



UGANDA

Plant a Smile

Uganda has one of the highest illiteracy rates in Africa. Many children live in poverty and have no access to quality education. In rural areas, only one in ten children aged 3 to 5 attend kindergarten. Many in elementary school drop out because their parents cannot afford the school fees. Sadly, the girls are then married off to older men who can bless their families with a dowry.

At our “Plant A Smile” school, we provide low-cost, high-quality education to children in eastern Uganda, a region with the country’s highest poverty rate. Not only do we provide schooling for 300 children, but we bring their parents and guardians on board so they can see first-hand the value of a good education.

Because God has blessed us with 6 sewing machines, we are able to train girls to sew as well as let them use the sewing machines to provide for their family. One of these girls,

Amina, is a Muslim teenager who had been forced into marriage and was 7 months pregnant. We taught her tailoring skills, and she is now able to provide for herself and her child.

We are so thankful to have the resources to provide a good education, as well as a practical program that helps each child develop and enables them to make a living and break away from the bonds of poverty.

Rebecca Wananda, Uganda

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Grain of Wheat International
info@grainofwheat.org / www.grainofwheat.org
IBAN: CH72 0900 0000 1748 7675 5



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

“Bringing hope
to children”



NEWS

Spring 2022

Challenge: EDUCATION

Dear friends,

We wanted to give you an up to the minute report on the exciting ways God is at work through GW worldwide. So, we asked our directors what challenges they are facing, how they have responded to them and how God has blessed them through these challenges. Because we don't want you to miss out on these remarkable testimonies, we will share them with you in upcoming newsletters this year.

In this newsletter, we will focus on the ways education is the key to change, and yet how poverty makes it virtually impossible for these necessary changes to take place. Over the years, we have seen many kids drop out of school or stay illiterate because they do not have access to a school. For this reason, we seek to make a quality education available to these children and youth in every country we serve.

Blessings,

Rob Hondsmark
CEO





MYANMAR

Education is the Solution

For 70 years, illiteracy due to an inadequate educational system has been the main factor behind poverty and political crises here. Historically, dictatorial leadership has destroyed every attempt to bring improvements to education in Myanmar, as an undereducated population is easier to control.

Even before the military coup in February 2021, schools had been closed for many months due to the pandemic. When the government forced the schools to re-open after several more months of social unrest and poverty, there were no qualified teachers and no safety measures in place to protect children from Covid or child abuse. As a result, less than 50% of the parents sent their children back to school.

In contrast, we developed a program called “School of Hope”, that provides a quality education, in a safe environment that

encompasses intellectual and social development, along with Bible lessons.

One of our area leader’s shares: *“In a very poor and underdeveloped area, ‘The School of Hope’ is a place where children are now protected from traffickers looking for children to work in restaurants and as house servants who are even sold to China and Thailand where they can’t be found by their families. Along with a quality education, the children in our school are introduced to Jesus Christ with many of them giving their life to Him.”*

In 2021, 370 students attended the 17 education centers we have established.

Jubilee Thanga, Myanmar

Find out more about the history of education in Myanmar and the “School of Hope” project on our website:

<https://grainofwheat.org/newsletter/education/>



ARGENTINA

Illiterate No More

Thousands of children and parents in Argentina and Latin America are illiterate. Because they can’t read or write their name, they are locked in poverty with no hope of escape. Even many children who have gone to school for years are illiterate because the school system advances them to the next grade even though they haven’t learned that year’s curriculum.

An Evangelical Educational Center in Córdoba, run by Grain of Wheat leader Ezequiel, has set up a classroom for children like 10-year-old Daniel who has gone to school for several years, but still can’t read. He was diagnosed with a learning disorder that holds him back. How would children like Daniel, who think they are stupid, ever learn to read? The situation looked impossible.

But Ezequiel was not going to give up on children like Daniel. Challenged by Ps 37:5 “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will do it.”, Ezequiel encouraged the



boys and girls to ask Jesus to teach them to read. Their voices and their simple but sincere prayers made the benches in the classroom vibrate! Families and teachers who know the children wanted to join us in helping the kids learn to read.

Proof that with the Lord nothing is impossible: by the end of the school year, Daniel could read and write.

Now he is happy to go to school and has a completely different attitude.

Marcos Oszurko, Argentina

