

St Barnabas Nursery School 1x4 Classroom Block 2020



Introducing African Revival:

Our vision is an Africa where every child has equal access to quality education as we believe education is the key to overcoming poverty. Since 2004 we have worked with primary and nursery schools in Uganda, Zambia and South Sudan. We don't just provide infrastructure; we empower whole communities – pupils, teachers and parents – to transform schools into thriving learning environments that build better futures. The end goal is simple: to improve equal access to quality education.

Overview of Project:

In Country Office	South Sudan - overseen by ARU/ARUK team
Project Name	Construction of a block of 1x4 classrooms at St. Barnabas
Project Location	St. Barnabas Nursery School, Ibba County, Maridi State, Southern Sudan.
Historical support	African Revival had been supporting schools in Southern Sudan for more than 15 years. We carried out needs assessment of schools in 2018 and prioritised potential projects accordingly.
Was this project located within an existing programme or new?	This is a new project - part of a broader plan to construct classrooms at three schools in Maridi State.
Project Goal and Outcomes	Project Goal: Improved learning environment, retention, and educational attainment of learners in Early Childhood Development. Outcome: Block of 1x4 classrooms constructed with furniture.
Target Population	330 pupils (180 girls and 150 boys) and 2 teachers
Duration of Project Implementation	6 Months
Project Budget	\$76,266
Donor	The Allen Trust
Contact Person in Uganda	Name: Vincent Komakech – Programme Manager Email: vincent.komakech@africanrevival.org

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Background:

St. Barnabas Nursery School community is located at St. Barnabas Cathedral in Ibba town centre. The school was founded by the church community with latest enrolment of 330 pupils (180 girls and 150 boys) and there are 2 female caregivers. The main source of livelihood in the surrounding community is subsistence farming.

Vincent Komakech and Ben O'Halloran carried out the needs assessment. Before this project there was a 1x3 temporary classroom structure which could not house the number of enrolled learners, no latrines within the school premises, no teacher accommodation, and all volunteer teachers come from their homes. Teachers' salary payment by the community is irregular, which means they are not able to work at the school full time and need to go to their gardens to farm and provide their own food.

Inadequate classrooms in schools can have a direct impact on both children and teacher absenteeism, and makes it difficult for teachers to have full control of the students

A supportive learning environment enables teachers to better control and monitor pupil performance. Proper classroom provision ensures learners are safe and reduces distractions that come with learning outside under trees.

Community Engagement: During the assessment, African Revival asked the community to contribute sand, bricks, and other local materials for the construction. Community involvement is important for sense of ownership. Parents are expected to make contributions of sitting mats and to continue supporting their teachers' salaries. Due to Covid-19 the community could not gather as usual which meant the contribution of the community to this project was lower than expected.

Project Delivery: African Revival constructed a block of 4 classrooms in St. Barnabas Nursery School and supplied furniture (40 desks, 4 chairs and 4 teacher tables). The additional 32 x desk-benches have been earmarked for Malibundi Primary School refurbishment.

Project Results: The project is expected to raise the enrolment of the learners as those who were staying at home because of the poor classrooms can now attend school and sit comfortably in an excellent learning environment.

Challenges:

Covid-19 posed a significant risk to this project as procurement of building material was predominantly from across the border in Uganda. However, the contractor navigated through the period and was able to complete construction within our agreed timetable. The community contribution could not be easily achieved as public gatherings were restricted. As everyone waits for the easing the lockdown the facility remains intact, and the diocese, together with community members and the local leadership ensure the building is well looked after.

Outputs: Construction of 1x4 classrooms, 40 three-seater desks which can seat up to 4 pupils each for the younger ones.

Outcomes: 330 pupils (180 girls and 130 boys) and 2 caregivers will benefit from the newly constructed classrooms. In our experience improved classroom provision has a big impact on enrolment, as parents can see that their children will be safe and well supported at school. We also expect to see less drop-out, better attendance and an improved quality of education provision.

Impact: The infrastructure will increase enrolment and attainment over time, as an improved learning environment will encourage both parents and students to enrol at the school. With the district ordinance enforced of no school going age child to be left at home, we hope to see less dropout rates, and more girls continuing with their education to secondary school.

Project Pictures – Work in Progress:



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Project Pictures – Completed:



Sustainability:

African Revival creates significant impact and sustainability through close engagement with the Education Governing Bodies, Head-teachers, parents, and local community leaders. It is the first time African Revival is directly working in these rural schools in Southern Sudan and in doing so we build long standing and trusting relationships. We listen and assess critical needs, working diligently with education officials, and local governing structures ensuring support at many levels.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation of this project will include maintenance of the infrastructure with help from the Diocese team, and monitoring the long term impacts the structure has on education at the school. Although travel to the project site by AR representatives is currently not possible, we hope this will happen in due course.

10% retention fee is due six months after project completion – early November 2020. The contractor is still to fit the plaque and a lightening protection system – this has been delayed due to procurement and delivery from Uganda.

Budget Summary:

The project was delivered within the specified time scale and within the agreed budget total amount of \$76,266

Thank you to The Allen Trust from all of us at African Revival