

Report on Uganda Support and Exchange activities

Uganda support activities by high school students and citizens in Awa reached its 28th year. Although it was difficult to hold a support bazaar as usual because of COVID-19, we were able to send about \$1,000 to CUFI. with support from “Art Exhibition Peace in Awa” and “Uganda Coffee Month” campaign etc.

In June 2022, Awa-Nishi High School JRC members worked on support bazaar at the school festival. They sold Ugandan coffee and handmade aprons and bags used African cloth. In the fall, Tateyama High School is scheduled to sell Ugandan coffee. The circle of support activities is expanding further.

<Message of thanks for support funds >

Dear friends in Japan,

In December 2021, we received support funds for CUFI (Consciousness of Ugandan Foundation, INC.) from everyone. Thank you again for the support fund and thanks to all those good people who contributed towards the success of achieving this huge amount of funds that was sent to us.

After a long period of lockdown, it was very helpful to receive support funds during the Christmas season when the country, industry, schools, etc. are expected to open up.

We were grateful and humbled when we managed to put a smile on faces of many who were feeling hopeless and empty as new year was approaching by delivering and distributing food items that included posho (corn flour), beans, fresh fruits, clothes and shoes to the Mede community especially orphans, widows and elderly women.

Thank you again for your warm support, and God bless you all. 2021.12.28 CUFI Stuart Sempala



<COVID-19 and situation in Uganda >

In Uganda, in addition to fragile medical systems, many have lost their means of income, severe poverty is widespread, and the risk of hunger before COVID-19 infection is a concern.

The government set a lockdown in March 2020 and the school was closed. It had a serious impact on the livelihood and economy, especially the low-income people, and increased the vulnerability of the poor. Pandemics have left many in poverty, resulting in domestic violence, suicide, and mental illness.

At CUFI, we are reaching out to vulnerable people to reach food and medical care.

<Situation of Children in Uganda>

The school closure in Uganda lasted about two years and was said to be the longest in the world. Poverty due to the spread of COVID-19, early unwanted pregnancies and marriages, and increased child labor have increased the number of children forced to drop out of school. Some children have lost hope because they find themselves out of the class they should be in because they are over the age. Some children have to earn income to support their families and are looking for hires. There are also children who want to go back to school but cannot go back to school because of severe poverty and domestic work.

Among the children supported by CUFI, one girl was missing, probably because she was involved in the incident, and she is still searching while praying that she will be able to meet again. In addition, since the school was reopened in January 2022, we sent children to the boarding school and provided support for tuition and learning supplies in order to protect learning opportunities.