

Project Description for Boarding School of the Naume Children Foundation founded by Dr Paul Okot-Opiro GP, in Gulu, northern Uganda

Historical Background

Between 1986 and 2006 Northern Uganda suffered a devastatingly brutal Civil War between the army of the government and the rebel army LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) lead by Joseph Kony. Beside massacres on the civilian population villages were burnt down, children were kidnapped, enslaved and raped by the rebels and forced into violent combat as child soldiers; some 20,000 children, amongst which more than 12,000 from the district of Gulu in northern Uganda. Families and village communities in that region were to a large extent destroyed by the rebels and the Ugandan army. Up to 2006, the Ugandan government set up numerous camps and compounds which was not only politically calculated but a way to systematically destroy and break up family structures and the village life of the local population. Many of the children who were forced to flee or who had been freed from the hands of the rebel militia were living in these camps, with no home and no chance for a school education. Life in these cramped camps was inhumane. Until 2012 infrastructure, education, social welfare etc. in the district of Gulu as well as in the rest of northern Uganda was practically at a standstill.

Setting up the Foundation

In 2006 Dr Paul Okot-Opiro GP set up the Naume Children Foundation in Germany. The Foundation was registered at the fiscal authorities in Munich on 27 September 2006 under tax number 143 / 235 / 60103. A year later the Foundation was registered in Uganda. Purpose of the Foundation is to offer children affected by the civil war a school education and to rehabilitate them back into the Ugandan society.

Additional goals of the Foundation are the advancement of educational institutions and educational programmes but also to provide funds and financial support for the fight against diseases such as malaria, HIV and against famine. Such help is badly needed since even after the ceasefire and the end of the civil war there are large numbers of broken families and traumatised people whose means to re-establish social structures from their own initiative is severely handicapped. These uprooted and traumatised people, who have been dispossessed and deprived of their livelihood, are not in the situation to build a basis for the future of their children.

Since 2008 the Naume Children Foundation in northern Uganda awards scholarships to orphans and to children of destitute parents. The selection of these children is carried out according to a specified list of criteria established by the Ugandan government and with the help of local authorities and social workers in situ. The children are selected according to the degree of their need, which in turn is under the control and supervision of a higher authority of the Ugandan government. The Foundation has its own staff in situ who carries out checks to prevent any potential abuse.

At the moment the Foundation sponsors 24 pupils; 12 girls and 12 boys. The Naume Children Foundation has placed them in elite boarding schools to give them a real chance for an excellent graduation and subsequent access to vocational training or university education. As a consequence of the long civil war most state schools in northern Uganda are in desolate condition and cannot cater for the increased number of pupils after the end of the civil war. In addition, motivation of

most of the teachers is not very high due to difficult working conditions and low wages. As a consequence the standard of school-leaving qualifications is lacking and does not meet international requirements. Ultimately this leads to a distinct competitive disadvantage of the children in the northern regions of the country.

The Foundation's own boarding school

The construction of a proper boarding school for 700 children is in the planning. Goal of the Foundation is to enable as many children as possible to attend a premium school. The advantage of a proper school is to be able to offer a somewhat more up-to-date schooling concept, independent supervision of pupil development and to convey moral and social values according to present-day standards. The new boarding school is intended as a link between Africa (Uganda) and Europe (Germany), and to promote international understanding between the two continents. Without the support from Germany the work of the Naume Children Foundation in Uganda would not possibly have progressed to the same extent that it has. Education and culture are requirements for social transformation and change.

The building project for the boarding school is situated in the hamlet of Adak Village, Lukwir Parish, Lalogi Sub-County in the Omoro district. Adak Village is located 20 km from the city of Gulu, a provincial town in northern Uganda.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure for the construction of the school has already been set up. In 2011 the Foundation bought a plot of 20 hectares and connected it to the main road. An electric pump powered water well is built and the grounds have been walled. To secure continuous access to clean water for the local population, the Foundation established a new well outside its grounds; access to clean water is no privilege but a necessity. It is our moral duty to assume responsibilities like this and by doing so, our Foundation takes part in the social development and wellbeing of the population in the area.

Furthermore, several facilities for the construction and maintenance sector have been erected and are ready, such as warehouse, locksmith, carpentry, generator building for the power supply, brick making site, warehouse for the sand mill machine, the waste disposal area etc.

The Organisation also has a fully equipped workshop at its disposal. There are carports and parking spaces for the vehicles used for the construction of the school. The Foundation has had machinery such as excavators, wheel loaders, tractors and a truck shipped from Germany to Uganda. This machinery is very helpful and enables not only transportation and groundwork but reduces the construction costs of the boarding school in the long run. Working with rented machinery is too cost-intensive in Uganda.

For the power supply the Foundation disposes of a large fixed power unit and two small mobile power generators. Once completed, the boarding school will in part be run on solar energy.

The tractors at hand are already in use on the school farm for the cultivation of foods (rice, cassava, peanuts etc.). In the future, the products from the school farm will cover some 70-80% of school provisions. In addition, the school farm offers pupils the possibility to obtain a training formation in the agricultural domain.

The architect Diébédo Francis Kéré

The architectural construction and design plans are being drawn by internationally known and renowned architect Mr. Diébédo Francis Kéré from Burkina Faso. Mr. Kéré lives and works in Berlin. While working on projects in China, the US, Spain, Great Britain and Italy this exceptional talent has agreed to work on our project in Uganda. There is simply no better man to take care of a project of such magnitude in the middle of the jungle of Uganda than someone whose heart beats for Africa. Kéré's conception of "radically simple" perfectly matches our vision for the execution of our project in Uganda. "Radically" because it is our intent to put human values such as humanness, responsibility and respect first and foremost and "simple" because it is simplicity we need under the local and current situation of the children for whom we intend to make a social change possible.

The constructions and building plans by Mr. Kéré are inspired by his fascination for Africa. Mr. Kéré uses local resources and building materials and his designs are functional and sustainable. It is not without reason he was described as a "outstanding representative of the socially committed contemporary architecture".

The plans for the boarding school are finished and were submitted to the planning commission of Uganda for approval in November 2017. We will be starting with the first stage of construction for the boarding school in February 2018.

Challenges during activities of the Foundation

Fund-Raising

Fund-raising presents the biggest challenge of our project. Despite the eager and generous donations from the German population, it has become increasingly difficult in this day and age to raise substantial sums. Nevertheless, we are very proud that most of the donations came from the small and intimate circle of patients of the Foundation's founder. With the start of the construction work for the boarding school we will increasingly organise more extensive fund-raising campaigns.

Corruption

Corruption is not restricted to African countries but is a worldwide phenomenon and does not spare Europe. According to international corruption rankings, Uganda is unfortunately among those with the highest listing. Corruption in Uganda is endemic, affects all social classes and is very difficult to fight.

As in most African countries poverty is omnipresent and only few people orientate themselves by the common welfare and have no national vision, that is why they mostly think in clan- and family-structures and enrich themselves at the cost of other social classes. The Foundation has made it its policy neither to tolerate nor to facilitate corruption. Meanwhile Uganda shows positive signals to want to fight corruption.

To make sure that the financial donations are solely used for the activities of the Foundation, the board members of the Foundation travel to Uganda regularly to survey the works in situ. All building materials, for example, are being bought by the members of the board themselves. And volunteers from Germany work for free so that the biggest possible share of the funds raised goes into the construction of the boarding school. Currently we still have to rent accommodation for the volunteers, but this will change as soon as the first lodgings for staff and guests on the school grounds are finished. All in all, expenses for the volunteers from Germany are kept very low.

Bureaucracy

The bureaucracy of the Ugandan civil service represents a further challenge. Decisions concerning the work of our Foundation such as the extension of the registration or a building permission for the road for example, take unusually and incomprehensibly long. In this respect we have been trying for many years to establish contacts to influential politicians and civil servants in high positions. The tax system in Uganda is similarly complicated as in Germany, therefore the Foundation employs a local tax adviser on the ground.

Working conditions

Working conditions for the workers on the site are difficult enough and for the volunteers from Europe even more so. The Europeans fight with the heat, with infectious diseases like malaria or with the threat by wild animals, possibly resulting in snakebites and the like. In general, there is a shortage of qualified workers. Working morale and work ethics of the Ugandan workers differs considerably, with the result that the members of the board of the Foundation visiting the site regularly need to call in the supervisory body (foreman, construction supervisor). The heavy physical work has already been considerably facilitated by the use of modern tools and machinery (wheel loader, digger, lorry etc). All in all, working conditions on the site have been substantially improved. And our volunteers from Germany make it their task to instruct and train the Ugandan workers with better formation improving competence levels. By paying an adequate wage, training motivation and working morale as well as the working discipline have been enhanced considerably. The founder of the Foundation, at home in both cultures, brings along the requirement to act as intermediary between the European and the African culture which also makes dealing with the authorities and working in situ much easier.

Budget of the Foundation and Expense Budgeting

Between 2008 and 2016 we have raised more than 500,000 Euro which we invested in scholarships for the children on the one hand and in preparation for the construction of the school on the other hand. Under the heading of "Preparation for the construction of the school" comes the purchase of the plot, the construction of the road and of the technical domain, the construction of the water well, the purchase of machinery, vehicles, technical equipment, tools etc.

According to the estimate of construction specialists, the Naume Children Foundation will be needing 5-6 million Euro to realise the project as currently planned.

In 2017 we have so far raised 200,000 Euro of which 100,000 Euro are earmarked for architect and project coordination expenses. For the present planning work, Mr. Kéré has received partial payment and the final amount will be paid after all contractual terms have been completed in full.

For the construction phase a seed capital of 100,000 Euro has been earmarked. The boarding school is planned to be finished in 3 years time. The construction will be carried out in 3 stages and each stage is estimated at a cost of two million Euro. Additionally, the prevailing climatic conditions will have a marked influence on the phasing of construction work. During the rainy season with heavy downpours between March and October, full construction work is limited. During this period, the weather hinders procurement of materials because of adverse road conditions and high water levels due to monsoon-like rainfall which regularly disrupt construction work. The implementation of the construction work will be carried out by a construction engineer from Uganda under the supervision of Mr. Kéré and his team from Berlin.

Project Implementation and Operation of the Boarding School Management

Operator of the Boarding School is the Naume Children Foundation with its resident representative. Purpose of the boarding school is not only formal education but also to convey and further social and moral values. The children are to learn by associating with each other how to live harmoniously within a community. They are to be encouraged to ascertain their opinion and to learn how to advance their point of view and assert themselves in later life in a democratic society. These children, the future generation of Uganda, are to learn to think and act independently and by doing so to further a social change for the better. It is through better education that this goal can be achieved. The educational concept includes the advancement of social competence and the conveyance of moral values. A broad spectrum of education shall be the foundation for schooling and studies.

Educational System in Uganda

The educational system in Uganda can be compared to that of the UK, the former British colonial rulers. As legacy of the British colonial power English is the official language in Uganda, despite its many different endemic languages. Elementary school is called “Primary School Education”, which covers 1st to 7th grade and children start school at the age of 6. Therefore children from 6 years old (1st grade) until 12 years old (7th grade) attend “Primary School Education”. At the end of the 7th grade, all pupils in Uganda take a state exam at the exact same hour after which they continue their studies at “Secondary School Education I” or start a vocational training.

“Secondary School Education I” covers another 4 years, i.e. grades 8 to 11, during which the pupils are 13 to 16 years of age. At the end of grade 11 pupils take another state exam.

After grade 11 there is the possibility to pass onto a higher school level, the “Secondary School Education II” also called “High School” or, as mentioned before, to start a vocational training. “High School” lasts 2 years and covers grade 12 and 13. Pupils are 17-18 years of age. At the end of the 2 years they pass a state exam which enables students to go to university or to start specialised vocational training.

Goals of the Boarding School

Our main goal is to provide the “Primary School Education” and the “Secondary School Education I”. The expansion to “Secondary School Education II” is an option.

In today’s modern and dynamic world a sound middle class is a crucial pillar in the development of a country. Therefore, another goal of the Foundation is to offer the possibility of training in the agricultural and technical sector, to become a metalworker, locksmith, carpenter etc., and also in the construction sector with the possibility to train as bricklayer, roofer etc. The already existing workshops offer the perfect environment for this type of vocational training. We will also offer the possibility to train in computing. Each of the school buildings will have a room with a computer system at its disposal. And for pupils interested in training as nurses, the infirmary will offer the perfect background to this pursuit.

Uganda is mainly an agricultural country and the vocational training in agriculture is an important part of our support programme. We plan to purchase another, larger farm for the cultivation of produce for the supply of the boarding school and for the agricultural training of pupils. The already

existing farmland on the grounds of the boarding school is too small for cropland and for the purpose of agricultural training. We have purchased two tractors which are already on the premises. The carpentry is already set up and running. At the end of the construction phase of the school, the carpentry will be at the disposal for the vocational training of our pupils. In addition, the sand milling and the brick making facilities are ready and will offer additional possibilities for vocational trainings.

After boarding school construction phase completion, the sale of bricks and excess produce from the farm will be an additional pillar for long-term financing of the school.

Apart from English as administrative language, we will teach German as the secondary language. German is important in view of the planned students exchange with Germany. We have already established a partnership with the Alexander-Lebenstein-school in Haltern am See/Germany and we plan to establish a nationwide network with schools in Germany to further student exchange between Uganda and Germany.

Purpose of the boarding school is not formal education alone but to also convey and pass on social values such as honesty, reliability, fairness, helpfulness etc. to create a competent, stable and just society for the future. Basis for the transformation of the Ugandan society is a sound education.

The boarding school is intended as a model institution for the German-Ugandan relationship and to this purpose German will be taught besides other languages as second language at the school.

Financial requirements for the running of the school

The number of required staff is 35-40 teachers. For each class of grades 1-7 at least two teachers will be needed which makes it a total of 14 teachers for "Primary School Education".

26 teachers will be required for "Secondary School 1" and will cover maths, physics, chemistry, biology, history, geography, languages (English, German, Kiswahili), computer science, arts, sports, engineering, agriculture and economics.

For each subject 2 teachers are required. The number of teachers can be reduced depending on how many different subjects each teacher will cover.

To attract highly qualified and motivated teaching staff for our boarding school we are building very nice, comfortable and affordable teachers lodgings. There will be accommodation for singles but also entire houses for teachers who come with their family. Our teachers will get a salary above average so that they can fully concentrate on their teaching job and do not need to take on a side job to secure their living income. Only happy people deliver good work. A prerequisite which applies to all the staff at the boarding school.

There will be need for 2 caretakers, and 2 technicians, 5 employees for the workshops such as carpentry (2 carpenters), locksmith (1 locksmith) and stone and brick making facility (1 skilled worker, 1 unskilled worker). 4 gardeners, 8 cleaning staff, of which 2 in the laundry, and 2 security staff.

10 people are required for the administration: 1 headmaster, 1 deputy headmaster, 1 concierge, 2 secretaries, 2 accountants, 1 procurement manager, 1 tax adviser and 1 social worker.

The number of kitchen staff is 8. There will be a minimum of 3 cooks and 5 kitchen helps for the provision of approx. 800 people (700 pupils and 100 employees).

Financial requirements for the running of the school: 1 UGX = 1/3800 EUR

	Occupational category / Cost type	No.	Annual costs		
			EUR	UGS	
1	Teacher	total	40	145,000	551,000,000
		P1-P7	14	27,000	102,600,000
		S1-S4	26	118,000	448,400,000
2	Administration	total	10	25,000	95,000,000
		headmaster	1		
		dep. headmaster	1		
		secretaries	2		
		accountant	2		
		concierge	1		
		tax adviser	1		
		social worker	1		
		procured. manager	1		
3	Order, Security	total	12	15,263	58,000,000
		cleaning staff	6		
		gardener	4		
		security	2		
4	Caretaker and Technical staff		9	13,316	50,600,000
5	Kitchen staff		8	13,158	50,000,000
	Total Personnel costs		105	211,737	804,600,000
6	Teaching material			55,263	210,000,000
7	Medical care pupils and personnel			55,263	210,000,000
8	Food approx. 70% self-catered via school farm			20,000	76,000,000
9	Energy costs			15,000	57,000,000
10	Maintenance, repairs, insurances, transportation			10,000	38,000,000
11	Seminars, sports, tournaments, etc.			5,263	20,000,000
12	Reserve funds and other costs			13,158	50,000,000
	Amount material and incidental expenses			173,947	661,000,000
	Total amount			385,684	1,465,600,000

Naume Children Foundation in Gulu, a modern boarding school with model character, a vision becoming reality

The boarding school in northern Uganda is intended as an exemplary institution of German-African relationship. It is the purpose of our Foundation to create a complex, functional, modern schooling and educational system, long-lasting and sustainable, on school grounds which are architectonically appealing.

The concept is modern, the everyday school life matches with the situation of children in Uganda. In the new home of the Ugandan children, functionality is as important as the familiar character of the school grounds which is intended to convey the feel of communality as well as to offer protection and comfort.

Who is more adapt for such a large project in the middle of the Ugandan savannah than a man whose heart beats for Africa. The internationally renowned architect Diébédo Francis Kéré from Burkina Faso has assumed the planning of the project. Inspired by the fascination of Africa he has created a gigantic master plan, which will offer a new home to over 700 children.

Kéré's concept "radically simple" perfectly matches our vision for the execution of our boarding school in Uganda. "Radically" because values such as humanness, responsibility and respect are put first and foremost and "simple" because Kéré's master plan encapsulates simplicity and clarity, reacting on the current local living condition of the children for whom we intend to make social change possible.

The construction plans and architectural drawings were submitted to the planning commission in Uganda and the start of the construction work is planned for February 2018.

The western world lives in wealth and excess, but this does not fill people with happiness in the long run. Our appeal is "Activity for Africa". People should not be forced to flee and emigrate because life somewhere else is better. They should be able to create advancement in their own country and live to see the process. Colonialism has paralysed Uganda and has made it the extended arm of a power where people resigned.

Uganda, once "the pearl of Africa" has an enormous potential for development. It is this potential we need to tap. And how can we do that? By starting where life, energy and power are yet to grow – with the children. Our hope lies with the children, they have it in their power to change and develop their country.

"If we are to reach real peace in the world, we shall have to begin with the children." (Mahatma Gandhi)

We would be thrilled, if you supported us in the process we have started in Uganda.

And we would like to invite you to actively participate in the boarding school project and to share your know-how with us.

We are looking forward to your support!

The Project Team

About the founder and initiator of the Foundation, Dr Paul Okot-Opiro GP

In 2006 Dr Paul Okot-Opiro set up the Naume Children Foundation in Germany. The Foundation was registered at the fiscal authorities in Munich on September 27 2006 under tax number 143 / 235 / 60103. A year later the Foundation was registered in Uganda. Purpose of the Foundation is to rehabilitate children affected by the civil war into the Ugandan society. To this scope we intend to further educational institutions and education programmes but also to provide subsidies for the fight against diseases such as malaria and HIV and against famine. Such help is badly needed since even after the ceasefire and the end of the civil war there are masses of broken families and traumatised people whose ability to re-establish social structures from their own initiative is severely restrained. Doctor Paul Okot-Opiro was born in the district of Gulu, northern Uganda and raised in a small village. When he was a teenager he was forced to leave the country due to political turmoil. He first joined relatives in Denmark and then travelled on to Hamburg. Years of trembling uncertainty lay ahead of him. Alone, without family and friends, in a foreign country without speaking the local language means to start a completely new life. Long and harsh years followed while fighting for a right of residence. His school certificates from Uganda were not accepted and had to be repeated. So, after finishing his language course in Hamburg, doctor Okot-Opiro took his A-levels.

The education and raising of Paul Okot-Opiro was based on moral and social values to help people in need. Therefore, it was his biggest wish to become a doctor of medicine. This wish was granted when he got a place to study human medicine at the Christian-Albrecht-University in Kiel/Germany. To master academic studies with three state examinations in a foreign country seemed impossible and more so since he had to work hard besides his studies to finance the semester fees. In 1995 Paul Okot-Opiro got his medical license and doctorate at the same time after which he did postgraduate training first in Bavaria, then in Baden-Württemberg to become a general practitioner which he accomplished and completed with the certificate in 1999. After that doctor Okot-Opiro worked in a neurological clinic in Hessen and later as general practitioner on the North Sea island of Juist together with his wife who is a medical doctor too. Apart from his job he also worked for the emergency rescue service of the administrative district Aurich as emergency doctor. Doctor Okot-Opiro is thankful, despite all the difficulties he has encountered, that Germany gave him these opportunities.

Board of the Foundation:

Founder of the Naume Children Foundation is Dr Paul Okot-Opiro GP. Members of the board are Mrs. Elke Schmitz-Heinen and Mr. Wolfgang Schmitz-Heinen, entrepreneurs, Dr Heike Göttlicher GP and doctor Jörg Göttlicher PhD.

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We are looking forward to your donation!

Donation account

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A short introduction to the situation in southern Sudan and northern Uganda:

Southern Sudan and northern Sudan once constituted one country, the Sudan. After years of war between the northern and the southern parts of Sudan, southern Sudan gained independence from 1972 to 1983 and from 2005 to 2011. In 2011 the two were segregated for good and on 9.7.2011 Southern Sudan gained independence under the auspices of the United Nations, and so South Sudan became the youngest state of the world.

Less than 3 years into independence, South Sudan was shaken by a bloody civil war. Despite various peace efforts the current situation in South Sudan is unresolved. There is political rivalry between the president of state Salva Kiir of the tribe of the Dinka, and the former vice president Riek Machar of the tribe of the Nuer. Both politicians and their followers were actively involved until 2005 in the struggle for independence from northern Sudan. The former power-political conflict within the party developed into an ethnic fight between the two tribes Dinka and Nuer.

The unstable political situation in South Sudan is of prime importance to northern Uganda because the two countries share a common border. The civil war in South Sudan has provoked a stream of refugees into northern Uganda, so far 1,6 million people have fled from the South Sudan. The neighbouring states Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Kongo and the Central African Republic have to bear the consequences of this development while having little resources themselves.

Half of the refugees from South Sudan have fled over the border into northern Uganda. There, the situation is critical according to aid organisations. The reception centres in northern Uganda cannot hold up against the asylum surge. Nevertheless, as part of a new refugee programme which intends to combine humanitarian aid with further development, the intention is not only to admit refugees but to integrate them too. Refugees will receive a plot of land and access to the job market. Furthermore, the Ugandan army is active in South Sudan to keep the civil war under control and to limit the number of refugees entering Uganda.

It has to be seen which influence the civil war in South Sudan has on northern Uganda in the long run since northern Uganda is still heavily burdened with the reconstruction of the infrastructure after its own civil war. Currently the situation in northern Uganda is under control. Because of the relatively long distance to the border, our project is not affected by the political turmoil in South Sudan.