

SOUP

2018

Impact Report



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Mission

To lead a national education reform effort through the Active Learning Project and to provide educational opportunities to vulnerable children in rural eastern Uganda.

Vision

To transform the lives of Ugandan youth through education system reform.



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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in The African SOUP! We are grateful for your support of our work in advancing the quality of education in Uganda.

2018 was a year of many milestones and transitions as we continually refine our programs to best serve our beneficiaries. Most notably, we received the Ugandan government's endorsement of our work in Primary Teacher Colleges through The Active Learning Project. Our community programs continue to thrive, undoubtedly shaping future leaders for the community of Nabikabala in eastern Uganda.

We are inspired daily by our Ugandan team who work diligently to provide opportunities for the children in our care, the teachers in our training programs, and the families in our community. Likewise, the expertise and dedication of the US and Ugandan Board of Directors has been instrumental in our quest for growth and sustainability.

We believe that with education comes opportunity, and with opportunity, extraordinary growth and development.

Investment in education insures a return that will be multiplied over future generations. We are thankful for the value you place on this initiative and for your commitment to its success.

Warmest wishes on behalf of the entire African SOUP Team,



Alison Wilson
US Executive Director



Kaidhiwa Michael
Uganda Country Director

Impact at a Glance

In 2018...

- 100% of Secondary Enrichment Program students matriculated to the next class.
- The SOUP primary school was ranked 5 of 280 schools in Namutumba District based on students' Primary Leaving Examinations.
- 100% of Nursery School students received medical care.
- Emma's Baby SOUP provided 4,500 meals to families each month.
- ALP was endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Sports TIET Department to work in Primary Teacher Colleges.
- 100% of SOUP school teachers participated in workshops dedicated to building confidence, active listening, positive feedback, project management, and continual Active Learning training.
- The Active Learning Project team joined the quarterly Basic Education Working Groups to help create and review policy at the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports.



Our Team

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Active Learning Project

The SOUP's Active Learning Project (ALP) aims to improve the quality of nursery and primary education through the implementation of active learning and teaching methods that put students at the center of the learning process.

By engaging teacher training colleges, primary schools, and education officials in active learning training and technical support, we hope to equip and empower Uganda's future leaders with increased content knowledge, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, and positive attitudes and enthusiasm towards learning.



Primary Teacher Colleges

In 2018, the SOUP developed a training guide on Active Learning for Primary Teachers Colleges (PTCs). This guide has been reviewed by tutors, curriculum developers and partners, and has been tried with fast iteration cycles with Bishop Willis 2nd year students. Students attended four workshops over three semesters, covering topics that included critical and creative thinking and ethical practices.

In addition to working with the PTC students, we provide professional development workshops for college professors (tutors) to instill the importance of teaching actively by example and emphasizing the role of active learning methods in all future courses. Once they are effectively trained, the college staff will take over the long-term delivery of the active learning methods course content.

ALP Strategic Plan

Our Goal: To improve the quality of education in Uganda by bringing active learning into every primary school classroom and Primary Teacher Training College across Uganda.

What is Active learning?

Any teaching method that actively involves the student in the learning process. This serves as the ideal bridge to transfer the content of the curriculum to the learner, ultimately increasing the pupils understanding and improving performance.

Why do we need it?

With 70% of the Ugandan population under the age of 24, the students in primary school today are in the pipeline to become the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and voices of Uganda. But with less than 20% of pupils advancing onto secondary school, there is a distinct demand by the Ugandan government to improve the quality and delivery of education. The African SOUP galvanizes partners in the education system to champion Active Learning as the key intervention that will meet this demand across Uganda. This approach deviates from traditional lecture and rote memorization and engages students in meaningful learning activities to construct knowledge for themselves. Active Learning emphasizes higher order skills, such as creative thinking, critical analysis, and ethical behavior.

How is the project implemented?

- 1. The African SOUP Lab School-** 500 students and 20 teachers in a rural environment serve as the development site for all methods and activities.
- 2. Primary Teacher Colleges (PTCs)-** a. We provide a teaching methods course to college students training as future educators. b. We provide professional development workshops for college professors (tutors) to instill the importance of teaching actively by example and emphasizing the role of active learning methods in all future courses. Once they are effectively trained, the college staff will take over the long-term delivery of the active learning methods course content. This is a two-year direct intervention with a third-year support and monitoring role by The SOUP.
- 3. Government Support-** We have received endorsement from the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports TIET (teacher training) Department for our work in Primary Teacher Colleges. We consistently inform government officials of our work and aim to foster these relationships for even greater partnership in the future.

What is the history of the project?

After recognizing the need and successfully implementing baseline active learning at The African SOUP Nursery and Primary Lab School in Nabikabala, Uganda, The African SOUP launched the national Active Learning Project in 2015. We began by piloting a partner school program with 20 schools in 7 districts in the Eastern region of Uganda. For the following four years, we trained head teachers, identified lead teachers, and trained all partner school staff on active learning methodology by providing training conferences, on-site support supervision, demonstration lessons, and continued professional development for all teachers.

We extended our reach to include rallying the support of all seven districts' Ministry of Education officials who actively participated in our workshops and visited our partner schools. We would not be successful without their support. We gleaned immeasurable knowledge and insight for our current project design from the partner school pilot. The 20 partner schools graduated from the project in December 2018. Over 300 teachers were trained and over 10,483 students benefited from the program.

Utilizing feedback from our pilot, we transitioned our work to focus on training teachers before they enter service. In 2018, we built a partnership with a large Core Primary Teacher College to test a supplementary teaching methods course for all college students and future educators. We developed an intense syllabus, curriculum, and training guide for this audience.

In November 2018, we received government endorsement of our work in Primary Teacher Colleges from the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports TIET Department. This partnership granted us a green light to proceed with our goal of expansion to intervene in all Primary Teacher Colleges in Uganda.

What is the plan to scale?

In 2019, we are rolling out the full implementation of the supplementary teaching methods course for students at our first Primary Teacher College, Bishop Willis Core Primary Teacher College in Iganga, Uganda. We are conducting baseline measurement and evaluation research at Mukuju Core PTC, a neighboring institution. The African SOUP will deliver a 2-year hands-on intervention in each PTC. Year one will provide the methods course for first year students and co-teaching with on-site tutors. Year two will follow year one students into the field as they begin their school practice while establishing clubs to continue to hone in on the application and importance of active teaching and learning. In this second phase, tutors will receive continued support and extended training on our course content. In year 3, we will remain involved in a support role to monitor progress and provide feedback to the

PTC leadership. If successful, we will expand our intervention to additional PTCs beginning in 2020. We continue our foundational work at The African SOUP Nursery and Primary Lab School. Before training educators nationwide, we develop and refine our strategies and activities at the lab school.

With proper support, we believe we can expand the Active Learning Project to reach all 45 Primary Teacher Colleges in Uganda over the next ten years by building relationships with government at the district and national levels. We believe this intervention will dramatically improve the quality of education provided in Uganda.

“Ever since we initiated AL strategies, I have seen many things coming into our institution. Students are able to evaluate and think critically of what is being said in class because we involve them in the local environment and in every component of the teaching-learning process. Now, there is no reliance on theoretical ways of teaching and because of this, it has enabled teachers to develop creative minds to be able to come up with new ideas instead.

This month I have made a demonstration bungalow house out of cardboard. We organized an hour in the timetable for creative activities and problem solving such as making this bungalow. Now, all the students and teachers have become very excited about making models. For the next month our whole school will be working on making a cardboard model of our whole school. Active learning has encouraged me to incorporate such activities as head teacher.”

*“I am a new teacher.
I am not the way I used to be.”*

*-Frederick Wakaza, DOS
Shammah Primary School,
Iganga*



Community Programs

In addition to the Active Learning Project, The SOUP demonstrates its commitment to students in rural eastern Uganda through its community programs, including the *SOUP Primary and Nursery School*, the *Secondary Enrichment Program (SEP)*, and *Emma's Baby SOUP Program (EBS)*.

Key focuses of these programs involve educating students using Active Learning methodologies and providing access to sustainable nutrition and healthcare for young children, growing students, and their families.

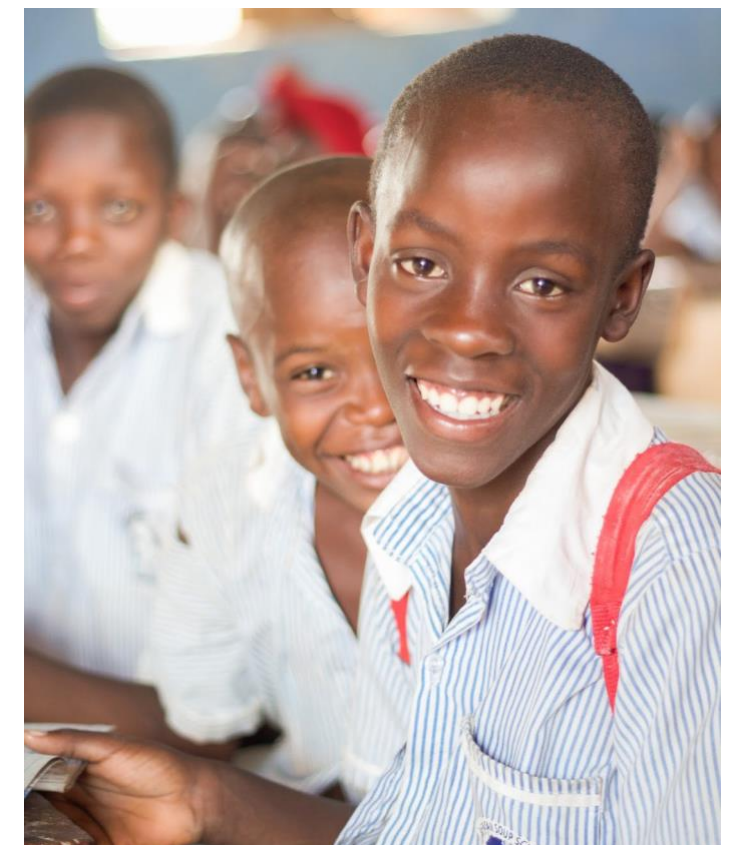


The African SOUP Primary & Nursery School

The African SOUP School delivers a quality, hands-on learning education to over 500 vulnerable children ages 3 to 15, grades Nursery through Primary 7.

The SOUP campus is a place of hope and sustainability. Gardens, homemade meals, support services, and Haven Home boarding facilities create a familial environment that supports staff and students to meet their potential. From our bioenergy kitchen, we provide nutritious daily meals to both our day and boarding students and our staff.

In 2018, 97% of Primary School students progressed to the next class, and 95% of Nursery School students were promoted to the next level.



Secondary Enrichment Program

The Secondary Enrichment Program (SEP) was created in 2015. SEP not only provides scholarships for up to 70% of secondary school tuition fees but also creates a partnership between the alumni and their community.

All secondary school students participating in the SEP return to the SOUP campus during term breaks to participate in workshops focusing on a range of topics from healthcare to servant leadership which helps to support our younger learners and community members.

In 2018, 100% of SEP Scholars matriculated to the next class and completed their O Level Examinations.

90% of Senior Four students will continue to finish their A Level Examinations in preparation for University.

Emma's Baby SOUP

At the SOUP, we believe learning is difficult if a child is malnourished and suffering from illness. Our "Baby SOUP" program relies on a holistic health approach facilitated through medical attention at the SOUP Primary School, the provision of nutrient-rich food, community workshops, parent counseling, and home visits throughout Nabikabala Village.

Through our continuous engagement with the community to combat some of the area's greatest health risks, we hope to open up opportunities for our community's children by proactively recognizing and addressing community health needs.

In 2018, the Emma's Baby SOUP program provided...

- * 4,500 meals per month to families (54,000 meals a year)
- * 15 trainings for 20 Village Health Trainers on best practices
- * Monthly supplementary feeds for over 45 children

"My father drowned when I was three years old. Unfortunately, my mother was sick and had no money to pay for my school fees, especially without my father's support. I had to drop out of the nursery school I was in, and that's when I began hunting to help feed myself and my family. I used a hand-made catapult with a rock and hunted animals that I could find near our home - usually birds and squirrels.

One day, three years later, a man found me hunting in my village. He asked if I was studying and I responded that I wasn't. The following day, that man (The African SOUP Headmaster) returned to my home, bringing with him a uniform that was my size. After my mother sat with this man for some time, she told me that I would be starting school.

When I first arrived at The SOUP School, I was given many things including a mattress, clean bed sheets, pens, notebooks, and other scholastic materials. I made many friends right away, and have been so happy here ever since.

I thank The African SOUP for all of the support it has given me. Sometimes I wonder where I'd be if the Headmaster had never found me."

-Zabulon, 5th Grade Student (P5)



Partnerships & Exposure

The African SOUP fostered many partnerships and benefited from some great exposure opportunities throughout 2018.

Some highlights include...

- In partnership with Peace Corps Uganda, two SOUP Primary 7 girls attended a *Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) Camp* in Mayuge, Uganda, and participated in arts and sports as well as activities around health, feminine hygiene, business and financial literacy, and goal-setting.
- Co-designed a technology platform with the Enlight Collaborative and two team members attended a 3-day training in Austin, TX.
- Presented our PTC intervention as part of the ALP to Harvard's Center of the Developing Child's Innovations in Action workshop. Three team members worked with project management experts on monitoring and evaluation tools, how to perfect strategy and implementation, and impact.
- Continued to work with *Stir Education, Educate!, Enable Belgian Development Agency, The Ministry of Education and Sports, The Enlight Collaborative, His Mercy School-Mayuge, Musana Community Development Organization, and Arlington Academy of Hope.*

Looking Ahead

The African SOUP is looking to increase the momentum behind the ALP going into 2019. We will be shifting our ALP focuses to working with teachers in training at the PTCs as well as continuing our engagement with the local and national government and our model school, The African SOUP Nursery and Primary School.

In the year ahead, we plan to continue conducting induction trainings with PTC tutors and lead a supplementary methods course for first year Bishop Willis students based on the *ALP Training Guide for Innovative Active Learning and Teaching*.

In our SOUP Nursery and Primary School, we will conduct monthly trainings for teachers on Active Learning pedagogy, building on the previous trainings from 2018. Additionally, we will conduct termly (three per year) *Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Trainings* for staff, focusing on executive skill functions, technology innovations in teaching, and additional life skills as identified from ALP-led focus groups.

To enhance our government relations, we will have monthly stakeholder meetings with the TIET Department of the Ministry of Education and Sports and Enable Belgian Development Agency and monthly meetings with Namutumba District Education Officials on the activities of the SOUP Nursery and Primary School.

“I have been involved in the Active Learning Project since it began in 2015, and am so thankful for all it has done for us. Since we adopted the program in our school, our enrollment has increased and student performance has improved measurably. It has also helped our teachers to grow in many ways - in creativity, in patience, and in becoming more student-oriented.

Everyone is benefiting.”

*-Wakate Afan,
Head Teacher of ‘Hands of Hope’ School*

Financial information is available upon request.

Please contact us to discuss ways to financially support The African SOUP.





Report designed for The African SOUP
by Madeline Scott Strategy, LLC (Catchafire partner)



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