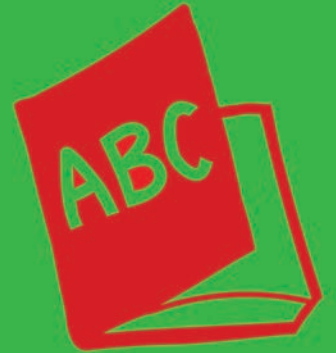
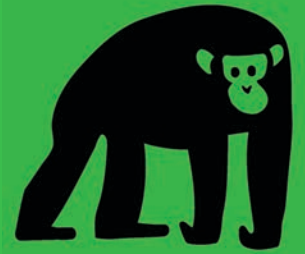


# The Kasiisi project

CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • HEALTH



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021





# Our Mission Statement

Conservation of Kibale National Park, Uganda through programs in schools and communities that support education, health and care for the environment.

Your generosity  
makes all our  
programs possible

THANK YOU!



The  
**Kasiisi**  
project





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# The Kasiisi project



## KASIISI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Add a little bit of body text  
P.O BOX 658, FORT PORTAL

Tel. 0772 556369, 0772823917

27th February, 2022 The

Director,

Kibale Forest Schools Program.

### Re. THANK YOU FOR THE LEARNING MATERIALS

On behalf of the Management and entire school community of Kasiisi Primary School and indeed on behalf of the other 15 KFSP schools, I hereby write to extend our sincere appreciation to KFSP for the learning materials provided to our learners for the time schools were closed due to COVID 19 pandemic.

There is clear evidence that our learners were kept positively engaged with activities and projects as laid out in the curriculum.

While our learners in KFSP schools are picking up very well, their counterparts in other schools suffered lost learning and regression and are finding it hard to cope. Many school Heads have shared this in our meetings.

Ministry of education has developed an abridged curriculum to help address that big challenge. For this I have a strong reason to thank the Kasiisi Project.

We look forward to continued cordial working relations with you all. And I pledge our best efforts in continuing to support KFSP programs.

Please accept our warmest heartfelt thanks.

Moses Musinguzi.

Head teacher, Kasiisi Primary School.

Add a little bit of body text



<https://www.facebook.com/KasiisiProject>



[www.kasiisiproject.org](http://www.kasiisiproject.org) 4



# Updates from The Kasiisi Project Board

We couldn't  
do it  
without you!

This past year of public health uncertainties has continued to test Kasiisi's ingenuity and ability to adapt to vacillating conditions in Uganda. For the second year in a row, rates of Covid-19 infections rose steadily and were complicated by the threat posed by new variants taking hold. Having re-opened countrywide in May, 2021, schools were forced to shut down for another 7 months. Reaching our students for remote learning was all but practically impossible, given the lack of internet and computer accessibility in their villages.

However, our Ugandan staff is determined to succeed in Kasiisi's mission to provide top quality, conservation-based education, along with health and education initiatives for our students, and have again demonstrated our organizational strength and resilience in the face of persistent challenges. We are proud to have maintained most of our ongoing projects throughout the pandemic, despite the need to follow government, safety guidelines in order to ensure the health and well-being of our staff and students – which is a #1 priority.

In the field in Uganda, we continue to monitor and collect data on the health of wild African honeybees, which has attracted the attention of other organizations engaged in similar pursuits and lends optimism to the potential for broadening future horizons with partners. Additionally, our ongoing efforts to collect and collate data on the transmission of respiratory viruses from children to chimpanzees have been recognized for their importance to pandemic research and have earned a significant funding grant geared towards the continuance of this project. In addition, our staff members have been able to expand weekly, phone-in radio broadcasts with students and their parents and have maintained various other student projects in the villages.

Our U.S.-based organization and Board of Directors exist to fund and support the Ugandan operation. To date, we have been able to raise sufficient funds to retain our Ugandan staff and to continue paying their full salaries throughout the pandemic. Careful planning has made this possible, but funding salaries going forward remains to be a hugely significant challenge. To that end, the Ugandan shutdowns have afforded us a luxury of time to plan ahead, so we have been engaged in a governance assessment with an eye to making changes, as needed, and figuring out how to face the future efficiently.

Bottom line, funding for a nonprofit in its 24th year of work, and counting, is our lifeblood, and in recent years, it has become increasingly tight for small organizations like ours. Historically, we have relied heavily upon grants from zoos, which are highly competitive and seemingly more so in recent years. Many zoos have tightened their wallets during the pandemic, having suffered significant income decreases and are finding themselves forced to respond with commensurate cutbacks in funding awards. We are grateful to have retained our zoo funding so far, but are working hard to bolster our private donor base at the same time.

Clearly, a broader base of support is a key goal going forward. On the positive side, we have received generous 'pandemic bump ups' from several of our loyal and dedicated donors, to whom we owe a huge debt of personal gratitude. Also, increased funds during the pandemic from The James and Gloria Stewart Foundation, Dry Creek Charity, and Great Island Foundation have kept us afloat.

Additional support from the National Geographic Society has allowed Ugandan Director, Dr. Emily Otali, to continue with her conservation projects, for which she has been officially recognized for her diligence and timely results.

None of our efforts and successes would have been remotely possible without the generous, loyal, and dedicated, financial support of our donors. We owe you, our friends, our deeply sincere thanks. We also owe you the assurance that we will continue to use your dollars wisely, ethically, and responsibly in accordance with our mission to support the students and communities of Kibale, and to do what we can to promote conservation of the Kibale National Park, its environs, and its wildlife.

As always, thank you for your trust in us and for your generous support. We are optimistic about our future, because of you. We could not succeed in our mission, otherwise!

Sincerely,

The Kasiisi Project Board of Directors

Terry Eastman , Zarin Machanda, Christine Fairclough, Beth Armstrong, John Slyconish, Sean Rush, Richard Wrangham, Elizabeth Ross





Staff and family Christmas Party 2021



Handing out academic materials



# And from our Ugandan Partner The Kibale Forest Schools' Program



We started the year with enthusiasm, hoping that the COVID-19 situation was going to get better and things would go back to normal, but all in vain. Our usual plans and activities were highly affected by the pandemic.

Despite the lockdown in the country, majority of our staffs' contracts were successfully renewed, as they continued to work remotely until April 2021 when everyone resumed working from the office. Things were normalizing and schools were starting to open in a phased manner of a few classes at a time. While our staffs were working remotely and in office, they did a great job of observing health regulations and none of them got infected with COVID-19. We are glad that now 100% of our staff have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

On 16th March 2021, we successfully nominated and inaugurated a vibrant KFSP Executive Committee of 9 members who will serve for 2-year terms.

We were not able to continue with our previous Field Director, however, we have achieved a smooth transition of our Coordinator for Health Education Programs to fill the position. Also, our Community Liaison Officer and Assistant Coordinator for Conservation Education Programs resigned, and his place has been ably filled by Kajura Derrick who oversees our bee projects. We had hired a nurse to support our small health program team with schools activities but unfortunately a lockdown was put in place one week after his start of work and we had to hold on his contract until schools open again.

In February, we sent our Coordinator for Conservation Education program to a videography and photography course in Kampala. Our Project Nurse and Coordinator for Girls' Health Program enrolled for Bachelors of Science in nursing extension, this year. And our Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator is also pursuing her Certificate in Tourism and hospitality management. It was not possible for us to host our annual planning workshop at the beginning of the year instead we held separate smaller meetings to avoid overcrowding and violation of national restrictions designed to control COVID-19 transmission. On 12th March 2021, we first met with district officials from the departments of education and health, together with Centre Coordinating Tutors (CCTs) from all the regions of our schools. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether or not KFSP should resume activities in schools when they open during the pandemic. It was a successful meeting and strategies regarding the implementation of school conservation and health education activities during the pandemic were agreed upon.



Subsequently, when schools opened we invited patrons, senior men and women teachers for a planning meeting about which activities should be implemented in their schools. Work plans were successfully discussed and teachers promised to work closely with us to achieve set goals for both conservation and health education programs. Our school activities did not go as usual due to continued closure of schools and other restrictions on public transport and gatherings. When another lockdown was imposed in June 2021; KFSP supported children in their homes by giving them home study learning materials, conservation worksheets and weekly read stories for them on radio. The goal was to enhance continued learning during lockdown, and to promote positive attitude towards elephants. For 4 months from September until December we distributed, collected and marked home study learning materials for 2,500 pupils in P.4, P.5 and P.6. We collaborated with village Local Council 1 leaders and Village Health Teams to distribute and collect home study materials in their villages. Subjects covered included subjects of Mathematics, English, Science and Social Studies. We also read fun stories to children on the radio every Tuesday. Tentative plans for 2022 include conservation games, plays, birding, planting trees and the impact of social networks on conservation education. The health team will tackle reproductive health, child safety, talking to local motorbike Taxi drivers about healthy relationships, vaccinations and we will continue to provide staff and funding to the Kibale Forest Mobile Clinic. Helping schools help children to catch up is another important priority.



Tusiime Patrick BSC

Add a little bit of body text  
Field Director, Kibale Forest Schools' Program



# AND OUR COUNTRY DIRECTOR

## DR. EMILY OTALI


I am writing to thank you all on behalf of the KFSP staff for supporting us through 2020 and 2021. Unlike most of our colleagues in other NGOs, we were very lucky to continue receiving our full salaries throughout the lockdown. We were most humbled by this gesture and are most grateful to you for finding ways to adjust our programs so that we could keep everyone fully employed.

The president is reopening the economy starting with children going back to school on 10th January, and we are excitedly looking forward to a busy and successful 2022

Here is hoping that 2022 is kinder to us all.

Sincerely,

Emily



Emily Otali, Ph.D.

Director: Kibale Forest Schools' Program

Director: Kibale Chimpanzee Project



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The **Kasiisi** project 





# WHY YOU SUPPORTED US

"The Kasiisi / Kibale Forest Schools' Program Projects have been excellent collaborators. They have been efficient and conscientious in communication, project management, and the collection of data and samples."

"It warms our hearts to plant trees under whose shade others can sit"

"I have supported the Kasiisi Project since 2006. I never cease to be amazed by the range and strength of their projects. "

"Kasiisi's efforts are concentrated, effective, and fat-free. It is one of the most consistently excellent projects the Stewart Foundation supports"

"Their conservation work has a a dual focus that values both wildlife and people"

# WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

"I am writing this letter to thank you for giving me school work to help me in my exams. Thank you very much."  
AYABALE JAMES  
NYABWEYA PRIMARY SCHOOL

"The Kasiisi Project has been an ideal partner responsible for conservation programs relevant to both the forest and the community"  
UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

" I humbly thank you so much for giving us school work in this pandemic. It helped me remember things we had forgotten and will help me catch up"  
AKANDWANAHU BUREA  
BUNYAGABU PRIMARY SCHOOL

"You have rendered invaluable assistance to our schools. touching many lives making a big difference in Western Uganda"  
ADYERI MOSES  
PRINCIPAL  
KASIISI SCHOOL



# HOW YOU SUPPORTED US

Private donations

Foundations

Grants

\$10,5560

\$218,600

\$37,450



## Volunteering

Educational Resources

Social Media

Editing Materials

Analyzing Data

Writing Grants

Fund Raising

Tax Preparation

Number of  
Volunteers

9

Great Island Foundation  
James and Gloria Stewart  
Foundation

Dry Creek Charity

Rush Foundation

ARCUS Foundation



12



# WHAT YOU ACHIEVED IN 2021

You made sure that our project survived, despite all of the challenges. Inability to travel to Uganda did not stop you from volunteering your skills, and because of you, we have retained our experienced staff. Your confidence in us allows us to continue to contribute to the survival of a rare and precious ecosystem and its neighboring communities.

## CONSERVATION

You helped protect the precious biodiversity of Kibale National Park, including its over 400 endangered chimpanzees and more than 300 elephants, one third of which are *Loxodonta Cyclotis*, the critically endangered African Forest Elephant

## HEALTH

You helped us fight a rising tide of teen pregnancy, early marriage and loss of education for girls, by enabling us to keep the attention of parents and children focused on the benefits of education

## EDUCATION

You brought 440,000 sheets of educational materials to 170 villages.  
2,500 Grade 4-6 children who had not been in class for 18 months started the long journey back to education.  
8,000 children tuned in to weekly story time and comprehension on the radio

## YOU BROUGHT EDUCATION TO

16

Schools

170

Villages

8000

Children



## YOU HELPED US CONSERVE

1450

Chimpanzees

400

Elephants

325

Bird Species

13

Primate Species

# Covid-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our project in two important ways - government restrictions and reduced donations, as so many causes closer to home made demands on donor budgets.

The Ugandan government led an early and strong response to the virus in March 2020, but other than a month in May 2021, all of our schools remained closed until January 2022. This meant that we were unable to carry out the majority of our programs as planned.

Fortunately, there were silver linings that kept us going. Several generous donors offered extra COVID funding, enabling us to continue paying our staff on full salary.

Funding bodies allowed us to delay programs, and even reapply for grants that we had been awarded but were unable to use. Despite general reticence to commit new funding, our generous donors stood by us, and we are most grateful for their support.

Zoo grants, a critical component of our funding, continue to be an open question as they themselves recover from a steep decline in revenue.

Ugandan schools opened fully in January 2022, and we are cautiously optimistic about returning to near-normal programming by the summer. Uganda, like the rest of Africa, has been relatively, lightly impacted by COVID - although it is hard to collect accurate infection data. In the meantime, we have moved forward with projects that require minimal face-to-face interactions, and we are adapting others as best we can.

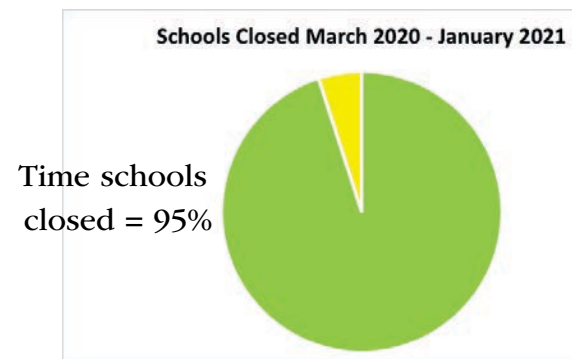
Our experiences in 2020 gave us the skills and flexibility in 2021 to continue to bring our programming to children and communities safely in their own homes.

In conclusion, our biggest challenge continues to be funding, with the top slot filled by the absolutely critical, unrestricted monies for projects not covered by grants. Having invested 25 years of time and resources into training and team-building, our #1 goal is to come through this epidemic with skilled staff intact and enough money in the bank to give the project the very best chances of surviving.

## Impact of COVID-19



Uganda's Covid-19 Stats  
(Cases: 163,000  
Deaths: 3,588)





# Financial Information

## Kasiisi Project Inc

Statement of Activity  
January-December 2021

### REVENUE

#### Unrestricted

Non Restricted Income - General	\$187,326
Interest	\$14

#### Restricted

Conservation Education	\$36,714
Health	\$25,284
Schools	\$111,832
Other	\$465

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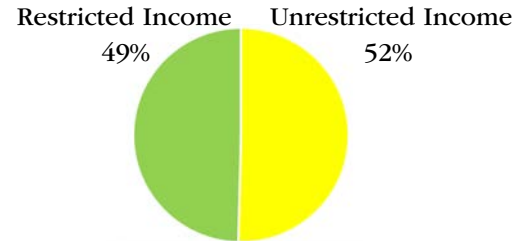
**Gross Profit** **\$361,635**

### EXPENDITURE

<b>Uganda</b>	Agriculture	\$4,454
	Conservation Education	\$44,160
	Contingency Fund	\$878
	GuestHouse	\$2,525
	Volunteer Housing	\$2,148
	Health	\$10,939
	Schools	\$87,283
	General Project Running Costs	\$81,939
<b>USA</b>	Advertising and Marketing	\$378
	Bank Fees	\$11
	Printing and Postage	\$1,302
	Information Technology	\$2,237
	Insurance	\$1,468
	Office Expenses	\$992
	Other	\$1,525
	Travel	\$863
	Professional Fees	\$44,205
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$287,307</b>

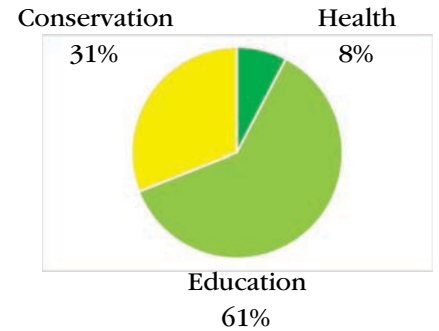
## INCOME

**\$361,364**



## EXPENDITURE

**\$287,307**



## Kasiisi Project Inc

Statement of Financial Position  
As of December 31, 2021

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Bank of America Checking 1	90,012.61
Bank of America Checking 2	83,863.61
Bank of America Savings	106,505.61
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$280,382.01</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$280,382.01</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$280,382.01</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
Equity	
Restricted net assets	107,579.01
Unrestricted net assets	98,486.01
Net Revenue	74,316.97
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$280,382.01</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$280,382.01</b>

# Programs 2021

## CONSERVATION

### Conservation Education

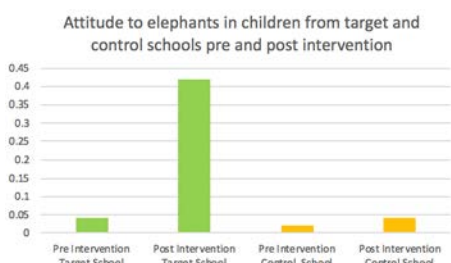


As in 2020, our greatest challenge in conservation education for 2021 has been reconfiguring the way that we deliver our programs safely.



However, our experiences in 2020, together with funding from the International Elephant Foundation, have helped us design and implement a range of initiatives aimed at improving attitudes towards elephants and their environment. Under normal circumstances, this effort involves staff interactions with children in close-quartered, classroom sessions, and in person meetings with each schools' Wildlife Club. However, during the COVID school shutdown, substantial modifications to our approach became necessary. With some ingenious planning, we combined distribution of our conservation-themed worksheets with a massive attempt to get desperately-needed, weekly, academic materials to about 2,500 children in their homes. Story time on the local radio brought our messages to another 30,000 people. Comprehension competitions kept academic learning first and foremost as parents had requested.

Evaluations showed that children who received conservation-themed worksheets scored significantly ( $p=0.03$ ) more positive attitudes to elephants when compared with controls ( $p=0.9$ ).



Children who were members of the Wildlife Clubs performed significantly better ( $p=0.001$ ) than non- Wildlife Club members

Reach of  
radio  
broadcasts  
**50  
Mile  
Radius**



# Conservation - Healthy Children:Healthy Chimps



This project addresses the threat to wild chimpanzees from human respiratory diseases, which are most likely pediatric in origin. Always of critical importance to conservation of great apes, this subject is particularly pertinent right now. SARS-CoV-2 virus, the causative agent for the COVID-19 epidemic, has the dangerous potential to “spill back” across the animal/human barrier from humans to chimpanzees, and it is considered to be a grave threat to chimpanzee conservation.

Despite closures and reduced sample sizes, in collaboration with The Kibale Ecohealth Project, our staff were able to maintain regular collections of nasal swabs from Field Assistants and their children. This project, as far as we are aware, is the only cohort study of respiratory disease transmission in chimpanzees and people in Africa to have been conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to continue this project, in order to safeguard ape health during a critical juncture in global public health. Funding from the ARCUS foundation has allowed us to expand the project to 3 more great ape sites - mountain gorillas in Bwindi and chimpanzees in Bulindi and Budongo. The first clinical samples have arrived in Madison, Wisconsin for viral identification, and DMV/PhD student, Taylor Weary, who along with Dr. Tony Goldberg is responsible for the U.S. end of the project, was awarded the first Dr. Gregory Bossart Memorial One Health Scholarship. This award recognizes "...one student from anywhere in the world, who is leading a graduate or clinical research project focused on the interconnection between animals, people, plants, and their shared environment."



Taylor's project is titled, 'Healthy Children, Healthy Chimps: Reducing respiratory disease transmission from humans to chimpanzees in Uganda'.



## Conservation - African Honey Bees



With funding from NGS and Akron and Oklahoma Zoos and in collaboration with local beekeepers we continued our monitoring of bee colony health in elephant-detering beehive "fences" around Kibale National Park. We have also extended our project to include bee fences in Queen Elizabeth National Park - a warmer, drier ecosystem. With 2 years of bee health data, we are beginning to be able to ask more in-depth questions about factors impacting colony size and activity levels and to test new approaches such as supplemental feeding.



Testing supplemental feeding

The Bee Team, Kajura  
Derrick and Tutyatunga Vallance



A forest edge beehive  
fence to  
deter elephants



Number of hives  
being monitored:  
32

Number of data  
points  
collected:  
163,000

Number of forest  
edge beekeepers  
enrolled in  
program:  
10

Number of  
beekeepers  
attending  
training  
workshops:  
12

Number of active  
hives  
in Kasiisi apiary:  
57

Kilograms of  
honey harvested  
from  
Kasiisi apiary:  
100





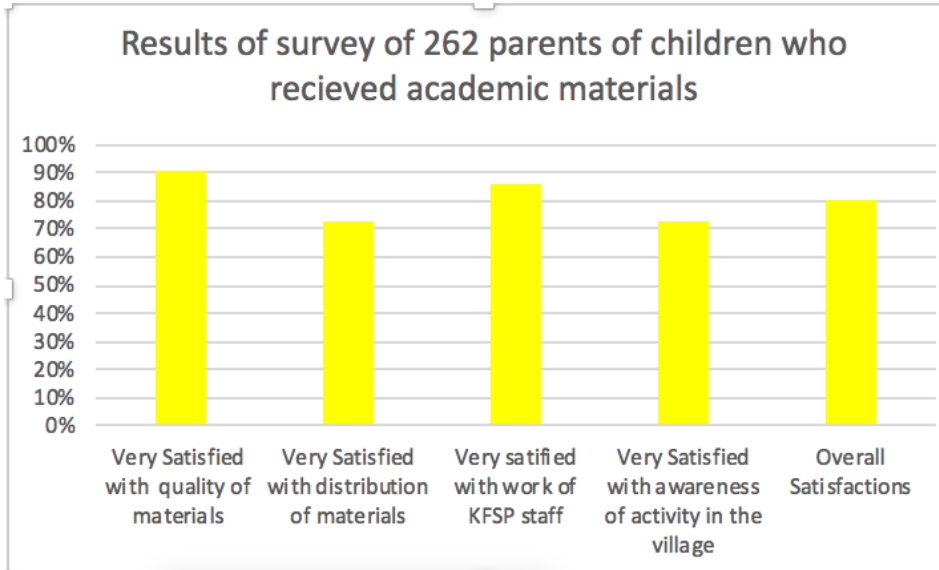
# EDUCATION

When the Ugandan government closed schools in March 2020, our education programs were the hardest hit and were made a priority for 2021. Uganda had the longest school closures in the world with resultant, soaring teen pregnancies and early marriages. Efforts to end child labor were set back 20 years as children entered the informal economy to contribute to reduced family incomes, many never to return to school. Indeed, when we polled our students, 30% said they had no interest in learning. While children from more affluent families were able to access

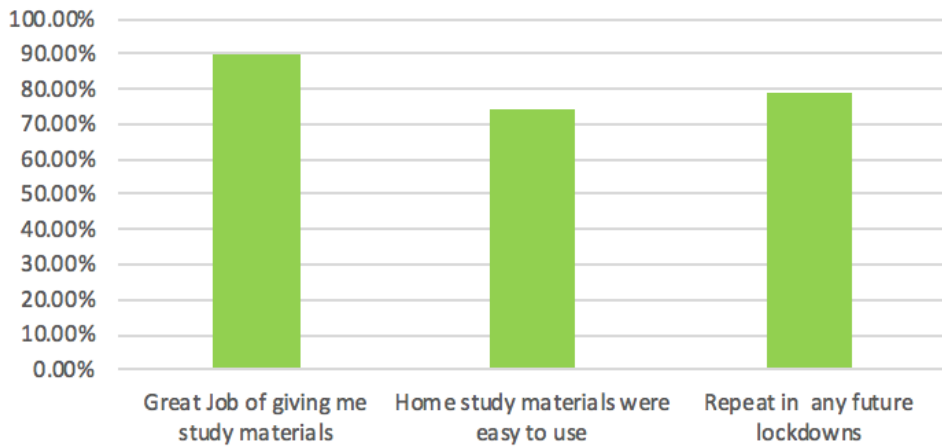
online learning, this was not an option for our kids. We felt impelled to do something to close the gap. With support from generous donors and despite heavy rain and appalling roads, we distributed pencils, crayons, paper and academic materials to 2500 - 3000 students in Grades 4-6 for 4 months between September and December 2021. With help from village leaders, teachers and village health teams, 440,000 sheets of Government-approved school work in Math, English, Social Studies and Science were printed, collated and distributed through a chain of motorbike taxis into the villages. Completed work was marked by cohorts of teachers and returned. Teachers report that our children returned to school better prepared for academics, and ahead of peer institutions.



We were helped in our academic outreach by a generous donation of books from Bookfriends International. Boxes of books selected for each of our schools by our friends at BI were shipped in a container via Mombasa, and unloaded at Kigarama Primary School. Due to the COVID epidemic we were unable to distribute the books until March 2022. The container will be converted into a project storage room.



### Results of a survey of 235 children who received academic materials





# Thank you from the community

"I am writing to extend my appreciation to you as you helped me be academically focused:"

Nahabwe Dismas: Rutooma PS

"Thank you for the materials that helped me keep busy revising my books at home. I even got to meet my teachers for guidance:"

Ategaka Lawrence: Kitere PS

"Thanks you for the hard work you have done for me. You have helped me learn from home and revise for exams:"

Asiimwe Walter: Ruteete PS

"I greatly thank you for home study materials, I am ready to continue with my studies when school continues."

Katusiime Sharron: Mituuli PS

## Children

Thank you for helping out children in rural districts where there is no power or solar.

"Your support has helped my child so much because I have discovered his weaknesses and can help him."

"Thank you for the home study materials for our children. it keeps them busy and away from bad peer groups."

"I as a parents am grateful for home study materials which helped them academically and gave them something to do which is overcoming idleness "

## Parents

"We send a vote of thanks to you as our partners in development through provision of academic materials and psycho-social support during lock down:"

Principal: Rwnkuba PS

"Parents, children and the whole community sound their voices trying to appreciate the work done by donors towards the home study program."

Principal: Kitere PS

"Great appreciation for assisting our children and the entire community with home package school materials during the long lockdown of COVID 19."

Teacher: Rwnkuba Primary School

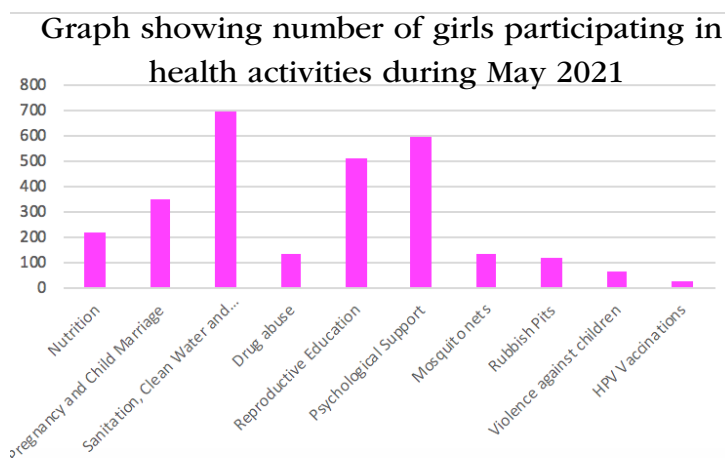
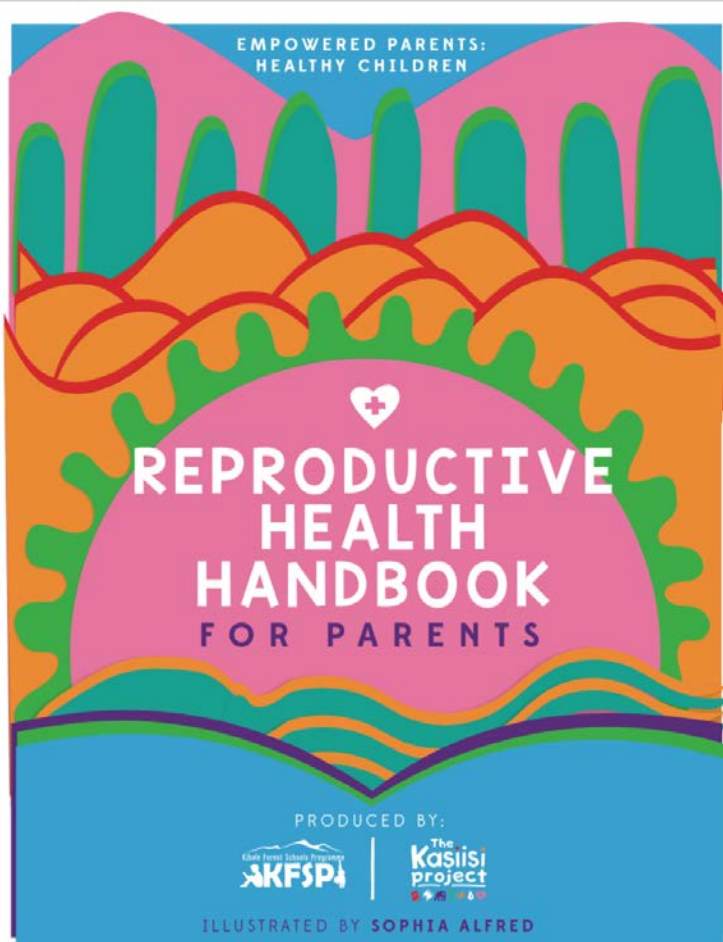
## Schools

# HEALTH

We have continued working to publish the first edition of our parent sexual health handbook, but other than that, our health programs which require in-person contact with students have taken a back seat.

In May 2021 schools were briefly reopened for a month. During this time we managed to bring weekly health workshops to 535 girls, covering early marriage, reproductive health, violence against children, drug abuse, hygiene, nutrition, malaria and safe garbage disposal. We also talked about student adjustment to school after COVID.

We hope in 2022 to be back to full programming.







# WANT TO HELP?

## Contact us

[www.kasiisiproject.org](http://www.kasiisiproject.org)

1 Carley Rd., Lexington, MA 02421

781 801 6994

### Kasiisi Project

### Kibale Forest Schools' Program



Advisory Board

Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Advisory Board

Terry Eastman  
Sean Rush  
Zarin Machanda  
John Slyconish  
Chris Fairclough  
Beth Armstrong  
Richard Wrangham  
Elizabeth Ross

Clare Murumba Price  
Emily Otali  
Richard Wrangham  
Elizabeth Ross

FUNDRAISING  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
RESEARCH  
CULTURAL EXCHANGE

PROGRAMS  
CONSERVATION  
EDUCATION  
HEALTH