

Building Tomorrow

Impact Report

2020

Pre-pandemic, Uganda was experiencing an **education crisis**.

1.2
million
Out-of-school
children

35%
Primary school
completion rate

6%
of Primary 4 learners
could read a grade-
level paragraph

2%
of Primary 4 learners
could solve a simple
math problem

Building Tomorrow's 2020 programming plan was equipped to address the crisis.



Enroll over 20,000
learners in Roots to Rise
programming.



Deploy 150 Fellows to engage Community
Education Volunteers and enroll thousands
of out-of-school children.



Construct and open 6+
Building Tomorrow Primary
Schools.

By mid-March 2020, learners had been in school for six weeks, Building Tomorrow Fellows deployed for nearly two months, and primary school construction was ongoing. Data collected from January to March showed a promising start to the year:

1 School Opening



Building Tomorrow Primary
School of **Rwamuranga**

Opened **February 10, 2020**

Supported by MoneyGram
Foundation

638

out-of-school children
enrolled January–March

301 via 1 newly opened BT Primary
School

337 via BT Fellows and Community
Education Volunteers (CEVs)

81

Open
Building Tomorrow
Primary Schools

55,143

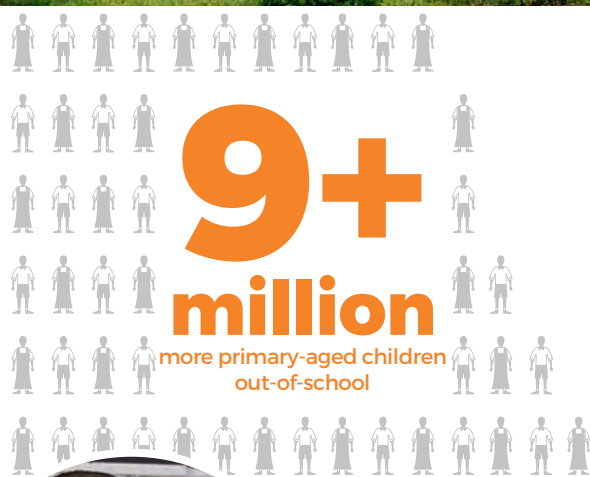
total out-of-school children
enrolled since 2015

15,767 via Building Tomorrow
Primary Schools

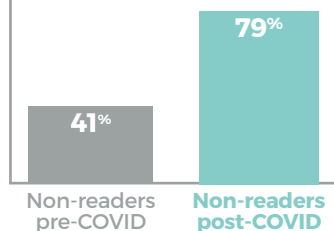
39,376 via Building Tomorrow
Fellows and CEVs

On March 18, the school term was suspended and

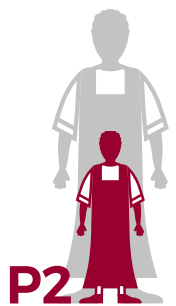
COVID-19 halted formal education for *millions* of learners.



79% of P3 learners
expected to be non-readers
when classes resume



When **P3** learners
return to class, their
levels of academic
attainment will be
comparable to learners
who are in the middle of **P2**



“The closure of schools has exacerbated preexisting education challenges in rural Uganda. The value of education has come under question, and girls in rural communities, who are most at risk of being excluded from quality education, have been most affected. The pandemic has highlighted just how fragile our education system is. But it also stimulated our creativity and innovation in proposing and implementing lasting solutions that ensure access to education for all.”

—Joseph Kaliisa, Co-Founder & Country Director

Building Tomorrow developed three innovative solutions in 2020 to meet the needs of the COVID-19 education emergency.

Tomorrow is
NOW

Building resiliency within
school communities

Roots to Rise
Ewaka

Providing learning
opportunities outside the
classroom

**Enroll
Uganda**

Returning thousands of
learners to class when
schools re-open

Tomorrow is NOW

"What makes Building Tomorrow unique is that it engages the community in the work of finding its own solutions."

—John Paul, Technical Advisor

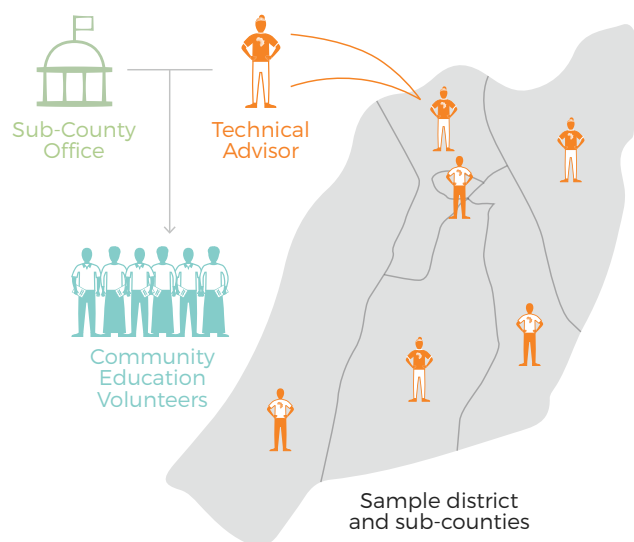


Tomorrow is Now is designed to strengthen school communities' capacity to bridge the access and quality gaps in education.

Alumni of the Building Tomorrow Fellowship serve as Technical Advisors (TAs) at district sub-county offices.



TAs work with sub-county administration to develop officials' ability to initiate and manage educational activities to achieve the following goals:



Strengthen connectivity within the local education ecosystem of parents/caregivers, learners, and communities.

Increase enrollment and retention of out-of-school children at primary schools and select secondary schools.

Increase capacity for collecting and managing school enrollment and achievement data to inform planning and strategy at the sub-county level.

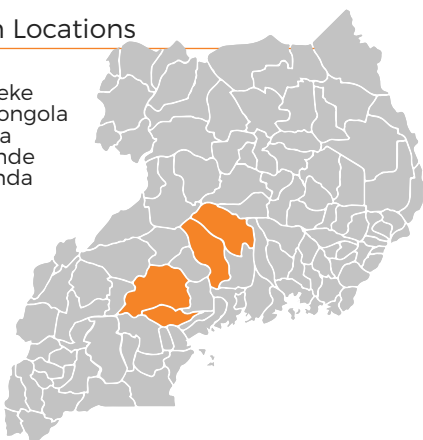
Bring all children at government-supported and universal primary education schools up to grade-level literacy & numeracy.

Implementation Locations

5
Districts

Nakaseke
Nakasongola
Gomba
Mubende
Kassanda

62
Sub-Counties



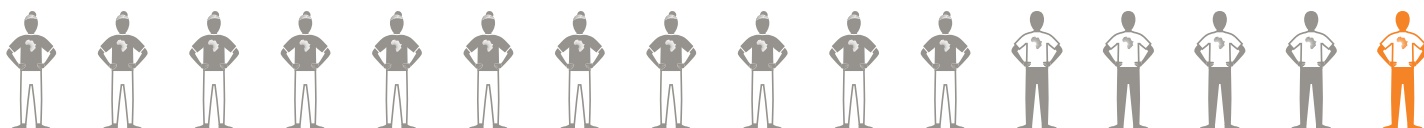
"Tomorrow Is Now is a timely, tailor-made solution

to the COVID-19 education emergency in Uganda. Through this new program, we're enabling local government and community leaders to work directly with Building Tomorrow Fellows to ensure **our systems and programs are sustainable for generations to come.**"

—John Paul, Technical Advisor



11 women and **5** men were deployed as Technical Advisors in late 2020



Roots to Rise Ewaka

"When I heard that schools would be closing, my first thought was, 'There's no way these kids can learn online.'"

—Mercy, Cohort 5 Fellow



With learners out of school due to COVID-19, we adapted Roots to Rise programming for delivery over the phone so learners could gain foundational skills "at home"/"ewaka".

Development of the Roots to Rise Ewaka concept began in May with the goal of reaching learners via basic mobile phone with pre-recorded numeracy and literacy lessons.

Enrollment

Learner dials a toll-free number to register with their name, phone number, and demographic information. Previous Roots to Rise learners are auto-enrolled.

Initial Assessment

The initial lesson is scheduled and a phone call is dialed out to the learner's phone. The first lesson is an assessment of the child's learning level to determine subsequent lessons.

Learning Lessons

Learners regularly receive phone calls with 10-15 minute pre-recorded lessons based on their learning level. Learners interact with the lesson by using the phone's keypad.

Continuous Assessment

At the end of each learning level's set of lessons, the learner is reassessed. Assessment data is tracked to ensure the learner is progressing through the curriculum and analyzed in aggregate to adapt content.

The Technology

Building Tomorrow partnered with Kenyan-based technology consultant Brr.ng to assist in platform development on top of our existing Salesforce database. Any learner with access to at least a basic mobile phone and a network connection can participate.

The Content

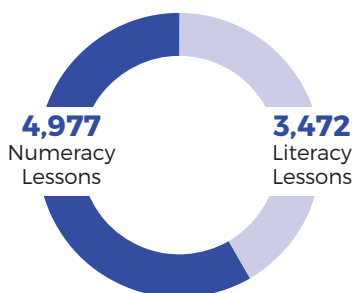
Learning content was adapted from in-person Roots to Rise programming with the help of Center Coordinating Tutors and other education leaders in Uganda. Lessons are 10 to 15 minutes long with instruction on mathematical operations and subsequent practice exercises.

The Results

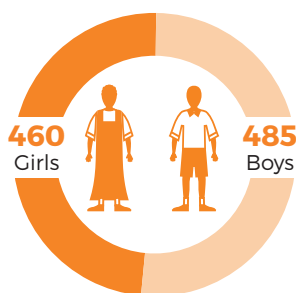
A test pilot of 218 learners was launched at the end of December 2020, providing valuable feedback on the platform's call deliverability, ease of use, and learning content. System refinement based on pilot feedback was ongoing at the close of the year.

Starting in July, Fellows delivered live phone lessons to learners to stem learning loss as Roots to Rise Ewaka was developed.

8,449
Lessons Delivered



945
Learners



Fellow Feature Mercy, Cohort 5

"Conducting Roots To Rise virtual learning calls has reminded me of the excitement for learning that we have instilled in our students and their families."

19 min
Average Lesson Length

43
Fellows Participating

226
Learners moved up at
least one numeracy level

50
Learners moved up at
least one literacy level

Parents have been extremely cooperative in making sure that students are prepared and have all of the necessary materials before our call, and **students love our interactive method of virtual learning**. One student, Alvin, has really stood out to me because of his enthusiasm for the program. Before COVID, he was poor in numeracy and struggled with basic math. Being out of school put him at risk of falling even further behind. But our virtual calls have given him the opportunity to work through assignments at his own pace with the help and support of his parents. Through the individualized instruction we have provided, Alvin is now able to solve increasingly complex math problems. He and his parents are even working with their neighbors to ensure that they also have access to Roots to Rise virtual learning!"

Enroll Uganda

"Kids can be taken away from school so easily if they don't have mentorship and encouragement."

—Mercy, Cohort 5 Fellow



In preparation for schools reopening post-pandemic, Building Tomorrow will Enroll Uganda over a 42-month initiative of:

Enrolling
84,275
out-of-school children

Constructing
18
new primary schools

Deploying
200
Building Tomorrow Fellows

Engaging
5,400
Community Education Volunteers

After being pulled from the field at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, Cohort 5 Fellows were redeployed to their communities in September after a brief re-entry training. Cohort 6 Fellows—our largest cohort to date—were selected in October.

50 Cohort 5 Fellows

100 Cohort 6 Fellows

150

**Fellows deployed in 2020,
our largest deployment to date**

In anticipation of supporting the largest deployment of Building Tomorrow Fellows to date, the **Thriving Schools program** was expanded and reorganized throughout September and October to create more Fellows-support positions and dedicated training, logistics, and Roots to Rise teams. In conjunction with the reorganization, Thriving Schools staff were trained on training design and facilitation in November and December.

"We cannot overstate the challenge we will have getting kids back in school."

Currently, if you visit a school you will find no one there. All of our learners are at home because of coronavirus. Many children are instead being put to work on the farm or in town to generate income for their families. We're facing this challenge head-on by recruiting volunteers, going door-to-door, and hosting community meetings to ensure that every child has the chance to get an education."

—John Paul, Fellow Grad





“It truly takes a village to raise a child. Our community-collaborative approach to education reform empowers our local community members to be active participants in our programs. When the community is involved in the education of its children, it’s easy to support learning—even when schools are closed.”

—Joseph Kaliisa, Co-Founder & Country Director

The Tomorrow Team | Building Tomorrow Leadership

George Srour

Founder & Chief Dreamer

Joseph Kaliisa

Founder & Country Director

James Mugabi

Deputy Country Director

Patrick McElroy

Chief of Staff

Jyl Strong

Director of Strategic Partnerships

Robert Sekadde

Thriving Schools Program Director

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George Srour

*Founder & Chief Dreamer
Building Tomorrow*

Michael Stayton

Past Chair

*Retired, UN World Food
Programme (COO) &
United States Infrastructure
Corporation (President & CEO)*

Financial Statements

Revenue

Restricted	
Grants	\$2,377,522
Unrestricted	
Contributions	\$340,637
Grants	\$632,000
Gain on forgiveness of debt	\$81,000
In-Kind contributions	\$26,923
Special events	\$18,091
Investment income	\$1,116
Equity in earnings from Kujenga Construction Co. Ltd	\$20,188
Total Revenue and Support	\$3,497,477

Expenses

Program Support	
Uganda	\$1,252,922
US	\$378,609
Administrative & Fundraising Support	\$222,747
Total Expenses	\$1,854,278
Change in net assets	
Change in unrestricted funds	(\$73,486)
Change in temporarily restricted funds	\$1,716,685
Total change in net assets	\$1,643,199
Net assets at beginning of the year	\$1,408,474
Net assets at the end of the year	\$3,051,673

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	\$1,445,638
Grants and contributions receivable	\$1,075,042
Prepaid expenses	\$14,524
Total current assets	\$2,535,204
Net Property and Equipment	\$2,673
Other Assets	
Grant receivable, long-term	\$500,000
Investment in Kujenga Construction Company Ltd	\$20,188
Total Assets	\$3,058,065

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$3,548
Credit card liabilities	2,844
Total current liabilities	\$6,392
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$1,079,192
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,972,481
Total net assets	\$3,051,673
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,058,065