



June 2024

New IGA Starts in Uganda!

Our team at Deaf Action Uganda (DAU) have been working hard to streamline their operations and to move toward self-sustainability. A key step in self-sustainability was taken this month when they began their Poultry Rearing and Crop Farming IGA (Income Generating Activity). This enterprise, overseen by Project Officer Robinah, began with clearing and ploughing the land to get it ready for the planting season. So far, beans and maize have been planted, with work carried out by the students of the Bible school. This is an excellent use of the students' extra time and prepares them for a bi-vocational life.



The Chicken house was renovated to provide shelter for the chicks and strong metallic doors were added to safeguard against theft. A solar panel has been installed to provide enough light for the chicks as well as for security. A big water tank was also set up to harvest rainwater and a bicycle was bought as transport for the two caretakers who were hired to supervise and take care of the project. The DAU team and Bible school students make regular visits.



The goals of this project are to grow food for the school students to eat, to teach farming and entrepreneurship skills to staff and students, to create a sustainable livelihood base for DAU and to generate income from the sale of the produce. Developing long term sustainable IGAs is challenging in any environment. In many developing countries, theft, insecurity, limited resources, rampant inflation and harsh climates exacerbate the challenges. We're hoping that this Poultry Rearing and Crop Farming IGA will be a huge success for our team in Uganda and look forward to seeing their goals being achieved.



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UGANDA continued...

Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College

It's wonderful to see our UNAD students succeeding in their studies. All four boys enrolled in the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) for carpentry have passed their Level 2 exams and are ready to graduate. The graduation ceremony date has been deferred as there were only a few graduates so the ceremony will be held next year when the minimum number of graduates has been reached.

Brian, Jordan, Kenneth and Samuel have now received tool kits which include a claw hammer, a set of chisels, a pair of G-clamps 5", a planner, a rebot plane, a sharpening stone, a pair of screwdrivers, a 7.5m tape measure and a box for all the tools to go in. They also received start-up capital of UGX 150,000. They were all smiles and really grateful for the support from DMI. A special thank you to their sponsors who provided for them throughout their years at school and UNAD. It is wonderful to see them finish their studies! Well done, boys!

Mary is joining Solome in a sweater knitting course at UNAD. Both girls have reported back to UNAD this year. After assessing Mary, she was placed in the Knitting Department by UNAD. She is enthusiastic and full of energy to learn. She has just finished knitting her first sweater! She is doing so much better at vocational college than staying at home. We hope she will continue to complete her course.



Mary



Solome

Neville Muir Comprehensive School



The Neville Muir Comprehensive School has 202 Deaf and vulnerable students enrolled for Term 1. With 14 staff (both teaching and non-teaching), they are ready to learn new vocational skills to prepare them for employment. The large number of students is both a blessing and a challenge. The school still lacks enough food to feed all the students! Maize has been planted by the students but it won't be ready for harvest for another three months. We are seeking emergency food support to provide for the students and staff.

Maize growing at the school



DR CONGO

War Crisis Deepens

The war in DR Congo is spreading and making life more dangerous and more expensive for our schools and churches. The Deaf of Sake and Masisi faced a food crisis in February because of the conflict. We sent emergency funds to address this. Maize, beans and oil were distributed to 22 Deaf living in displacement camps. Those living in Goma are struggling with high food prices and insecurity. All roads from the villages around Goma are closed.

The situation is also worsening in Beni where we have our primary and secondary schools. The farms we have been tending near the school have been affected. Rebels have moved in and killed civilians in the area. Many locals have since fled. The government has established military camps near the farms which have been both a help and a hindrance. It has brought some safety to the area but it also means we have been denied access to our farms. This means our lunch program - which has been doing so well since 2021 in

providing lunches for the students - has been suspended. Currently, the only field we have access to is the on-site kitchen garden. Yet as it is the dry season, it has been difficult to grow vegetables at the school but they did manage to grow sweet potatoes and beans. The students have been using



this time to cultivate the school garden for the next harvest. When the rainy season starts, they hope for a sizeable harvest in the school garden. As it is now, food stocks will run out around the time this newsletter goes to print and we will need to send emergency food relief.

Using student sponsorship funds, we distributed clothes on Easter day at the Beni school, as well as sardines, biscuits and an extra T-shirt uniform for its students.

There will be training in sign language for the Beni Secondary School hearing teachers. This will help them to teach Deaf students more efficiently. The school is also in need of a school bus to transport the students who live far from the school. They are currently using motorcycles to pick up the students.

In our Minova school, in the desperation of the current climate, nine desks and three sewing machines were stolen. We are sending funds to replace them using the money raised from our Christmas fund. Thank you to all those who gave to the fund, enabling us to replace these. The hardships of the Deaf in DR Congo are on another level. Please consider giving to DR Congo in our current campaign for them.



KENYA

Immanuel Integrated Christian School

Immanuel Integrated Christian School's vision is to stress the importance of inclusive education for both Deaf and hearing students. Teachers and non-teaching staff were encouraged to promote the school's vision to parents and the wider community. The response was overwhelming. There were some parents who didn't know the school existed right at their doorstep! IICS enrolled six new Deaf students this year. The desire of many parents in the catchment area is to see their children signing and being able to communicate with their Deaf peers.

With the support of DMI partners from Norway and Australia, the school has been re-painted and the latrine pits have been dug, built and painted. IICS managed to fix fifteen new doors



Students participating in scouts

on the toilets. These will enable the school to pass the public health inspection and be on the road to re-registration. The government has set policies for schools to be inspected and registered annually. Sadly, a number of schools that didn't meet this new regulation have already been closed.

IICS continues to engage with the government on teacher training and they have been very helpful. IICS also continues to attract parents of hearing students to the school. Those parents who pay the school fees help IICS to meet their expenses. The farm recently planted new seeds and the poultry project is doing well. The students continue to excel in sports, scouting and extra-curricular activities.

Their Secondary School building is still under construction. The ground floor has been completed and they are waiting for more funds to complete other storeys. There are 21 Deaf students at the Junior Secondary campus.

Left: School assembly





We urgently need sponsors to support these students!



Aung Zaw Htay
(Boy) Grade 4
Myanmar



Kalwana Masika
(Girl) Grade 1
DR Congo



Prince Carmel Nduwimana
(Boy) Grade 3
Burundi



Arianne Medina
(Girl) Grade 7
Philippines

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our website: <https://deafmin.org/child-sponsorship/> or email: info@deafaction.org.au

PHILIPPINES

Bacolod Boarding House

At the Bacolod Dormitory, students have been doing more than just academics! Tending their own gardens, students have learned to cultivate - and sell - eggplants, tomatoes, cucumbers, ampalaya (bitter melon), bell peppers, long beans and lettuce. The students take responsibility for looking after the plants by watering them and nurturing the gardens. Using the plants from the garden, they make and sell kimchi as a small business. This is an excellent initiative and the students are to be commended for this.



Mary

her first semester of Grade 11. Mary also won Honours in her second term of Grade 7, meeting all requirements.

It's good to see the students excelling in their studies, too, of course. The Rizal Special Education Center will have its graduation day on 28th May 2024. Bacolod National High School will have theirs on 30th May. Gerald has won an Academic Award with Honours in his first semester of Grade 12. Realyn has also achieved Honours in

Congratulations to Mona who came in 2nd place for Chess in the Hearing Impaired Category during the 26th Provincial Paralympiada 2024! Well done!



Two Grade 6 students, Patricia and Mona enjoyed a special event: Happy Heart's Day at their Elementary School. Everyone dressed up in red. They had an activity program with sports and dance and brought food to share.

Gerald Febreo

We love to see our graduates go on to higher education. This is a top priority for Deaf Action and for our students all over the world. We long to not only see students do well at school but become leaders in the Deaf and hearing communities. Gerald is one of these students. He will progress to higher education at the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation (DEAF) Inc. in Laguna and enrol in early July 2024 with the goal of becoming a teacher and pastor to the Deaf in the Philippines. We are encouraged to see young Deaf like Gerald move into leadership positions. A kind sponsor from Germany will be supporting his college studies.



Bicol Deaf Action (formerly Fishermen of Christ Learning Center)

In September 2023 Andrew Miller, (International Operations Coordinator), Susi Tjhai (International Finance Coordinator) and Amy Jack (Communications Coordinator) visited Bicol Deaf Action and were able to spend time getting to know the teachers and their situations personally - especially the Deaf teachers. They learned the hardships of the teachers' living conditions and that over many years of serving in BDA, they have seldom received a raise in their salaries. BDA is thankful that DMI is raising funds so that they can provide increases in the teachers' salaries. We are grateful to our supporters who are helping us meet this ongoing need.



MYANMAR

Muir School for the Deaf



Amidst the ongoing horrors of war, we are thrilled to report that all students at the Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay have passed their exams (except Lah Min Khanh who has an intellectual disability). The students are now on a well-deserved summer break.

family resides (as well as some of our other teachers and students) was bombed by a fighter jet and some of the houses were destroyed. The school principal's family have now moved to the school which is safer than their house.



To resolve constant electricity shortages, DMI supporters from Norway were able to buy solar panels for the school. These will be installed once the school reopens. The sad news is that one of the villages in Kalay where the school principal's

RWANDA

Tresor Nsengimana

Tresor continues to do well in his pre-school classes. He started his third term in April 2024. In the second term, he had a 74.1% score in his studies and he is in the 3rd position in his class. He is excelling well in Kinyarwanda (Rwanda's National Language) and English. Since Tresor is in pre-school, he is not yet able to form complete paragraphs in writing, but he can draw and write some words, and he is able to talk using sign language.



2024 Wish List

Here is a list of all the things Deaf Action and DMI would love to achieve in 2024. We are excited to report that, thanks to our generous supporters, we have already achieved some of the goals on the list! Thank you!



How are you receiving your newsletter?

We spend approximately \$6,650AUD a year on hard copy newsletters. This is a good use of funds if readers don't have email addresses or find the hard copy easier to read. We love being able to bring you the news from the fields as regularly as possible. But for those who do have email, we can save some of that money and send more of it to the Deaf in need.

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If you can, send us an email to info@deafaction.org.au with your preferred mail address, requesting to make the change to e-newsletters. Thank you for your ongoing support of Deaf Action.



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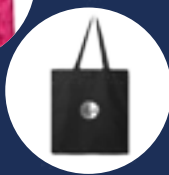
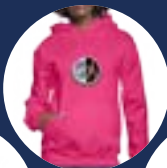
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Neville Muir (OAM)
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DMI & DA Founders

Thank you for continuing to support our school students,
teachers and self-sustainability projects.
Warm regards, Kay (Sponsorship Coordinator)