



2020 Mid-year Update



HEARTY GREETINGS FROM SMILE!

Even in such perilous times, we send you hearty greetings from Uganda! We hope and pray you are doing well. We are delighted to bring you updates from the SMILE family.

Although the times are hard, what a joy it has been for us to take care of our precious children! We continue to pledge our unwavering commitment and support to ensure that children are protected and have a meaningful present and future. With your support, they enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental, and spiritual health.

LEARNING FROM HOME

Since March, schools have been closed and children have been at home. We have been intentional at continuing their learning, discipline, mentorship and skills development..

We are grateful for our staff and volunteers who have found great ways to keep our children busy and learning during this unprecedented season. Following a strict yet fun schedule, they are engaged in different activities like revision of their school work, reading storybooks, and farming.

CREATIVITY & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Through themed challenges in creativity, music, dance, drama and craft making we are daily amazed at the children's innovation, talent and enthusiasm. Some of the best moments have been a day when divided in three groups, our children presented original songs, poems, and dances sharing their knowledge of COVID and their hope for a world after the pandemic.

On one of the creativity days, we were amazed by one some useful creations like a handwashing station operated hands-free!



BROTHERLY LOVE AND BONDING

Spending time together has been good for our children to bond and forge better relationships with one another.

We had a wonderful family day where children exchanged gifts they made for each other using available materials around the home. Even the youngest ones put a lot of thought and work and did their best! The highlight of the day was Simon's iPhone he made for his big sister. They happily took a selfie!



OUTSTANDING NEEDS

With the rest of the school year hanging in balance with the highest possibility of resuming next year (as neighboring countries have already announced) we need to step up the learning at the SMILE Home. Academically, we need to buy some textbooks, and get at least two professional teachers to help our children with our school work several times a week, in order to maintain their interest and development academically. This is especially crucial for the younger children and the ones preparing for national exams.

We also need to bring trainers in different skills like using computers, growing mushrooms, playing music instruments and tailoring. It would be immensely helpful and empowering to have a few instruments like a keyboard, guitars, computers and sewing machines for the children to learn an practice. We believe the more skills they attain the brighter the future for our children in a country with the highest youth unemployment rate.

We are so grateful for friends of SMILE that have given our children about 250 books! We are thrilled to start establishing our home library and encouraging a culture of reading. In that regard, we need lockable shelves for proper storage and stewardship.

PLEASE RECEIVE OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING AND SUPPORT. OUR TEAM AND CHILDREN ARE DELIGHTED, AND ENCOURAGED TO KNOW YOU ARE WITH US EVEN IN SUCH DIFFICULT TIMES FOR EVERYONE. WE HOLD YOU CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS AND WE MENTION YOU FONDLY IN OUR PRAYERS!



Love from all of us at SMILE.
Stay safe.