

## Construction of a New Primary School at Awindiri, Koboko District, Uganda



### 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 2005, 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 brighter, better futures. The end goal is simple: to improve equal access to quality education.

### Overview of Project:

<b>In Country Office</b>	Uganda.
<b>Project Name</b>	Construction of a new Primary School at Awindiri.
<b>Project Location</b>	Awindiri Primary is located in Awindiri Cell, Awindiri Ward, Oraba Town Council, Koboko District, Northern Uganda.
<b>Historical Support</b>	African Revival had not worked with this school previously. It was identified while carrying out a needs assessment, as guided by the Koboko District Education Office.
<b>Was this project located within an existing programme or new?</b>	This forms part of our expansion programme to improve infrastructure and education support to schools in the Koboko District of Northern Uganda.
<b>Project Goal and Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Provide an improved learning environment for pupils at Awindiri Primary School.</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Construction of a 1x3 classroom block (CRB), furnished with 54 wooden desk benches for pupils and 3 desks/chairs for teachers.</p> <p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Construction of 5 stances Girls' drainable latrines (with changing room), 5 stances Boys' drainable latrines, 2 stances Staff drainable latrines.</p> <p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Latrine and classroom construction are disability and wheelchair accessible.</p> <p><b>Outcome 5:</b> Construction of a 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank (RWHT).</p>



	<p><b>Outcome 6:</b> 12 youths from the community trained in building skills using ISSB technology and 320 trees of various local species planted on the school site.</p> <p><b>Outcome 7:</b> Provision of scholastic materials, reusable sanitary pads and Menstrual Health Management (MHM) training.</p>
<b>Target Population</b>	626 pupils (335 girls, 291 boys) & 5 teachers (1 female, 4 male).
<b>Project Duration</b>	Oct 2022 start - completed May 2023 (7 months).
<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>£ 45,872</b>
<b>Donors</b>	AR Restricted Education funding, AR Ball '22.
<b>Contact Person in Uganda</b>	Vincent Komakech – Country Manager Email: <a href="mailto:vincent.komakech@africanrevival.org">vincent.komakech@africanrevival.org</a>

**Background:** Awindiri Community Primary School was founded in 2015. The school is refugee-hosting, as it is located near porous borders with The Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The nearest school is approximately 5km away. Prior to construction, enrolment was 201 pupils (P1-P3 and a nursery section only). The school used to share a large, open church structure with the community, which was not conducive to productive learning as hundreds of children in several classes needed to use it at the same time, or learning time was lost because lessons needed to be staggered. Apart from this, there was no other formal infrastructure, so some lessons also took place under the shade of trees.

**Community Engagement:** Before the project commenced, African Revival agreed with the community - parents and teachers - they would contribute local building materials for construction, as well as some labour, security of building materials, and accommodation for the contractors. Community involvement is important for sense of ownership and helps to reduce project costs. The community donated the land for the new school site and all the new infrastructure and trees planted are to be taken care of by them.

**Project Outputs:** Construction of a 1x3 classroom block, with 54 three-seater desk benches, 3 teacher tables and 3 chairs; 5 stances Girls' drainable latrines (with a changing room), 5 stances Boys' drainable latrines, 2 stances Staff drainable latrines; a 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank. Latrines and classrooms are disability and wheelchair accessible. The new school infrastructure was officially handed over to the community on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023. 12 youths (5 female, 7 male) were trained in ISSB block making and building skills, 320 native trees planted on site, as well as provision of over 100 age-appropriate story books, 100 packs of reusable sanitary pads and a menstrual health management (MHM) training manual.

**Project Outcomes:** This project will directly impact the education of pupils currently enrolled at Awindiri Primary School, as well as thousands more in the years to come. Indirect beneficiaries will include parents and the wider community, who will benefit from newly-trained youths, skilled in how to build with ISSB in the area, and from the trees planted at the school site.



As a direct result of our intervention, we have been informed by the DEO this school is on the list to be coded as a government school, which means it will receive trained teachers and additional funding, further improving academic performance.

**Project Impact:** The project has increased attendance, enrolment, and retention of pupils. Enrolment is now 626 pupils with 5 teachers, one of whom is trained. The new classrooms and furniture have had a significant impact on the quality of education, as previously children were being taught in a large, shared space or outside under trees. We expect better academic results during this school year. Improved education has been proven to have a fundamental and direct impact on numerous social markers such as sanitation, health and mortality, nutrition, civic participation and rural poverty.

Clean and safe latrines are key to maintaining hygiene and preventing the spread of disease, reducing absenteeism. Girls tend to stay at home during menstruation because they do not have proper facilities to use when at school, and consequently they lose many hours of learning. Changing rooms for the girls form part of our latrine design and, along with provision of reusable sanitary pads and an MHM training manual passed to the Senior Female Teacher, ensure they no longer need to stay at home during menstruation. Similarly, the provision of water on the school site will reduce the number of hours of learning missed by pupils, as previously they had to cross the nearby porous border to access the nearest water source in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The new primary school has been built using environmentally friendly ISSB technology, which requires bricks to be cured rather than fired, saving many trees that would otherwise have been burnt and therefore protecting fragile local ecosystems. Trees have been planted on site to prevent soil erosion and provide fruit and shade in future.

**Risk Assessment:** A risk assessment was carried out – reference Challenges.

**Sustainability:** The School Management Committee (SMC) have been trained on how to maintain the new structures and trees. Together with the local district education administration, African Revival will monitor maintenance of the new structures and planted trees during monitoring trips to Koboko District. African Revival creates significant impact and sustainability through close engagement with education governing bodies, headteachers, parents, and local community leaders. African Revival has been working in these rural locations since 2005 and in doing so we have built long standing and trusting relationships. We listen and assess critical needs, working diligently with education officials, ensuring support at many levels.

**Monitoring & Evaluation:** Monitoring and evaluation of this project will be the responsibility of Country Manager, Vincent Komakech. Vincent will liaise with Koboko District local government to assess usage of the facility and its impact on the quality of education through enrolment and attendance data, as well as results of the Primary Leaving Examinations. The school management committee agrees to be part of this monitoring process and pledges to allocate a budget to conduct repairs/replacement of worn-out parts.

**Challenges:** There were no unexpected challenges, or costs incurred during construction and there were no safeguarding issues or concerns during the project.

**Budget Summary:** 10% Retention is held by African Revival – this is due for payment to the contractor six months after project completion and following a building inspection of the infrastructure by our Country Manager, who is a qualified engineer. The project has been delivered within the agreed budget of **£45,872**. Construction was in partnership with HYT, who managed training of 12 youths in building skills and planted a total of 320 trees on site.

### Project Progress in Pictures



*Original 'classrooms'*



*Ground-breaking ceremony*



*Construction of latrines*





*Construction of CRB*



*Completed structures – CRB, latrines and RWHT with newly-planted trees*



*Completed classroom with furniture*

Thank you for the  
gift of education!

