

Construction of a Classroom Block and Rainwater Harvesting Tank at Barifa Primary School, 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.

Overview of Project:

In Country Office	Uganda.
Project Name	Barifa Primary School CRB & RWHT - Construction of 1x3 classroom block and 1x 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank at Barifa Primary School, Koboko District.
Project Location	Barifa is located at Donga Village, Ginyakol Parish, Dranya Sub-County, Koboko District, Northern Uganda.
Historical Support	African Revival built a complete school in 2022 – 1x3 classroom block with furniture, 1x 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank and latrines for girls (with a changing room), boys and teachers, and hundreds of trees planted. The need for further support was identified during a joint monitoring visit by AR (UK & Uganda staff) with the Koboko District Education Office, as enrolment had increased significantly.
Was this project located within an existing programme or new?	This forms part of our expansion programme to improve infrastructure and education support for schools in the Koboko District of Northern Uganda.
Project Goal and Outcomes	<p>Outcome 1: Provide an improved learning environment for pupils at Barifa Primary School.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Construction of 1x3 classroom block (CRB) with ISSB bricks, furnished with 54 wooden desk benches for pupils and 3x desks/chairs for teachers.</p>

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	<p>Outcome 3: Classroom construction is disability and wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Construction of 1x 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank (RWHT).</p> <p>Outcome 5: Provision of scholastic materials.</p>
Target Population	611 primary school pupils (317 girls, 294 boys) and 7 teachers (1 female, 6 male) (at the start of the project)
Project Duration	November 2023 start - completed April 2024 (5 months).
Project Budget	£39,242
Donors	The Rasche Family Charitable Trust, an anonymous donor (funded RWHT), The Allen Trust and AR Ball funds.
Contact in Uganda	Vincent Komakech – Country Manager Email: vincent.komakech@africanrevival.org
Contact in UK	Abi Dar – Programme Fund Manager Email: abi.dar@africanrevival.org

Background:

Barifa Community Primary School was founded by the community in 2015. The nearest school is approximately 4km away. Enrolment was 611 primary pupils at the start of this project, plus 32 nursery children (pre-primary school), with 7 teachers (most untrained). Originally, the school used a community hall structure (which was reclaimed for use as a health clinic), and temporary structures constructed by the community. Apart from this, there was no other formal infrastructure at all, before African Revival constructed a complete new school in 2022, on land that was donated for the new location of Barifa Community School. The school received a 1x3 classroom block, with 54 three-seater desk benches, three teacher tables and chairs, five stances of girls' drainable latrines (with a changing room), five stances of boys' drainable latrines, two stances of staff drainable latrines, and a 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank. Construction was with environmentally friendly ISSB and 12 local youths were trained in ISSB block making and building skills, with hundreds of new trees planted on the school site.

Barifa has very strong leadership in the form of headteacher Hammid, who is an inspiration. During a monitoring trip from the UK in June 2023, AR's Programme Fund Manager, Abi Dar and ARU Country Manager, Vincent Komakech, along with the Koboko District Education Officer, Drago Mulai, were impressed by the standard of maintenance and education at the school. Hundreds of story books donated by Book Aid International and delivered by African Revival were being used regularly, the school infrastructure was in a good state of repair and the standard of teaching was extremely high, compared with some of the nearby schools. Following AR's intervention, Hammid constructed four more temporary classrooms himself, with the help of some parents, so that each primary class could have their own classroom. There is another concrete structure on the site, which is used by the nursery section. There is a successful school farm, established by Hammid on his own initiative, and most of the trees planted by AR the previous year are established and thriving.

**Community Engagement:**

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

Project Outputs:

Construction of a 1x3-room classroom block, with 54 three-seater desk benches, 3x teacher tables and chairs, and 1x 20,000L rainwater harvesting tank – all built with eco-friendly ISSB. Classrooms are disability and wheelchair accessible. The new school infrastructure was officially handed over to the community on 25th April 2024. Local youths trained in ISSB block making and building skills as part of an earlier African Revival project were employed as part of the construction team. The school was provided with another 110 age-appropriate story books, a wheelable library and reading workshop as part of AR's Read Together project.

Project Outcomes:

This project will directly impact the education of pupils currently enrolled at Barifa Primary School, as well as thousands more in the years to come. Locally trained youths have benefitted from employment by the contractors.

As a direct result of our interventions, this school is now on the list to be coded as a government school, which means it will receive trained teachers and additional funding in due course - further improving academic performance. This process can take time, but we continue to work with the DEO to ensure this happens for this highly successful school.

Project Impact:

The project has increased enrolment, attendance, and retention of pupils. Enrolment is now 699 pupils (344 girls, 355 boys), with 11 teachers (5 female, 6 male), three of whom are qualified, and there is good attendance at school. The new classrooms and furniture have had a significant impact on the quality of education, as now all classes have permanent structures to work in. 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.

Provision of more water on the school site will reduce the number of hours of learning missed by pupils travelling to the nearest water source. The new infrastructure has all 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.

Risk Assessment:

A risk assessment was carried out and there were no issues during implementation.

Sustainability: The headteacher at this school is an inspirational leader and the School Management Committee (SMC) have been trained on how to maintain the new structures. Together with the local District Education Office, African Revival will monitor maintenance of the new structures 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. We have 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 ARU 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 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 **£39,242** with a small underspend, due to a supplier discount on the classroom furniture and monitoring trips shared with another nearby project. Construction was in partnership with HYT, who managed employment of local youths with ISSB building skills.

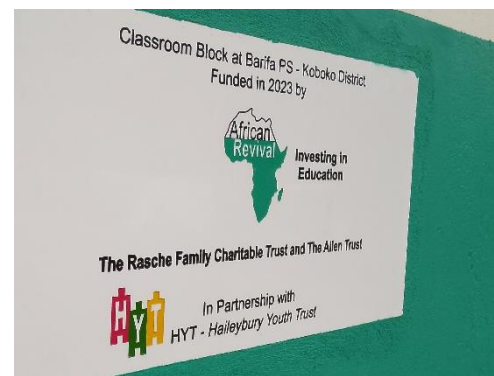
Project Progress in Pictures:



Temporary classrooms built by the current headteacher in late 2022



Construction of CRB



Completed structures

Thank you for the gift of education!

