



ACTION STORY

GROWING A GREENER FUTURE

The Happyhours Primary School Tree Planting Project

This report details the activities and impact of a tree planting project undertaken at Happyhours Primary School in Lwengo District, Uganda, made possible by a grant. The project successfully combined resource provision, skills training, and community engagement to promote sustainable environmental practices and enhance the well-being of both orphaned and non-orphaned children.

Project Activities and Resource Allocation:

The grant funds were used to establish a tree nursery, procure seedlings, and provide training. Resources were allocated to construct the nursery structure, purchase seeds (mangoes, avocados, Grevillea, and Meospsis), and acquire plastic pots for raising seedlings. Watering cans were also purchased to ensure adequate watering of the young plants. A portion of the funds facilitated training sessions led by expert trainers, equipping teachers and parents with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective tree nursery management and grafting techniques. This training was crucial in ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of the project.

Project Beneficiaries and Participation:

The project directly benefited a significant number of individuals within the Happyhours Primary School community:

- Non-orphaned children: 142
- Orphaned children: 52
- Teachers: 6
- Parents/Caretakers: 24

It is noteworthy that Happyhours Primary School provides free primary education to orphaned children, highlighting the school's commitment to supporting vulnerable members of the community. The project integrated orphaned and non-orphaned children (many of whom were also from poor families) in the training and tree planting activities. Each child received a tree seedling of their choice to plant at home, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Parents and caretakers also received training, underscoring the importance of continued support for the children's tree planting efforts.

Tree Planting and Species Selection:

A substantial number of trees and fruit trees were successfully raised in the nursery and subsequently planted:

- Mango trees: 456
- Avocado trees: 630
- Grevillea trees: 1824
- Musizi trees: 760

The selection of these species likely reflects their suitability to the local environment and their potential to provide both nutritional benefits (fruit trees) and economic opportunities (timber).



Project Outcomes and Impact:

The project yielded significant positive outcomes. Teachers and parents gained valuable skills in tree nursery management and grafting, empowering them to support future tree planting. Children, both orphaned and non-orphaned, developed practical tree planting and care skills. Increased tree cover resulted in enhanced environmental protection and ecosystem improvement. Fruit trees will improve nutrition, while other species offer future income-generating potential. Broad community engagement fostered a shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

Conclusion:

The Happyhours Primary School tree planting project successfully combined resource provision, skills training, and community engagement to achieve significant positive outcomes. The project's impact extends beyond the immediate planting of trees, fostering environmental awareness, enhancing community capacity, and improving the well-being of children within the school and wider community. The long-term benefits of increased tree cover, improved nutrition, and potential income generation will contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for the community.



3670 trees
planted



224 adults &
children helped



AUD\$2000