability but by a lack of opportunity. What began as empathy grew into a powerful conviction: that compassion must be translated into action—strategic, persistent, and deeply rooted in dignity.

Nabukalu believes that real change goes beyond acts of charity; it demands bold, sustainable solutions that restore hope and unlock the human spirit. From that realization, the seed of HGSi was planted in her heart and has since grown into a vibrant movement—one that now supports communities through education, empowerment, and practical support.

Today, Nabukalu continues to lead HGSi with passion and clarity. She is the relentless force behind our vision, daring to imagine—and build—a world where every child and every family has a real chance to thrive.

“Empathy must evolve into strategy. Dignity is not given it is restored. And that is the work of HGSi.”



Nabatanzi Edna: The Trust Builder

Head Finance and Administration, Vice Chair person & Co-founder

“Raised on sacrifice and resilience, I know what it means to go without — and act like all is well. My mother’s strength put me through school when we had nothing. Through the Huruma Global Support Initiative, I now work to ensure no Ugandan has to act, sacrifice alone, or lose hope. One life at a time, we rise together.”

Edna Nabatanzi is the co-founder of Huruma Global Support Initiative. Edna’s motivation stemmed from a deep-seated belief in transparency and accountability, especially in the development sector. Having seen organisations struggle with trust, Edna was determined that HGSI would be different. *Every dollar must tell a story of impact, clearly and honestly*, Edna declared. With a strong background in Banking and Operations, Edna ensures that HGSI's resources are managed with utmost integrity, that every investment is tracked, and every success is measurable. Edna is our guardian of trust, ensuring that funders can see the direct, tangible results of their generosity.



Mbaguta Brian – The Advocate for the Forgotten

Head of Programs, Co-Founder & Secretary to the Board

“I joined HGSI because I could not ignore the silent cries of children and women who simply need someone to believe in them. Huruma is more than a team—it’s a family, with a mission to restore dignity, create opportunity, and bring light where there’s been darkness for too long. Every step we take brings hope to someone who thought they were forgotten. Being part of this journey is not just my calling—it’s my purpose.”

As Secretary to the Board, Head of Programs, and a Founding Member of Huruma Global Support Initiative, Mbaguta Brian blends strategic direction with heartfelt compassion. From ensuring good governance at the board level to translating vision into practical, life-changing programs, Brian is a central pillar of HGSI’s leadership.

With a fierce commitment to women and children, Brian ensures that HGSI’s programs are responsive, inclusive, and community-rooted. They design and oversee initiatives that go beyond aid—programs that heal, empower, and sustain. Whether it’s a campaign for school materials or a long-term livelihood project, Brian brings clarity, accountability, and humanity to every layer of implementation.

“Behind every document I file is a story we’re helping to rewrite—a life we’re helping to restore.”



Lukermoi-Agaba Ryan: The Youth Empowerment Voice/Legacy bearer

Head Youth and Volunteer Engagement, Co-Founder & Board member

“Raised by a mother who led with compassion, I saw firsthand how care can be a form of power. She didn’t just employ people—she nurtured them, educated them, and treated each like family. That legacy shaped me. Through HGSI, I carry her example forward, working to ensure every Ugandan feels seen, supported, and valued. We don’t just change lives—we carry each other forward, a step at a time.”

Lukermoi is a co-founder of Huruma Global Support Initiative and serves on the Board while also leading as the Youth and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator. From day one, Lukermoi has infused HGSI with a deep sense of energy, warmth, and purpose. Believing passionately in the potential of young people, Lukermoi mobilizes youth volunteers, mentors student-led initiatives, and designs empowerment programs that build confidence, skill, and leadership from the ground up.

Lukermoi doesn’t just recruit volunteers—Lukermoi inspires them. Every activity led by Lukermoi is an invitation to belong, to lead, and to be the change. Whether in a classroom or a village hall, Lukermoi ensures that no young person is left behind or underestimated.

“Young people are not just beneficiaries—they are leaders in motion.”



Richard Jones Odong – The Narrative Weaver

Head of Communications and Storytelling, Co-Founder & Board Member

Odong is the storyteller behind the movement—the keeper of Huruma Global Support Initiative’s voice and soul. As Director of Communications and Storytelling and a Co-Founder & Board Member, Odong ensures that the heart of the work is not only felt—but heard, seen, and remembered.

With a gift for capturing both the pain and the promise in every community we serve, Odong brings to life the silent struggles, quiet victories, and everyday miracles that define HGSI’s impact. Each photo, each caption, each campaign tells a story that refuses to let dignity be forgotten.

Odong believes that storytelling is not just about raising awareness—it’s about restoring humanity. By shaping how the world sees HGSI, Odong invites others into a movement grounded in justice, compassion, and transformation.

“Stories don’t just move people—they move people to act. That’s how change begins.”



Mbaguta Henry: The Digital Strategist

Head of Information and Communication Technology

Mbaguta leads HGSI's ICT operations with vision, precision, and purpose. With a background in Information Technology, management, and corporate relations, Mbaguta is the driving force behind building the digital backbone that powers the HGSI's mission—from secure data systems and field connectivity to partner communications and reporting platforms.

Under Mbaguta's leadership, technology is not just a support tool—it's a bridge. A bridge that links donors to impact in real time, staff to real solutions, and communities to the digital age. Mbaguta ensures that every system built serves people first—making HGSI's work faster, smarter, and more transparent.

A firm believer in the power of shared responsibility, Mbaguta is passionate about unlocking both local and global digital support to scale the work of HGSI. Whether it's equipping rural teams with mobile data tools or developing dashboards that tell stories through numbers, Mbaguta ensures that technology carries the heart of the mission forward.

“When partners believe in the cause, transformation becomes unstoppable.”

Luyima Fredrick – The Connector

Head of Partnerships, Resource Mobilisation & External Relations

Luyima is the strategic force behind Huruma Global Support Initiative's partnerships, fundraising, and external relations. With a strong background in management and corporate engagement, Luyima leads efforts to mobilize the resources that turn vision into reality—one partnership, one investment, one purpose-driven collaboration at a time.

Luyima believes that transformation doesn't happen in isolation. That's why he brings the world to HGSI—and HGSI to the world. From CSR partners to grassroots allies, Luyima crafts meaningful relationships that sustain and scale our work. He doesn't just ask for support—he inspires belief, connecting people to purpose and showing them the tangible power of their contribution.

At his core, Luyima is a connector. He sees possibilities where others see obstacles and understands that every successful campaign begins with trust. Whether forging alliances with local businesses or unlocking international networks, Luyima ensures that HGSI's mission is shared, supported, and sustained.

“When people believe in the vision, they invest—not just with money, but with purpose and then transformation becomes unstoppable.”



Eric Okiria: The Impact Architect

Head, Impact & Learning

I joined the Huruma Global Support Initiative team because I believe every child deserves to feel known, valued, and equipped for the future. Volunteering here has shown me that change happens not just through grand gestures, but through daily acts of care and belief in each child's potential. I'm proud to stand with HGSI, helping build a community where each child can grow up loved, educated, and ready to give back.

As Head Impact and Learning, Okiria is both the analytical mind behind our systems of measurement and the empathetic heart that ensures data never loses its human face. In every number, Okiria sees a name. In every graph, a story. And behind every success, Okiria ensures we understand not only what worked—but why.

Okiria builds and leads the systems that track our effectiveness, ask the hard questions, and hold us accountable to the very people we serve. By collecting evidence, capturing insights, and facilitating learning, Okiria helps HGSI grow with purpose and stay true to its mission.

With every survey, every indicator, and every outcome, Okiria reminds us that measuring change is not about ticking boxes—it's about honouring lives.

"We don't just measure outcomes. We measure what matters to the people we serve."



Ssebuguzi Alex

Program Officer, Sustainable Livelihoods

“Huruma inspired me by helping struggling entrepreneurs and supporting school children with fees and materials across different districts. That impact touched me deeply—and that’s why I chose to join and work with HGSI.”

Ssebuguzi is a vital member of the Huruma team. His personal experience as a farmer and small business owner, combined with his deep commitment to community empowerment, perfectly embody Huruma Global Support Initiative’s principle of 'Empathy in Action.' Ssebuguzi is driven by a passion to equip local entrepreneurs with the skills and resources they need to build economic independence. His real-world knowledge, deep empathy, and passion for empowerment make him an essential force in building lasting impact and opportunities.



Bwire Simon Peter

Procurement Officer

"I was drawn to HGSI's 'Empathy in Action' because it perfectly aligns with my values of compassion and community service. I'm excited to use my skills to make a tangible impact and be part of a team truly dedicated to meaningful support for others."

Bwire is a vital member of the HGSI team, serving as our Procurement Officer. His professional values of compassion, kindness, and community service resonate deeply with Huruma Global Support Initiative's 'Empathy in Action' principle. Bwire is driven by a passion to ensure that every resource acquired directly amplifies HGSI's mission. Bwire's expertise in facilitating efficient and ethical procurement processes is instrumental in maximizing HGSI's impact, directly contributing to meaningful support and positive change for individuals and communities in need.

Voices of Huruma

Because this movement is built by many hands, hearts, and voices.

Huruma Global Support Initiative is more than its core team—it's a living, breathing community of people who believe in compassion, dignity, and action. From elders and parents to volunteers and donors, the voices below remind us why we do what we do—and who we do it for.



Lule Muganwa Edward – Respected Elder and Mentor

“It may be a small contribution, but to me, it is noteworthy. I thank the HGSI directors for giving me the chance to serve, even in this way.”

Introduced by his daughter, Lule supports HGSI as a donor and advisor. At 72, he’s chosen to turn his blessings into fuel for others, especially children facing barriers to education.



🛵 Charles – The Boda Boda Rider with a Mission

“These books, these supplies—they’re heavy. But I carry them like they’re gold. Because they are.”

One of the very first people to donate to HGSI, Charles now volunteers his boda boda to help deliver supplies on behalf of HGSI. His reliability keeps the mission moving—literally.



Ronnie & Friends – The Laptop Lifesavers

Ronnie encountered Huruma Global Support Initiative when he was called in to help set up the organisation's office laptops. What began as a simple job quickly turned into a moment of conviction. Seeing firsthand the purpose behind the work he was inspired, Ronnie made a quiet vow: *"I may not be rich, but I can give what I have."* He began making regular small donations and

now encourages his friends to do the same—proving that even micro-giving can make a meaningful difference. To Ronnie, giving is his quiet way of building a better future for Uganda's children.

Tisha – The Silent Analyst

"You won't see me at the front. But in the numbers, I make sure every child counts."

HGSI's background Hero, Tisha quietly lends her analytical skills to track HGSI's reach and refine programs—ensuring every decision is backed by evidence.



Maggie – The Growing TikToker with a Big Heart

“I use my platform to show that giving is cool, and kindness is powerful.”

Maggie uses her growing TikTok following to raise awareness and funds for HGSI campaigns. She makes giving relatable—and viral.

- News/Blog Posts (if applicable)

(I have reflections from the last visit how do i incorporate these?
Do i just paste them here?) (yes)

- FAQs (if applicable)
- Legal Pages (Privacy Policy, Terms)

2. All Imagery & Media:

- High-resolution Logo

- Team Photos (if applicable)
- Facility/Office Photos
- Product/Service Photos
- Banners/Hero Images
- Videos (links or files)

3. **Brand Guidelines:**

- Color Palette (hex codes)
- Preferred Fonts

B. Access & Information

- **Social Media Links:** URLs to all active profiles
- Projects, including done, in progress or scheduled

(I think i dnt follow what you expect here....)

If you have like a youtube channel,x,facebook and all those

-for the team i need individual pics as well as profiles that talk about them plus their images included and also links to their socials

- Success stories
- impacts
- Reflections

Beyond the Books: A Glimpse into Hope and Heartbreak at Murambo Catholic Nursery and Primary School

A Story of Urgent Need and Unyielding Spirit



The air buzzed with anticipation. Our team at Huruma Global Support Initiative (HGSi) was on its way to Murambo Catholic Nursery and Primary School in Rukungiri District, carrying boxes filled with hope. Our **"A Bright Future Begins with a Book"** campaign was a pilot, a simple yet powerful idea: provide essential PLE question paper banks, pens, pencils, erasers, mathematical sets, and rulers to Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) candidates. We imagined the smiles, the renewed determination. This was our first step, a small but vital lifeline for children in a community where education often remains an unreachable dream.

As we arrived, the warmth of the welcome was immediate. A well-arranged tent and a special sitting area; The Headmistress, teachers (11 in total), and pupils (175 in total)

greeted us with genuine smiles, their gratitude palpable, the school choir sang, the nursery children rhyming, the LC1 chairperson, School Management Committee, the PTA and the parents to the P7 candidates all in anticipation of the hope we carried. We gathered the 15 PLE candidates – our initial target of 21 had sadly dwindled, with 6 bright students already forced to drop out due to lack of school fees, registration costs, and basic scholastic materials. It was a sobering reminder of the very real barriers we sought to address. Yet, as we handed over the package, we carried containing the neatly packed pencil cases, mathematical sets, foot rulers, pens, pencils and the precious past papers, the light in those children's eyes and the relief in the struggling parents' sigh was undeniable. A grateful headmistress, a relieved class teacher... A small victory, a moment of pure joy.

But then, the tour began. And our smiles turned to shock, then to a profound, aching sadness that settled deep in our hearts.

We stepped into the P1 classroom, meant for 18 eager young minds. What we found was unimaginable. This single, incomplete room, with its bare dirt floor and just four rough benches made from logs – benches that would surely hurt a child's back – served not only as a learning space but also as the staff room for 11 teachers. Tucked behind the door, a makeshift shelf overflowed with papers, topped incongruously with two deflated soccer balls. This was the Headmistress's "office," a low-level table and a hard wooden chair. And in another corner, sacks of maize flour, beans, and three cartons of soda sat, turning the classroom into the school's food storage. The thought of children trying to learn, teachers trying to prepare lessons, and a Headmistress trying to manage a school in such a cramped, multi-purpose, and undignified space was heartbreaking.

The horror continued. The P3 classroom, we discovered, doubled as the school kitchen. A huge pile of firewood dominated one corner. A few plastic plates and cups, clearly not enough for 175 children, lay on a tarpaulin on the dirt floor. Soot marks stained the walls around a makeshift cooking area, with discarded jerricans littering the side. We pictured the smoke, the heat, the constant disruption to learning. In another corner, a pile of children's bags – woven baskets, really – held their few precious books, some with a single container or two for their meagre meals. Above us, an incomplete ceiling stared down, and wooden window frames, too few to fill all the openings, offered little protection against the elements or intruders.

Then came the P4 classroom. Our hearts truly broke here. No windows, no doors, a dirt floor, no ceiling. The roof was only partially complete, offering a mere suggestion of shelter from sun or rain. Broken blackboards stood as silent witnesses to interrupted lessons. Five dilapidated, makeshift seats attached to desks, again made from raw logs, looked more like crude furniture from a local drinking spot than a place for children to

learn. These were meant for 28 students but were clearly insufficient. How could a child study, how could they even write an exam, at such a desk? The indignity was crushing.

The tour revealed deeper systemic failures. There were **no latrine facilities** at the school. We wondered where the pupils, especially the young girls who need this dignity most during their monthly periods and who cannot even afford sanitary towels, went to ease themselves. The teachers, we learned, walked five hundred meters uphill to a dilapidated latrine at a nearby Catholic church. There was **no running water** within the school grounds; water was fetched from a borehole over 1 kilometre down the valley. We saw pupils walking barefoot, their uniforms so old, worn, and torn that it was painful to witness.

The lack of basic resources extended to learning aids. No electricity, no printers, no electronic devices. Teachers had to rely on well-wishers to transport and print end-of-term exams from Rukungiri town. The school had **no atlas**, leaving us to imagine how geography was taught; perhaps from memory, prone to error. Crucially, there was **no dictionary** in the entire school. Our hearts sank when we saw the word "Magnet" misspelled as "mangnent" on a science teacher's board in the P7 classroom – a small detail that spoke volumes about the daily struggle to access basic reference tools.

The teachers, the very backbone of this struggling institution? They had been **unpaid for over 5 months**. Yet, day after day, they returned, driven by an unwavering commitment to these children. A quick inquiry revealed that the meagre fees paid by pupils (UGX 28,000 per term), which many families couldn't even afford, were insufficient to sustain the school or pay salaries. They too relied on well-wishers. Even the 50,000 that was left behind by one of our colleagues wasn't enough to cover the salary dues of the school cook who continuously reminded us that her needs are also overwhelming and should not be forgotten.

Despite this overwhelming despair, a flicker of hope remained. The dedication of the PTA, the School Management Committee, and the parents, enduring immense hardships, was inspiring. The teachers' resilience, showing up daily despite being unpaid, was a testament to their profound commitment.

The "A Bright Future Begins with a Book" pilot, while a success for the 15 children who received materials, was a stark awakening. It showed us that while books are a start, the very foundation of education is crumbling for countless children in places like Murambo Catholic Nursery and Primary School. If a simple pencil and a past paper could bring such joy and a glimmer of hope, imagine the transformative power of a safe classroom, clean water, dignified sanitation, and supported teachers.

This is not an isolated incident. Across Uganda, several schools face similar, unseen struggles. We must not let this talent go to waste. The success of our pilot, coupled with the profound needs uncovered, compels us to act on a larger scale. We are driven to expand our holistic support to **three other equally deserving, marginalized schools across Uganda**. We believe that by addressing these fundamental barriers, we can ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the chance to truly build a bright future. We invite you to join us in this urgent and vital mission.



Huruma Global Support Initiative

Address: P.O. Box 180486, Kampala - Uganda

Phone: +256748020214

Donate: Airtel pay code 4392361

DFCU Bank: 01490016746558

Two Journeys, One Heartbreak: Reflections from Murambo Catholic Nursery and Primary School

Eric's Reflection: A World Unveiled

I'm Eric, 26, from Ngora district, but Kampala raised me. My childhood was in the city, with schools that, while not perfect, had walls, roofs, and proper desks. I thought I understood "poverty" and "marginalized communities" from reports, from news. But nothing, absolutely nothing, prepared me for Murambo Catholic Nursery and Primary School.

When we arrived, the children's smiles as they received their books, their little faces lighting up with the promise of a future, it was pure, unadulterated joy. I felt a swell of pride, thinking, "Yes, this is why we do what we do."

Then came the tour. And with every step, my heart felt like it was being squeezed tighter and tighter. The P1 classroom... I just stood there, staring. It wasn't just a classroom; it was their whole world – a classroom, a staff room for eleven teachers, the Headmistress's tiny office, and even a food store. A dirt floor. Log benches that looked like they'd splinter your spine. And the Headmistress, with papers spilling from a makeshift shelf, two soccer balls on top, trying to run a school from behind a door. My mind just couldn't reconcile it. *"Is this... is this really a school?"* I remember whispering to James, my voice barely audible. It felt like a scene from a forgotten era, not something happening today.

Moving to the P3 classroom, seeing the pile of firewood, the soot-stained walls, the few plastic plates on a tarpaulin on the ground – it was a kitchen. Their learning space was a kitchen. The children's woven basket bags, holding their few precious books, were so small, so humble. My own school bag was always bursting with textbooks, notebooks, a lunch box. Here, it was a struggle for even the basics.

And the P4 classroom... oh, the P4 classroom. No windows, no doors, no ceiling, just a partial roof. Broken blackboards. Five rickety log desks that looked like they belonged in a local bar, not a place where children were meant to learn, to dream. I felt tears welling up, hot and stinging. *"How can they even sit here, let alone learn? How can they write an exam on this?"* The injustice of it was a physical ache in my chest. I thought of my comfortable university lecture halls, the quiet libraries, the endless resources. These children, just as bright, just as deserving, had none of it.

The lack of latrines, the 1km trek for water, the barefoot children with tattered uniforms – it was a relentless assault on my senses, each detail chipping away at my composure. When I saw the misspelled "Magnet" on the blackboard, a simple word, it wasn't funny; it was heartbreaking. It was a cry for a dictionary, for basic tools, for the dignity of knowing. And the teachers, five months without pay, still showing up, still trying to teach... I just wanted to hug them, to tell them they were heroes. *"They come here every day? Without pay? That's... that's incredible,"* I remember saying, my voice thick with emotion.

Being involved in this campaign, I thought it was about giving. But it was about receiving a brutal, beautiful lesson. It's a privilege I never truly understood, to have had a proper education, to have had a choice. This activity, this raw encounter, means everything to me now. It's not just a project; it's a moral imperative. It showed me that my comfortable upbringing, my city life, shielded me from a reality that is still very much alive for so many. The value it brought was a shattering of my ignorance, a deepening of my empathy that feels like a wound, but a necessary one.

I learned that problems are rarely simple. You deliver books, but the children are dropping out because they can't afford fees, because there's no toilet, because their teachers are starving. It's a tangled web of interconnected struggles. And the resilience... the sheer, unwavering resilience of those children and teachers. It's a power I've never seen. From this, I will carry a new lens. I will question more, look deeper, and never take for granted the basic dignities that enable learning and growth. My journey from a comfortable Kampala childhood to a university student now feels like a responsibility, a call to be a voice for those children, to fight for the foundations they deserve.

James's Reflection: Echoes of a Distant Past

I'm James, 27, from Bushenyi. When I heard about Murambo, a part of me braced myself. Bushenyi has its pockets of deep poverty, and though I didn't grow up in those exact circumstances, I've glimpsed them in my much earlier childhood. I've seen the worn uniforms, the children walking miles barefoot. So, when we arrived, and the 15 PLE candidates greeted us with those eager smiles, I felt a familiar pang – a mix of hope for them and a quiet dread for what we might find.

Handing out the paper banks and scholastic materials, I saw their eyes, shining with that desperate hope for a chance. It was beautiful, truly. But as we walked through the school, it wasn't a shock in the same way it was for Eric. For me, it was a painful recognition, a chilling echo. *"This is exactly what I remember from some of the village schools when I was a kid,"* I found myself saying, my voice low, almost to myself. *"It's like nothing has changed."*

The P1 classroom, serving as everything from a learning space to a staff room and food store, with its dirt floor and crude log benches... it was a scene I'd seen before, in fleeting glimpses. The makeshift Headmistress's office behind the door, the overflowing papers – it spoke of ingenuity born of desperation. It hurt to see it, knowing that decades later, children are still enduring this.

The P3 classroom, a kitchen with its pile of firewood and inadequate plastic plates, was a familiar sight from my early memories of rural life. The soot marks, the jerricans, the children's woven basket bags – it was all too real. It's a constant battle for these communities, where every space must serve multiple purposes just to keep things going.

And the P4 classroom, with no windows, no doors, a partial roof, and those broken, log-like desks... that's where the tears came. Not a sudden gush, but a slow, steady stream, a deep ache. I remembered the stories, the struggles. To think these children are still trying to learn, to write their exams, on those surfaces, exposed to the elements. *"This is not how a child should learn,"* I murmured, shaking my head, a profound sadness washing over me. It felt like a wound from my own past, reopened.

The lack of latrines, the distant borehole, the barefoot children, the threadbare uniforms – these weren't just details; they were the fabric of a life I narrowly escaped. The science teacher's misspelled "Magnet" on the board, the absence of basic dictionaries and atlases – it's a symptom of a system that has forgotten its most vulnerable. And the teachers, five months without pay, still showing up... *"How do they do it? How do they keep coming?"* I asked, my voice cracking, knowing the immense sacrifice that entails. It's a dedication that breaks your heart and fills it with awe all at once.

Being involved in this campaign felt like a homecoming, in a way. It was a chance to give back to the kind of communities that shaped my broader understanding of Uganda, even if I didn't live their exact struggles. The activity itself, delivering those books, was a small act of kindness, but the revelation of the deeper needs was immense. It showed me that the fight is far from over.

This experience means a profound connection to my roots, a recognition of the systemic issues that persist. It means that HGSI's work is not just charity; it's justice. The value it brought was a renewed sense of urgency, a confirmation that the "1K Project" and broader infrastructural support aren't just good ideas; they are absolutely essential, a direct response to the very real pain we witnessed. It's about building the foundations that were missing for me, and are still missing for them.

I learned that while progress is made, the deepest wounds of poverty and inequality heal slowly, if at all, without sustained, comprehensive intervention. The resilience of

those children and teachers, enduring unimaginable conditions, is a testament to the human spirit's capacity to hope, even in despair. From this, I will carry a more grounded understanding of the challenges, a deeper commitment to long-term solutions, and a fierce determination to ensure that no child has to learn on a log, or walk a kilometer for water, or suffer the indignity of no latrine. My journey, from glimpsing these struggles as a child to now, as an adult, is a call to action, a lifelong commitment to being part of the change.



Eric having a chat with the pupils of Murambo Catholic Nursery and Primary School



The P4 classroom with rickety log desks that looked like they belonged in a local bar



The P1 classroom that doubles as the headteacher's office, staffroom and a storage



The P3 classrooms that is also a store for firewood



A section of the P3 classroom used as a kitchen and storage point for utensils used by pupils



The science teacher's misspelled "Magnet" on the P7 blackboard being corrected by one of the Huruma Global Support Initiative Volunteers

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