



Mrs Imogen Wilde  
British and Foreign School Society  
Maybrook House  
Godstone Road  
Caterham  
Surrey CR3 6RE

24th February 2015

Dear Imogen,

**Re: Full grant report from the Henry van Straubenzee Memorial Fund**

We are pleased to include the final report for your grant of £14,470 awarded in July 2013 for the construction of facilities for girls at Bupadhenko Secondary School, Kamuli District, Uganda. The grant was for:

- Constructing a new girls' dormitory
- Constructing a new 4 stanza girls' latrine
- Constructing a new girls' washroom
- 40 x bunk beds for the girls

This final report is in addition to the interim report sent to you on 27th January 2014. In particular it focuses on section b) Outcomes achieved. We were unable to complete this section in the earlier report as school exam results had not been published at the time.

**b) Outcomes Achieved**

In Uganda, pupils at lower secondary school level (age 17) take O-level exams in subjects such as Maths, Lugandan, General Science and English. To explain the analysis of results, the children are grouped into levels of results called Divisions (Div). The division system aggregates the scores for all the exams the children take, so that division 1 is the highest and division 4 is the lowest. Whichever group pupils come within makes a huge difference, as Div 1-3 entitles them to free A-level education. Div 4 means that their families pay for further education which means most drop out, and Div U/X is a fail or non-attendance.

When we submitted the original bid, the school had achieved the results as shown overleaf. Prior to 2008 the school was not registered to take O-levels. Indeed, when we started working with it in 2006, it only had 6 pupils studying under a tree!

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Year	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3	Div 4	Div U/X	Final Year Pupils	Total Pupils
2008	0	3	8	23	0	34	205
2009	0	12	24	30	1	66	318
2010	1	9	18	45	0	72	410
2011	1	17	38	50	0	105	530

Since the bid was submitted these are the later results:

Year	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3	Div 4	Div U/X	Final Year Pupils	Total Pupils
2012	4	19	37	47	2	109	612
2013	7	9	28	99	2	145	695
2014	6	14	41	146	7	214	869

The table below shows attendance broken down by gender. Since the BFSS donation specifically supported girls, we wanted to ensure that more were attending the school.

Year	Boys	Girls	Total Pupils
2012	298	314	612
2013	358	337	695
2014	412	457	869

As you can see, the range of results for the school has become much greater. The good news is that the number of students achieving Div 1 - 3 (particularly Div 1 which can be broadly compared to 8 'A' grades at GCSE level in the UK) has improved significantly which we are obviously delighted by. Between 2013 to 2014 the figures held steady, but regarding the BFSS donation which supported girls and boarders in particular, the school head teacher commented that "*all the best performers were boarder students and 3 of these girls were also in Div 1 (R Nakisuyi, M Nakiyimba and S Kirega)*".

Additionally, there are a large number of studies showing that educating girls has huge benefit for themselves and their families in later life, so we are pleased to see that the number of girls at the school rose significantly between 2013 to 2014. Overall, there are now more girls than boys at the school for the first time ever. **When these facts are taken into account, we think the BFSS donation has been a major success both in terms of enabling the school to support more girls and improving grades. The charity and the school are incredibly grateful for your support.**

However the number of pupils gaining lower scores (particularly Div 4) also increased, which we are disappointed about. We do not think that this fact relates to the BFSS donation, but is due to the rapidly increasing number of pupils at the school. This has been caused by Uganda's enormous rise in birth rate (48% of total population is now under 15 years of age), the impact of our new facilities, and the fact that the head teacher is actively seeking to grow the school. We want as many children to attend school as possible but it is also important that they receive the best possible learning. In the case of Bupadhengo Secondary we are slightly concerned that the quality of teaching is dropping because resources (number of teachers, buildings etc) are not growing at the same rate as the number of pupils.

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For example class sizes have grown from 27 students per teacher in 2010 to 37 per teacher in 2014 leading to reduced quality of teaching and thus increased numbers of children only gaining Div 4 grades. As a result of this concern, we have contacted the head teacher telling him to *"be watchful of the challenges ahead caused by the growth of the school....Please do not over stretch yourselves with pupils, though I do realise that this is a good advertisement for the school. Can I suggest you think about what will be your biggest challenges ahead and maybe present me with a list when we meet up."* We shall discuss this issue with him when we meet in March 2015, and monitor the situation on an ongoing basis.

#### Tracking pupils ongoing performance

As part of the application for the BFSS grant, we carried out a tracking exercise in 2013 to see what happens when the children leave primary school. This exercise involved HvSMF Uganda based staff and our charity ambassador (who is chairman of the Kamuli Head Teachers Association) working with school head teachers to survey ex-pupils. This research should not be compared to analyses conducted by multi-national agencies, which cost large sums of money. It is, though, an interesting snapshot of the benefits of increasing access to education and enhancing attainment, as well as a commentary on our work.

There are three key feeder schools to Bupadhengo Secondary, as shown in the table below. These are Bupadhengo Primary, St Stephens Primary and St Mary's Primary. The majority of pupils from these primaries are going to secondary school, whether Bupadhengo Secondary or another one. In Uganda parents have much greater choice than the UK. Many students are then progressing to tertiary education (teacher college, commercial colleges, technical colleges etc), with around 15% going to university.

Primary School	Progress to Bupadhengo Secondary School	Progress to all Secondary Schools	Progress to Tertiary Education	Progress to University
Bupadhengo	30%	95%	40%	20%
St Stephens	20%	92%	60%	6%
St Marys	5%	92%	50%	10%

The table below shows the achievements of the children who progress to tertiary education and university to date. This is backed up by anecdotal evidence; for example one of the head teachers at another of our primary schools is an ex-pupil from Bupadhengo Secondary.

University degrees	8
Currently at university	20
Science librarian at university	4
Teachers (primary qualification)	31
Clinical officers	2
Nursing and midwifery	10
Vets	8
Tailoring & design	8
Hotel & tourism	5
Drivers	4

Generally we are delighted with these results as these are poor children living in rural communities. Furthermore these children are living in a time of change where the past traditions of pastoral agriculture will no longer work. With our support, they are adapting and have the opportunity to change their lives for the better.

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## Final thoughts

Looking back over the years, Bupadhengo Secondary School has come a long way. When we first started, it supported 6 pupils and was little more than a patch of land with no permanent structures. Children from the local area were walking up to 15 km each day to attend the nearest quality secondary school. The buildings and facilities we have supplied have played a key role in enabling the school to serve more children and improve teaching quality. This, of course, leads to more challenges and we shall be watching ongoing school growth, but it is a vast improvement on how things were.

The BFSS donation of facilities for girls has played a part in this. As the results above show, the number of girls at the school and their attainment has risen. This a huge benefit for them, their families and communities, and the country as a whole.

The tree where it all started



Completed BFSS girls dormitory & latrines



BFSS Plaque



The dormitory in use



Thank you very much for your support and please do contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

*Claire van Straubenzee*

**Claire van Straubenzee**  
**Founder and Trustee**

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