

Promoting the Right to Quality and Sustainable Education for Vulnerable Children

Stories About Some Beneficiaries *of the* Global Friends Container Classroom Tailoring Project

Kyankwanzi District, Uganda



INTRODUCTION

Global Friends Foundation, Canada partnered with Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) in a four-year project (2014 to 2018). The objective is to promote the right to quality and sustainable education of vulnerable children in Kyankwanzi district. This project which is implemented in two schools namely St Joseph SS Vvumba and Kasubi community primary school, supports improving the quality of education focusing on infrastructure development, skills improvement and income generation; and health. ARUWE is proud to bring the stories of beneficiaries from the skills improvement through tailoring. The project has benefited both in school and out of school youths in Vvumba community.

Meet Our Beneficiaries

Proud to help empower Prosy

Vocational Training
Scholar *and* Sewing
Superstar



PROSY NANKWANGI

Prosy is an 18-year-old from St Joseph SSS Vvumba who enrolled for the tailoring classes in June 2016 and completed in April 2017. Since she didn't have enough school fees to further her formal education, she had to end in ordinary level.

"Because I had acquired the tailoring skill, I was able to set up a business in tailoring. In June 2017, I bought a sewing machine on hire purchase at Ugx 180,000. In one month, I earn between Ugx 45,000 to Ugx 50,000 (USD 12.5 to USD 13.8). I use Ugx 30,000 (USD 8.3) to pay for the sewing machine since I got it on hire purchase for 6 months. This leaves me with a profit of Ugx 18,000 (USD 5). I reinvest half of my profits into the business to acquire working material. I get my orders from parents who bring the uniforms of their children.

My future plan is to get tenders from at least 3 schools to make uniforms. In that way I will have stable clientele. I also want to get a location in the trading centre where I can station my business to attract more clients. My challenge is limited knowledge in business planning hence I want to be educated in the same. I am so grateful for the support given to us through the vocational skills training. Because of that, I am able to sustain myself even after school", said Prosy.

The pictures below show some of the uniforms- a dress and short that prosy has tailored for a primary school.

GAUDA NAMUKWAYA

My name is Gauda and I am 15 years old. Early this year, I dropped out of school from senior two because my parents didn't have enough funds to keep me in school. Fortunately, I had acquired the tailoring skill from the Global Friends vocational institute. I was able to borrow a sewing machine from one of our family friends and I started tailoring.

I have been tailoring for 4 months now. My clients are girls of my age, adult women and younger boys. I sew skirts, dresses, blouses and shorts. I earn between Ugx 80,000 to Ugx 100,000 a month (USD \$22.20. to USD 27.7). From this I am able to save Ugx 25,000 (UDS \$6.90) for myself and I spend the rest on taking care of my 3 siblings since my mother cannot ably take care of the family.

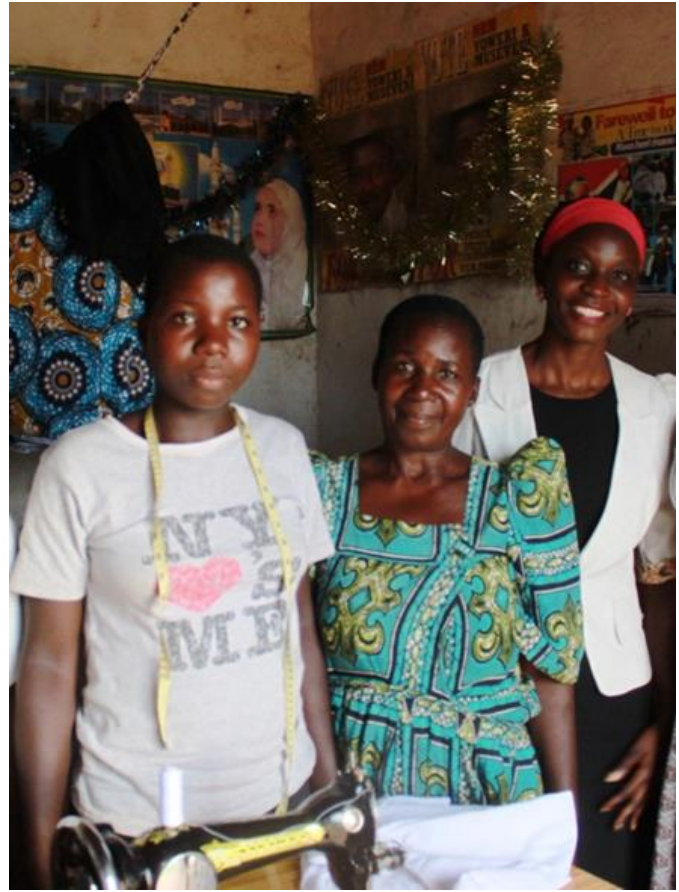
Given the opportunity, I would love to go back to school and also practice tailoring. In this way, I will acquire both formal education and develop practical skills.



Gauda in her work shop at Kumusalaba village



Gauda telling her story



Gauda with her mother and ARUWE staff

Hearing Agatha's story leaves a bitter sweet feeling. Much as she is earning from the tailoring, she is missing out on the development processes of children her age such as playing, interacting with peers, being taken care of and education. Such is the plight of many young girls from vulnerable families. They are forced to go into the labour market earlier on in life to help the family make ends meet. Since formal education is too costly for them, increasing accessibility to vocational skills is a good alternative. They can further be equipped with formal skills such as record keeping, costing and pricing, business planning, health and development through coaching, mentoring and training as well as exposure visits.

MBIDDE DAVID

David is 16-year-old in senior three from St Joseph SSS Vvumba. He enrolled for the tailoring classes in June 2016. Since he could not afford to pay the tuition fees, he was allowed to attend classes and acquire the skill through a student loan. This meant that after he learnt, he was to make school uniforms as a way of paying his tuition. This arrangement is working out well and not only is he paying his tuition but he also earns a small commission of Ugx 3,500 (USD \$1.00) from every shirt he makes.

David comes from a very vulnerable home. As a result, the school has decided to fund his school fees for his formal education as long as he keeps providing the service of tailoring school uniforms. In this way, David is able to remain in school.



David making a shirt at the St Joseph SSS Vvumba

The stories above show the change as well as the ongoing need to further invest in empowering the youth with knowledge and skills so that they can develop socio-economic aspects to survive and thrive.