



# **PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE)** **GREENING UGANDA SCHOOLS PROJECT REPORT 2023**





***Tree planting at Kinyabuhara Primary School. The Teachers and Children were very happy about the project as their compound was left bare. They demanded for more tree seedlings.***



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## 1.0. PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE) PROJECT BACKGROUND

**PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE)** is a Non-Governmental Organization, NOT for profit operating in the Kabarole district, Rwenzori region, advocating and protecting children and women's rights through provision of prevention and multi-disciplinary intervention in investigation and information dissemination through radio drama and outreaches to have a health -violence free society.

The organization helps transform the lives of the disadvantaged populations in Kabarole district and Fort Portal Tourism City, Rwenzori region, Western Uganda through empowerment programs, human rights advocacy, and health and literacy promotion so that they can have a better quality of life. PLANE focuses on general health awareness promotion, social security, and economic empowerment for teenage mothers, preventing violence against children and women, human rights promotion, and mitigating the impact of violence against children and the youth and other related interventions.

PLANE implements programs aimed at educational support to orphans and vulnerable children by providing scholastic materials and school fees. We also implements programs for empowering young mothers and rural women through livelihood interventions. In addition, we greatly support intervention on Gender-Based Violence prevention, sexual reproductive health rights, environment conservation and protection, water, sanitation and hygiene for rural communities.

Founded in 2010 PLANE is registered with the Uganda National NGO Board No. 10895. The organization has developed potential capacity and recognition in enhancing Health promotion Programs, advocacy for the protection of children's rights with emphasis on girl child education, Youth and Teenage Mothers Empowerment, caring and improving lives of vulnerable children and ensuring a well-equipped and knowledgeable farming community.



*The teachers of St. Stephen's Wisdom primary school happy to have received the tree seedlings. They said the project was timely. The head teacher appealed for more trees in future to make their compound green*





***Madam Angwena Harriet the senior District Inspector of Schools Kabarole district local government observing as a teacher plants the tree at St.St.Stephen's Wisdom School***



***"We love green, our school uniform is will green our school more. Thanks to PLANE and her supporters for greening schools. We want more of the fruit trees", the girls said.***

### **1.1. Legal Status & Registration:**

PLATFORM for the NEEDY is responding call for expression of interest to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE) is one of the national charity agencies in the country operating in Ruwenzori region set up in 2011 and registered at the national level (under NGO Bureau) in 2014 operating under the NGO Act of 2006. PLANE is member of Girls not

Bride Uganda (GNBU) alliance a fraternity that is focused at fighting teenage pregnancy and early marriages in Uganda.

The Initiative is an incorporated charitable entity based in Uganda in East Africa.

Primarily PLANE is into charitable work mainly children and women rights protection and SGBV prevention, Educational support. HIV prevention and Sexual Reproductive Health, Livelihood and economic empowerment, Environmental conservation and Water, sanitation and hygiene.

PLANE is run by a group of professionals dedicated to support the underserved and vulnerable populations. PLANE has a dedicated board of 7 members and 5 Trustees supported the secretariat/management team of staff (7) and core volunteers, Global Ambassadors and other volunteers with technical expertise who support field level interventions.

### **1.2. Organizational Philosophy**

PLANE is an organization built on the philosophy of unity in diversity for advocacy on the rights of children and women.

#### **Vision**

A just, knowledgeable and violence free society that responds to the rights of the most vulnerable population.

#### **Mission**

To promote empowerment programs for better Health, Education and Livelihoods for the disadvantaged populations.

#### **PLANE-Development Goal:**

***"Contributing to a violence free society"***.



*Mr. Bamwenda Patrick the head teacher Kinyabuhara primary school and his pupils commended PLANE for the idea of greening schools. He however said that the community is destructive when they do not receive trees. He asked PANE and her funders to provide trees to communities to mitigate effects of climate change and increase on income.*



*Kinyabuhara primary school pupils and teachers reading the messages about environment .The head master said these messages are good and inspire children to love nature.*



**Ainganiza Steven Waddell Founder and Executive Director**

## **2.0. PLANE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM**

School-going children are never too young to start learning about trees and forests. This enables pupils and students to love and connect with nature and fosters future generations that are conscious of the benefits of trees and forests and the need to manage them sustainably.

Under the Environmental Conservation Education program, PLANE encourages and **supports young generations to love forests and to take care of trees** around them to improve the environment for posterity.

Environmental Conservation Education is crucial to prevent environmental degradation and sensitize society towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

We believe that **investing in children’s forestry education** can change the world for the better and we ensure that local communities work to reduce deforestation and restore degraded landscapes.

PLANE is committed to working closely with schools to train teachers and students on forest plantation establishment and maintenance, especially tree planting for fuel wood, agroforestry, planting of fruit trees like mangoes, guavas, oranges, jack fruits, apples, paw paws, avocados among others to provide nutrients to children and also conserve the environment.

The Environmental Conservation Education Programme is reaching out to children and young people to encourage them to care for

their environment. More than 50% of Uganda's population is below 15 years of age, so PLANE activities are intentionally implemented in primary and secondary schools, communities, and churches as a way of targeting the youth to encourage environmental learning through participation. We aim at raising awareness about using nature to increase production and conserve the environment.



*Tree plating at Kicwamba Primary school. The children were excited to have received the trees especially the fruit trees. The head teacher said the program is good and asked the organisation to extend it to all the schools because schools lack trees as wind breakers.*





*Mr. Ali Bin Adam Musinguzi a teacher at Kicwamba primary school appreciated the project of greening Uganda schools and said it was timely. He appealed to PLANE to even consider teachers in this project because they have homes that they would have loved to green and since their salary is little, they would get income from tree planting if given the opportunity of consideration.*



*Tree planting at Bwanika primary school. Mr. Waddell Steven Ainganiza the Founder and Executive Director PLANE showing the children how trees are planted and cared for. The girl also participates and said it was a wonderful experience for them. The children asked the organization to plan giving them trees to plant at home.*



## **2.1. ABOUT GREENING UGANDA SCHOOLS PROJECT**

Greening Uganda Schools Project was initiated by Manav Gupta, a 16-year-old high school student at Manhasset High School in New York. He joined PLANE as an Ambassador/ Fundraising Coordinator after coming across the organization's work for underprivileged communities in Uganda. Through his outreach skills and passion for supporting these communities, Manav who was later joined by his friend Toby Leng also a 16-year-old student in New York who are passionate about environment conservation and Gender Based Violence.



Both are hopeful to make a positive, long-lasting impact in the organization. Their priority is to expand PLANE's brand mission within the United States and make more parts of the country aware of the lack of resources in African communities. If you would like to help in any way or join this incredible team, please reach out to us at

[manavgupta0726@gmail.com](mailto:manavgupta0726@gmail.com). Toby Leng on [gotobynny@gmail.com](mailto:gotobynny@gmail.com)

As USA Ambassadors for PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE), we are passionate about environmental conservation. We have set this fundraiser to raise \$10,000 to conserve the environment by planting trees in Uganda schools and Communities to mitigate the effects of climate change.

It is our right and responsibility to educate children about trees and forests. This enables pupils and students to love and connect with nature and fosters future generations that are conscious of the benefits of trees and forests and the need to manage them sustainably.

Under the Greening Uganda Schools Project fundraiser, PLANE intends to encourage and support young generations to love forests and to take care of trees around them to improve the environment for posterity. The Greening Uganda Schools Project is crucial to prevent environmental degradation and sensitize society towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

We believe that investing in children's forestry education can change the world for the better and we ensure that local communities work to reduce deforestation and restore degraded landscapes.

PLANE is committed to working closely with schools to train teachers and students on tree nursery and tree plantation establishment and maintenance, especially tree planting of indigenous species for fuel wood, agroforestry, planting of fruit trees such as mangoes, guavas,

oranges, jack fruits, apples, pawpaws, avocados among others to provide nutrients to children and also conserve the environment.

The Greening Uganda Schools Project is reaching out to children in primary and secondary schools and young people to encourage them to care for their environment. More than 50% of Uganda's population is below 15 years of age, so PLANE activities are intentionally implemented in primary and secondary schools, communities, and churches to target the youth to encourage environmental learning through participation. We aim to raise awareness about using nature to increase production and conserve the Environment.

With your contribution, you can help PLATFORM for the NEEDY achieve the following in the area of environmental conservation:

- \$0.5 Buys native tree seedlings to reduce soil erosion.
- \$2 purchases a fruit tree for schools
- \$200 enables training on environment conservation in 5 schools
- \$400 will enable the purchase and distribution of tree seedlings in 5 schools
- \$500 will enable 30 farmers to receive training on better methods.
- \$200 will enable 20 people to receive training in briquette making.
- \$400 enables 50 homes to receive tree seedlings
- \$200 will enable 10 people to receive training on energy-saving stoves..
- \$5000 will enable us to acquire a piece of land for a nursery bed

- \$300 will support a drama community outreach performance sensitization on environment conservation.

Out of the planned \$10,000, the fundraiser was able to raise \$1000 only to help in greening Uganda schools. The initial plan was to cover 70 primary schools, 20 secondary and 30 communities in Kabarole and Bunyangabu districts and Fort Portal Tourism City but the funds could not permit. We only covered 15 primary schools. We purchased these species of trees that include Croton, Terminalia, and guavas for school compound and Grevelia for school boundaries.



**Mr. Sunday Sam the head teacher New Valley Junior primary school busy carrying boxes of tree seedlings with his children. They were very happy**



**Tony Leng (middle) with his friends. They are passionate about serving the under privileged communities**



**Mr. Chris of Natural Resources Development Initiative (NRDI) our partner in greening Uganda schools takes keen observation on how the children are planting the trees at Bwanika primary school**



**MANAV GUPTA**  
**Project Innovator**



**TOBY LENG**  
**Ambassador**





***PLANE had a good experience with the children and the head teacher of New Valley Junior primary school. This school had started the tree planting project but lacked funds to buy trees. The head teacher Mr.Sunnday Sam said the project of greening uganda school was mana from above.***

## **2.2. AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN:**

- To educate children about trees and forests to love and connect with nature and fosters future generations that are conscious of the benefits of trees and forests and the need to manage them sustainably.
- To reach out to children in primary and secondary schools and young people to encourage them to care for their environment hence mitigating the effects of climate change.
- To support the 70 primary schools, 20



secondary schools and 30 communities plant trees and green their communities.

- To work closely with schools to train teachers and students on tree nursery and tree plantation establishment and maintenance, and establishment of the School Environment Clubs



***PLANE staff offloading the tree seedlings at Kiboha primary school in Mugusu Town council, Kabarole district.***



***Madam Angwena Harriet the senior inspector of schools Kabarole demonstrating to the children the planting and caring for them. She asked children to grow loving environment and protecting it.***



***PLANE has made stars in conserving environment. We have learnt to love and leave with nature.***



*“We didn’t know that girls and women can take part in tree planting. We have learnt something new and we shall encourage our colleagues to always participate. Thanks PLANE for educating us.*”



*Madam Jackline Kahinju the head teacher Kiboha primary school addressing the children as the district Inspector of schools madam Angwena Harriet and PLANE officials listen. She encouraged children to care for the trees and tell their parents to plant trees as away of conserving nature.*



### 2.3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Identify schools to benefit from the Greening Uganda Schools.
- Mobilize resources and fundraise to raise \$10,000 to support schoolchildren and youth in communities in greening their communities.
- Design communication materials to help disseminate the environmental conservation and protection issues to the children.
- Purchase tree seedlings and distribute them to the selected schools.
- Orientation of the head teachers, teachers, children and students about the project and the sponsors and their continued support to the project.
- Training of teachers about the project and establishment of the School Environment Clubs for sustainability purposes.
- Hold meetings with the sponsors to brief them about the progress of the project.
- To meet the sponsors Manav Gupta and Toby Leng to be PLANE Ambassadors in

New York and USA at large to always mobilize resources, source potential partners and fundraise for the sustainability of this project.

- To prepare and share the report with the sponsors.
- Provide video documentary of the beneficiaries talking about the project impact.
- Monitor the environment clubs and assess the progress of the project in schools.
- Provide the funders with accountabilities.



*We are taught to love nature. Tree planting helps us in rain formation. Thanks PLANE for educating us. We leave with nature*



***Head teacher Kiboha primary school Madam Jackline Kahinju participates in tree planting.***

## **2.4. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- PLANE reached out 15 primary schools out of the 70 targeted
- Tree seedlings were purchased and distributed to 15 schools
- Hired a vehicle for the transportation of the trees and staff.
- Established environmental friends school clubs and identified teachers to be in charge.
- Video documentary about the project done and uploaded on the YouTube and shared with funders.
- Bought T-shirts for the project.
- Project banner was produced for brand awareness.
- Designed and printed ply cards with Environment conservation issues for children to read.
- Talked to Manav and Toby to advocate for the sustainability of the project, look for partners and funders of the project.





***PLANE team with Nyansozi primary school children and the head teacher madam Kahunde Margaret during the tree planting exercise***

### **3. LESSONS LEARNT**

- Many schools wanted tree seedlings but access has been a problem
- The school administrators and children welcomed the project and were excited to have trees for the first time.
- Teachers also wanted the project to benefit them.
- Teachers wanted to be given tree seedlings at least 10 each for their families.
- Children demanded that they should be given trees for planting at home.
- The schools demanded for more tree seedlings to cover all the areas around their schools.
- Environmental clubs were not in existence.
- For sustainability purposes there is need for monitoring the beneficiary schools
- Head teachers revealed that when the community is not given trees, they will still have theirs
- Communities need to be given trees.
- Found out that most schools have areas for tree planting.



***Kamuli Rose also a primary school candidate says she is motivated by greening Uganda project. She asked PLANE to give them trees to take to parents to do the same if we are to have a global green environment***



***Irene a primary school candidate says she is proud of PLANE. I love their Bahemuka drama on VOT radio. I was going to miss the importance of tree. We need to love environment planting and environmental conservation.***



***Tony a pupil at Kiboha primary says he has learnt the value of tree planting and promised to talk to the parents to do the same.***



***Victor of PLANE says he is happy the children have liked the Greening Uganda Project. Each is demanding for trees to take home. We need to lobby for more trees in future.***

### **3.2 CHALLENGES**

- Out of the 70 primary schools we had targeted to start with, we only reached out 15. This was because the funds could not allow.
- We had planned to start with 20 secondary schools and 30 communities but none was reached out because the funds were not enough.
- Our goal was to raise \$10,000 for kick

starting the project in Kabarole district and Fort Portal tourism city but we only realized \$1,000.

- The tree seedlings were not enough to cover all the targeted schools.
- We were overwhelmed by the number of children who approached us seeking for assistance in terms of fees and scholastic materials.
- Teachers also asked us to help some needy bright children who face difficulties with fees, uniform and lunch.





***The senior inspector of schools Kabarole district Madam Harriet Angweena addressing the pupils of Bwanika and calls upon them to be role models in conserving environment.***

#### **4.0 FUTURE PLANS:**

- We plan to meet our brothers Manav and Toby to discuss on how best this project can be rolled out to other schools and to the communities so that people understand issues of environment conservation and protection.
- We plan to ask Manav and Toby to recruit youth adolescent youth and adults as volunteers and ambassadors that can spread the message of environment conservation, lobby and advocate for funding for the sustainability of the project.
- Write concepts and proposals on environment conservation and submit to our volunteers to lobby for partners and funders.
- Plan to establish debating competitions in schools that will be focusing on environment issues. The winning children and schools will be given a prize. We believe this motivates both the children and teachers and will grow with the spirit of conserving nature.
- We plan to request the initiators of the project to do these fundraisers at least half a year and annually for the project not to die out.
- Plan to establish nursery beds at schools, children look after them and tree seedlings will be given to children to take home for planting.
- Want to expand our partnerships with the USA community and other countries.
- We plan to invite our friends to visit Uganda to assess the progress of the project and also interact with the project beneficiaries. This gives them a clear picture of the environment here in Uganda and it strengthens the relationship.



*Tree plating exercise at Kaboyo primary school and Mugusu primary school. Madam Katende Teddy the deputy head teacher Kaboyo primary appreciated PLATFORM for the NEEDY for the greening uganda schools project . She said they budget for planting of trees around school but they have failed because of lack of finance. She said the coming of this project is a relief .*

## 5.0 Conclusion

Generally, the initial phase of the Greening Uganda Schools project was successful.

It was welcomed and appreciated by both children, teachers and head teachers. The District Senior Inspector of schools madam Harriet Angwena who led the team and moved with PLANE to launch the tree exercise said this would help children grow respecting environment. She appealed to PLANE and her volunteers to mobilise more resources and reach out to all the schools. The teachers and head teachers observed that the project is good as it instils in the young ones the spirit of tree planting and conserving the environment.

They welcomed the project and said it was their first time to receive organizations to give them trees for planting and this would beautify their compounds and also the fruits improve on their nutrition. The Executive Director PLANE asked the children to take care of the trees and look after them.

With the passion, commitment and intensified resource mobilization by our global ambassadors and volunteers, PLANE hopes to scale up the number of benefiting schools and communities for sustainability of this project.



*Children reading messages about environment conservation and protection.*





***Kaboyo staff, PLANE staff and the children pose for a photo after receiving tree seedlings . They're extremely happy over the project mission and goal. They promised to take care of the trees given to them and demanded for more***

## **APPRECIATION:**

PLANE Executive Director Waddell Steven Ainganiza would like to extend gratitude to brothers Manav Guptu and Toby Leng for the passion to serve communities all heartedly. It's a rare gesture for some people to help the people and communities at a distance but to them its their compassion. The duo has been innovative, committed and responsive whenever we approach them for help. They're goanna be great leaders of tomorrow. PLANE staff, executive leadership, the benefiting schools appreciate you all for your generosity. We also that the family of Manav Gupta and Toby Leng for allowing them to volunteer with PLANE and contribute their donations during the process of fundraising. And also all those that supported by donating and those still want to contribute more to the fundraiser. Thank you very much! Thank you very much. May the Almighty God bless you abundantly?

***“A laugh, to be joyous, must flow from a joyous heart, for without kindness; there can be no true joy” Thomas Carlyle.***





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**Video links:** <https://youtube/EFpPPgaaxTg>, <https://youtube/OT0n-c960RI>, <https://youtube/8KN5-4KvjCw>