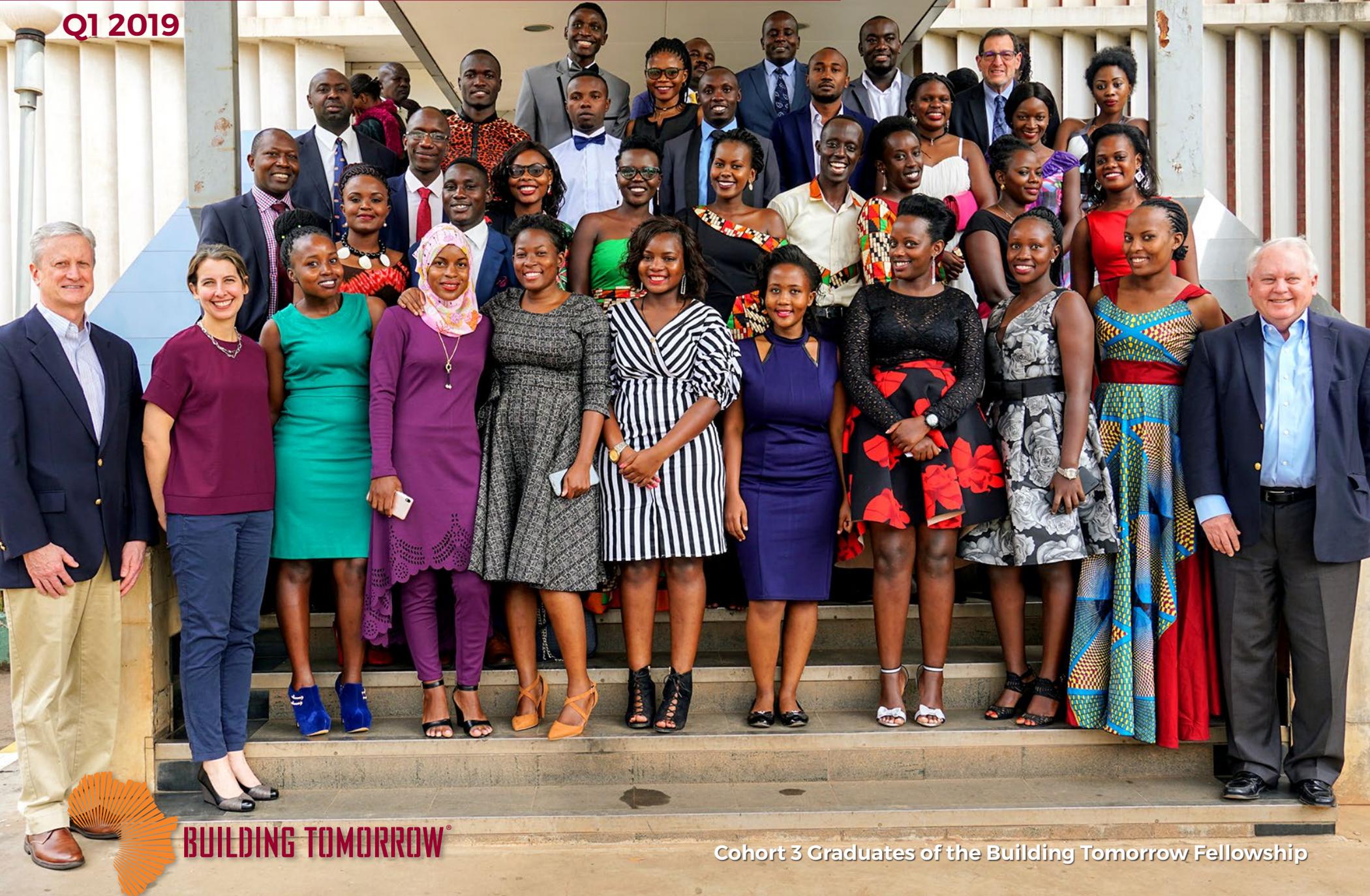


Quarterly Impact Report

Q1 2019



 BUILDING TOMORROW®

Cohort 3 Graduates of the Building Tomorrow Fellowship

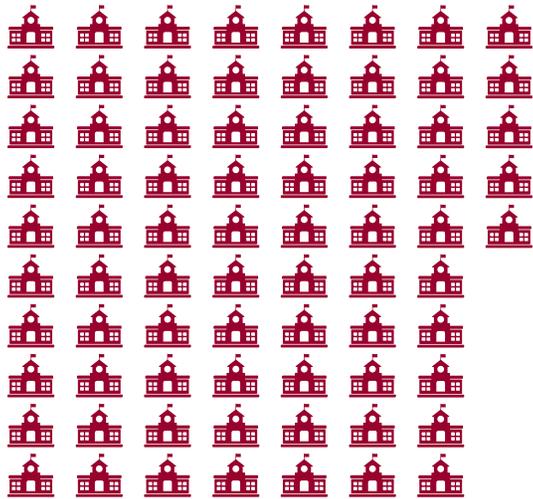
Schools Overview

80 Total Schools

End of March 2019

75 Open

5 Under Construction



13 Openings in Q1 2019, including our 75th school!

Feb 4



#63 #65 #66 #67

Feb 18



#72 #73 #74

Mar 25



#69 #70 #71 #75



#76 #78

Official government commissioning of BT Nabimogo Primary School (#75)



Out-of-School Children Enrollment

6,786

Out-of-School Children enrolled during Q1 2019



3,911

via 13 newly opened BT Primary Schools



2,875

via BT Fellows and Community Education Volunteers

51,941

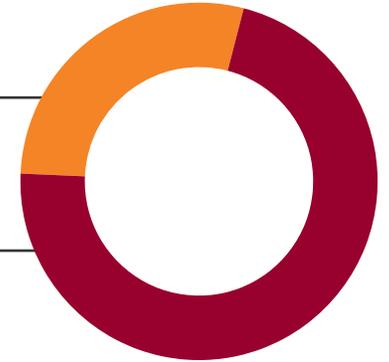
Total Out-of-School Children enrolled
Since 2014 | View next page for review of Educate 51k goal

14,760

via BT Primary Schools

37,181

via BT Fellows & CEVs



CEVs Godfrey and Vera stand with an entire family of OOSC they helped bring back to school at BT Kiyamba.



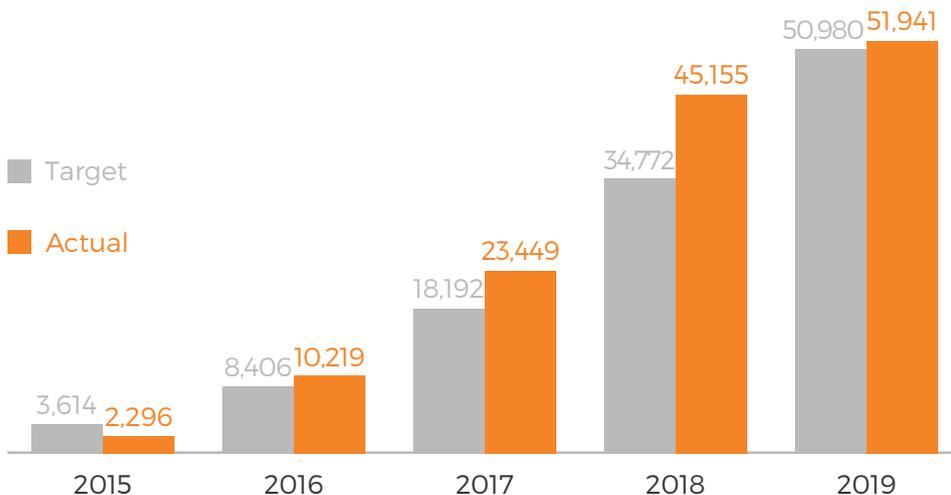
Educate 51k Update

In August 2014, Building Tomorrow launched a \$12.5 million Educate 51k initiative in partnership with Educate a Child, a program of the Education Above All Foundation. The initiative set a five-year target to enroll 50,980 out-of-school children by July 2019 via construction of 60 new Building Tomorrow Primary Schools and deployment of 150 Building Tomorrow Fellows embedded in underserved communities throughout Uganda.

In the first quarter of 2019, we exceeded the final program target set for July of this year, confirming enrollment of

51,941

Out-of-School Children



“To put this achievement in perspective, we’ve enrolled more than one out-of-school child every 50 minutes for the last five years straight...”

Students were enrolled through thousands of hours of effort by

150
Fellows

3,400
Community Education
Volunteers

10
Community
Development Officers

This is a remarkable milestone for our entire team. And while we’re really proud of what we’ve done, we know our work must continue to ensure every child is not only enrolled in school, but demonstrating learning gains, too.”

George Srour, Building Tomorrow Founder & Chief Dreamer

Fellows Update

In January, Building Tomorrow hosted the 3rd Annual Fellows Program Graduation and Launch Ceremony in Kampala, Uganda. Thirty Cohort 3 Fellows celebrated the completion of their two-year leadership journey that began in January 2017, recounting the successes and challenges of their Fellowship and the personal growth they experienced. In front of an audience that included Building Tomorrow

"We are catalysts of change. We are indeed building a tomorrow that will grow this country to greater heights."

Melvin Nasasira, Cohort 3 Graduate

Cohort 4 & 5 Fellows



100 Building Tomorrow Fellows supporting
400 schools in rural underserved parishes



2,875 Out-of-school children enrolled in Q1



3,400 Community Education Volunteers mobilized in enrolling OOSC
Includes all cohorts' efforts since 2014

staff and Board of Directors, along with local and national government education officials, Building Tomorrow also welcomed fifty new Cohort 5 Fellows to the program. Highly regarded by those in attendance, the Graduation and Launch Ceremony merited a full page feature in Uganda's preeminent newspaper, New Vision, as seen below.

Fellows are tasked with convincing parents, pupils to go back and complete school

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Henry Mulondo, 25, graduate I graduated with a bachelor's in business studies with education from Kyambogo University. When I joined Building Tomorrow fellowship, I got an opportunity to unlock my potential as well as innovate.

Simeo Nsubuga, MP Kassanda South We still need more help from Building Tomorrow as the available schools still need infrastructure.

Eria Ssebunyungo, Kiboga district There were people who had lost hope of getting education in Kiboga. However, the fellows have convinced them to go back to school.

FELLOWSHIP keeps pupils in school

Noreen Nakisozi greeting Building Tomorrow's board of directors after getting her certificate

Sour (left), Bagambaki and Mutekanga interacting with a BT staffer after the graduation

When Christine Nalubwama and a group of young people were selected in 2017 for a fellowship at Building Tomorrow (BT), we had no idea that the programme was not only to change ourselves, but also the lives of the community. Building Tomorrow is a non-profit organisation bringing access to inclusive and transformative education to children in underserved areas. Nalubwama, who had just graduated from Makerere University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, never imagined what the fellowship journey would be like. Nalubwama was posted to Kamungu district, an area she considered so remote, with limited social services. Her role was to look out for children who had dropped out of school and understand why they had. Nalubwama was also tasked with convincing the parents and pupils to go back and complete school, a task she describes as hard. "Imagine I had studied agriculture and here I was tasked with ensuring that pupils go back to school. At first I thought it was unachievable, but I had to get on top of the task," she said. Nalubwama said as if being placed in Kamungu was not bad enough, the worst came when she was told to identify the most vulnerable family and try to understand their daily challenges. "I identified the poorest family to stay with and I was not allowed to buy anything to supplement their needs. Life was hard, but the experience changed my outlook to life," she said.

Change of mindset Nalubwama said she lived with that family as she looked out for children who had dropped out of school. "I learnt that many children do not drop out of school because they want. It is circumstances such as lack of parental guidance, menstrual periods, lack of school fees and lunch and having to walk long distances to school that force them to drop out of school," she said. Nalubwama was speaking during the third graduation of BT fellows and launch of the fifth cohort fellows at

of our third cohort of BT Fellows, who have trained over 1,000 community education and volunteers to ensure we bring pupils back to the classroom," Nasasira said.

Build Tomorrow successes Joseph Bagambaki the BT country director, said many children in Uganda are learning from makeshift structures. "For others, the nearest school is several hours away or simply non-existent. We believe education is a right, not a privilege, so we are working to ensure no child misses out on the chance to access a transformative education due to lack

He, however, asked parents to pack food for their children, saying it is hard to teach a hungry child. "When a child is hungry, she or he cannot concentrate and this has a poor learning outcome," he said. Bagambaki revealed that there is a big gap between rural and urban pupils, concentrating availability of school infrastructure, attraction and retention of teachers which the Government endeavours to bridge. George Sseu, the founder and chief dreamer of BT, said the fellows have saved girls from early marriages and the stress that comes with menstrual periods. "Many girls would drop out of school to get married but the fellows have gone out of their way to convince the parents to take them back to school," he said. George Mutekanga, the commissioner in charge of private schools and institutions in the education ministry, thanked BT for using fellows in areas considered hard-to-reach and retaining them there. "This is a model that the Government should copy in order to retain workers in many of our sectors, including health and education. It is amazing how you recruited fellows in Kaberamaale, Nakasole, and Kiboga, where most graduate and the Government workers do not want to go," he said. Mutekanga, who represented the state minister in charge of primary education, Rosemary Sentinde, asked BT to incorporate entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy in their programmes to help government fight unemployment. "Most Ugandans do not have a

Q1 Spotlight Story

The Power Within

There is a famous quote by author Janice Trachtman: “Everything is within your power, and your power is within you.” It’s a short quote, but it packs a lot of meaning. It reflects a mindset of empowerment where you can change the things around you starting with yourself, no matter how big the challenge.

The struggle of inclusive education in Uganda might seem like one of these insurmountable challenges. Approximately 2.5 million children here live with disabilities, and 91% of them are not enrolled in school. Even those who do enroll tend to have their attendance wane when confronted with the stigma surrounding their disabilities and staff who are largely untrained in supporting them.

It might be easy to give up. It might be easy to wait for someone else to solve the problem. But that’s not what happens in this story.

This is the story of a Building Tomorrow Fellow who said yes when everyone else said no, who could have turned his back but instead chose to plunge head and heart first for the future of a child. This is the story about the power of one person, empowered, to change a life, to make the impossible possible.

From Rumor to Response

It begins in a dusty village in Uganda’s cattle corridor at the beginning of Melvin Nasasira’s Fellowship, and it starts with the rumor of a 12-year old boy who had dropped out of school.

In a country where more than 10 million people live below the poverty line and an estimated

70% of children drop out before finishing primary school, it is not unusual to hear such a thing. But for a Building Tomorrow Fellow who knows the power of education and is trained in catalyzing child-centered inclusive practices at their schools, it is an unacceptable and avoidable situation.

They know this because they’ve brought more than 27,000 out-of-school children back to class. They believe this because a Building Tomorrow Fellow is someone who sees the world as it should be and won’t stop until it measures up.

Armed with relentless determination and walking in step with his community education volunteer, Estus Sajja, Melvin therefore found the home of the 12-year-old boy and set to work. The boy’s name was Godfrey, and he was born with a physical disability in one of his legs and one of his arms, which made it difficult to walk at times and also to manipulate objects, though he had learned to compensate with his other limbs. Both of his sisters attended school, and it was only Godfrey who stayed home, instead helping his parents in their garden each day.

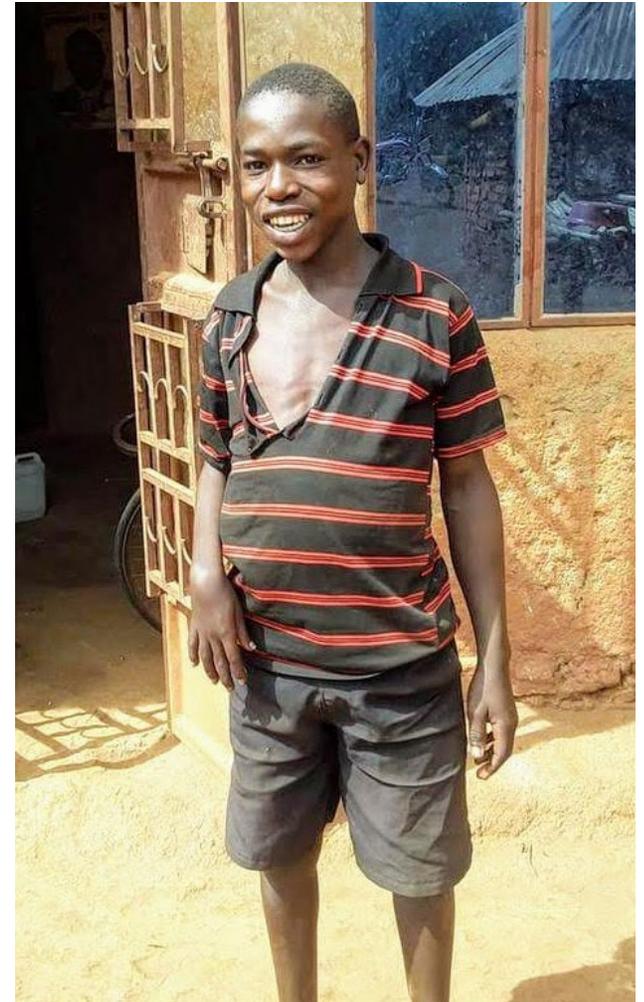
When confronted about Godfrey’s absence at school, the father matter-of-factly explained that he was not taken to school because of his disability. “That’s how he was born. Clearly, he cannot do anything,” he said with an air of resignation.

But this was not something to be lamented. This was something to be changed.

“You say he cannot do anything,” argued Melvin. “But you take him to the garden every day. If he can do that, he can do school because there is

not such physical labor at school.”

Reluctantly, and to the relief of both Melvin and his community education volunteer, the father allowed Godfrey to enroll in school.



Godfrey stands outside of his home

Q1 Spotlight Story

Just the Beginning

But this is not one of those stories with a quick and easy happy ending. Transformation rarely happens all at once, and is hardly automatic.

Godfrey struggled in school. He was bullied. The kids called him “Obote,” after one of Uganda’s lesser-liked presidents in the area. Far from uplifted, he was crushed.

But he was also loved. Watching all of this unfold was a person who would not give up, who saw problems as opportunities and not regrets.

And that person set to work again. It was obvious to Melvin that Godfrey was not doing well in school because he did not have proper clothes to wear to class, books, or even a pen with which to write. He implored the parents to provide Godfrey with the scholastic materials to no avail; their minds were as fixed as the ground beneath their feet.

The Love of a Stranger

This is the point in our story where Melvin decided to do something big for the child. It wasn’t just providing him with the scholastic materials that he needed to succeed at school. That would only change Godfrey’s circumstance, not his life. And to truly change a life, you must change people.

So Melvin set up a fundraiser on social media to get scholastic materials for the boy, but the aim wasn’t just to provide Godfrey with materials. It was very specifically to change two people’s minds—Godfrey’s parents.

“I wanted to show them that strangers can love

this child despite not knowing him. I wanted to challenge them to know their role in this child’s life.”

Within no time, Melvin had secured 150,000 Ugandan shillings and with it, a backpack, two school uniforms, shoes, and all the scholastic materials a child could need to succeed.

From Bullied to Bouncing

Godfrey entered school anew.

“When he entered class for the first time,” Melvin recalls fondly, “the head teacher told me that everyone wanted to sit with him—for the first time!” Previously, Melvin explained that because Godfrey was always in dirty clothes and unkempt, nobody wanted to associate with him.

His new uniform and materials, however, gave Godfrey a sense of identity and belonging that had hitherto been denied to him. “He was more supported by the other kids in class because he looked like them. He was in uniform.”

He was part of a community. What’s more, the bullying stopped. “He comes to school bouncing, feeling happy. He doesn’t struggle a lot like he used to,” says Melvin with a smile. “His teacher even told me, ‘Godfrey participates in class now! He used to just sit, not motivated to do anything, just observing. But now, he can put up his hand, answer a question, and be involved.’”

Revisiting the parents’ home after making this change, Melvin impressed upon them the importance of supporting their child and the impact it could make in his life. Even helping him to have a clean uniform and making sure he showers could make all the difference.

The message resonated. The parents started paying Godfrey’s school fees on their own.

“The head teacher was shocked,” recalls Melvin, “because it was the first time in their life that the parents were paying fees. They even gave him money to bring to school to make school lunches.”



Godfrey's school, the Building Tomorrow Primary School of Kyakatarangi

Q1 Spotlight Story

A Dream is a Dream

One of the best parts of this transformation is that Godfrey's inclusion in school life did not just stay there. It also translated into his home life. The family now includes Godfrey in activities at home that are not just related to working. Instead of sitting at a distance, he's part of conversations. Instead of wandering aloof, he sits with the family. He even comes home on time; in the past, he would be so frustrated with home that he would not come back home until very late. "He is receiving love from every other child in the classroom, which has spread to home," Melvin observes.

That, to Melvin, is the real success story—not just the change, but the lasting change. "The real success is to have these parents change their mindset about Godfrey. They now know

that Godfrey is just like any other child and that they have the responsibility to take care of him. When I reach their home these days, I can't believe this is the first home I visited in my Fellowship."

Thanks to this support, Godfrey has a better chance of chasing his dream. He wants to become a doctor so that he can do more for children with disabilities like himself. "He wants to help those who cannot walk to walk again, to help other children with disabilities," says Melvin, "and I tell him every day: Whatever you want to be, you can be!"

Reflecting on this experience and the state of children with disabilities, Melvin is optimistic. "I really feel that children with disabilities, if given an opportunity, can chase their dream.

Everyone has a dream, and I'm certain Godfrey will become a doctor. All he needs is support, and now he has it."

Melvin's Fellowship has just come to an end, and he is now counted amongst our 50 Building Tomorrow Fellows alumni. Looking back at this story, one which he shared at his very own graduation from our program, Melvin is proud of his having translated dreams into achievements. "Now that the Fellowship is ending, I'm sure I have left Godfrey in good hands—with parents with a changed growth mindset, willing to support him in school. And I know that change will last."

And that, is the power within.



In January, we updated our website with new content and a fresh design. Be sure to check it out at BuildingTomorrow.org!

