



School & Project News



GERMANY EDITION
November 2025

KENYA

Celebrating Language and Literature

The school recently celebrated English Month under the inspiring theme, "Igniting Minds Through Language and Literature." The month was filled with activities designed to challenge and engage students, including intense spelling bees, expressive poem recitation, and dramatic declamation contests. A key highlight was the implementation of extensive reading summary skills, an initiative pioneered by our visiting Professor Kathi Kitao.

Advancing STEM Education



The second half of the quarter focused on Maths and Science Week, an event aimed at enhancing student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM). Students participated enthusiastically in various

challenges, which included competitive quiz bees, exciting experiments, and creative poster-making contests.

Community Service and Leadership

The school's commitment to community was

demonstrated through a recent service project. Our International Director, Andrew Miller, joined Josephat (Director of DMI Kenya) in an initiative focused on the next generation, where they worked together to plant trees.

Fostering Home-School Collaboration

Parent-Teacher conferences were held during the third quarter of the year. These meetings were instrumental in fostering strong home-school collaboration. Teachers and parents engaged in productive discussions about student progress, addressing both academic and behavioural concerns to ensure a supportive environment for every student.



Farm and Poultry Update

The school's poultry and farm continue to thrive! The poultry section has grown significantly, now housing 350 chickens. Students are actively involved in caring for both the poultry and the farm. The school is anticipating a good harvest this season, with healthy yields expected from the corn and beans.



Andrew's visit to IICS



Andrew visited our IICS school in Oyugis in October with DMI supporter Kathi Kitao and Wycliffe partner Stacy Bourland. The three were really pleased to visit the school and were warmly received. The general poverty of the students and the area was striking. Students at the school have very limited resources to

support their study and to play with. In the playground, an old tire was the sole 'toy' available for students to use in games. Many students are wearing hand-me-down clothes of dubious sizing and with gaping holes. Yet the students are happy and diligent, and treasure their education dearly.

Andrew interviewed three senior girls who expressed their passion for education and their profound gratitude to sponsors who enable them to receive it. Their interview can be seen here: <https://interviews.deafmin.org/zephie-winnie-maryanne/>

Andrew spent time

speaking to the whole student body about DMI's work around the world, the other Deaf schools that we support, the students who study there and the cultures of other countries we are in. This included discussing the finer points of the game of cricket, the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, the delight of fish and chips, the cuteness of



Andrew and Kathi with the staff

teachers and staff cope with emergency situations, whether they be medical or logistical. Time spent at the school involved reviewing the loan fund and setting up structures to ensure that it is used in the most beneficial way.

Despite the hardships, joy is clearly the defining characteristic of the students at the school. They simply seem so happy to be studying together, to be receiving an education together and to be under the care of such dedicated teachers and staff. Though the power often goes out and the water often runs out, the joy of the students is constant and it's infectious.

koalas and why you don't want to meet a crocodile in the wild. We are grateful to DMI supporter Kathi Kitao, who has provided a school loan fund to IICS to support

Senior High School

One of the most significant potential developments at the school is the completion of the senior high school. The school currently educates students up to the end of middle school (year 9) and graduating students go on to high schools in the local area. Yet we have become concerned about the decline of students' academic performance at the high schools after performing so well in national tests at our IICS middle school.

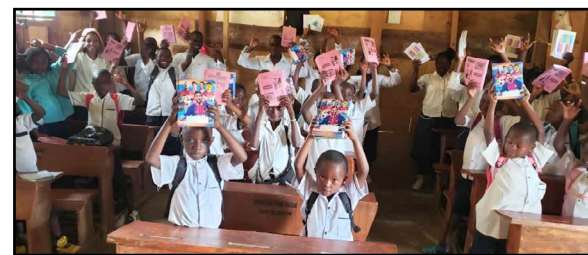
This has heightened the need to finish construction of the middle school/senior high school block, completing the school as a K-12 institution. (The middle school classrooms have been constructed to allow for the senior school classrooms to be built directly above.) We will be applying for grants to complete construction of the senior school classrooms. Supporters interested in this project are welcome to contact Andrew at andrew.miller@deafmin.org



DR CONGO

Starting the New Academic Year

We are pleased to announce the return of 162 students—comprising both Deaf and hearing pupils—for the new academic year. Efforts are underway to procure essential items, including school uniforms and necessary learning resources, to ensure a successful start for all students.



Supporting Student Welfare

We are grateful to Deaf Child Hope International (DCH) for their vital support, which began in September, enabling Beni School for the Deaf to provide a nutritious school lunch program that includes serving porridge to the students.

In anticipation of the new farming season, students have been diligently preparing the school garden. They plan to sow vegetable seeds in November and are thankful for the installation of the new fence, which will keep the students safe and effectively protect the school farm from theft.

Operational Updates

The water fountain is currently functioning well; however, Director Alain notes that its performance slows down significantly during rainy periods, which he suspects is due to an electrical issue.

Our crucial transportation in Beni—the three-wheeled bike—has been breaking down. To restore this essential vehicle, which supports the



school's daily operations and business project, the engine needs to be replaced. The good news is that our team in Congo

are able to replace this themselves having raised the \$800 needed through profits made from the self-sustainability project. It's wonderful to see the project achieving its goals in this way.

A Note on Beni Student Sponsorship

Please accept our apologies: the annually updated sponsorship cards (including photos and information) for our students at the Beni School for the Deaf will be delayed. We were unfortunately unable to gather all the necessary materials in time. We appreciate your patience and plan to send them out early next year. Thank you so much for your ongoing and dedicated sponsorship—it truly makes a difference in the lives of the students in Beni, DR Congo. Some students in Beni still need sponsorship. Please share these needs with others so that more Deaf students might be able to benefit from an education at the school.

PHILIPPINES BICOL DEAF ACTION

Partnerships and Visits at Bicol Deaf Action

Bicol Deaf Action (BDA) recently hosted a wonderful visit from the Deaf Child Hope International (DCH) team, who had the chance to meet all of their sponsored students. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity for the team to



Deaf Child Hope staff with students

experience life at BDA. Both staff and students enjoyed welcoming the foreign visitors and even gave them lessons in Filipino Sign Language!

BDA is deeply grateful for the strengthening relationships with its dedicated partners.

Community Engagement and Generous Donations

BDA was honoured to be invited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Ligao City to join their recent Fun Day.

The school was also selected as

a beneficiary for the RHO SIGMA SOCIETY's Community Outreach Program. Their generous donation

included a TV monitor for use during hall programs and a much-needed printer, which is already proving invaluable for reproducing student learning modules.



Farm and Livelihood Update

The school's farm continues to flourish! The rice fields are growing well, with a harvest expected in October. Additionally, the school successfully sold a seasonal bounty of Indian mangoes, pineapples, and avocados.

Thanks to the success of this year's fundraising events, we have been able to expand the farm and commence the construction of farm housing. We are pleased to inform our supporters that work has begun to prepare decent housing for our farm workers and their families. Another significant development at the farm is the solid fencing, which is currently being prepared. This will ensure that the produce grown across our expanding farm will be kept safe from theft and wild animals.



New farm houses



Rice crop

BACOLOD BOARDING HOUSE



August Highlights at the Bacolod Boarding House

August was a month of celebration and impressive achievements at the Bacolod Boarding House.

The month kicked off with the annual Buwan ng Wika (National Language Month), a nationwide

event promoting the significance of Filipino language and culture. To honour this occasion, students proudly wore traditional Filipino attire to school, showcasing the beauty and richness of our national heritage. The vibrant and festive atmosphere served as a wonderful reminder to value and preserve their Filipino identity.

Celebrating Milestones and Sporting Triumphs

Mid-month, the students joined in celebrating the 56th Founding Anniversary of the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation, Inc. in Laguna. The anniversary festivities included a variety of exciting activities and



competitions. One of our own, Gerald, delivered an exceptional performance, securing first place in both swimming and kayaking. His skill and dedication to sports were further recognised when he was named to the prestigious Mythical Six team.

Adding to the school's

triumphs, Ryan earned a win in the Vocal Interpretation (Duet) category during the Literary and Musical Night.

These outstanding achievements brought immense pride to Deaf Action and served as a powerful inspiration for all students to pursue excellence in both their academic and extracurricular endeavours.

BURUNDI

Ephphatha School for the Deaf Relocates and Expands its Vision

The Ephphatha School for the Deaf has successfully completed a significant relocation! The school is now settled in the Maramvya zone, having moved from its previous site in Gisenyi. While both locations are within the Bujumbura province, this move marks a major step forward for the school's future.

The former site in Gisenyi was part of a shared complex and was severely limited in space, preventing the necessary expansion of classrooms and other essential facilities. The new Maramvya location offers a vast

improvement. The school now sits on a large plot of land, which will allow for significant expansion of buildings and activities. This extra space has also enabled the school to launch an inclusive education program, meaning hearing students are now also permitted to enrol alongside their Deaf peers.



School grounds





**GIVE THE
GIFT OF
Sponsorship**

€25
PER MONTH

**We urgently need sponsors to
support these students!**



Janine Pago Kinder
(Girl)
PHILIPPINES (Ligao)



Michael Omondi
(Boy) Grade 2
KENYA



Visusi Kasereka
(Boy) Grade 3
DR CONGO (Beni)



Lal Nun Mawi-i
(Girl) Grade 4
MYANMAR

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

Urgent Need for Modern Vocational Training Equipment

While the government is now responsible for covering the teachers' salaries, the school remains responsible for funding the kindergarten classes and the vocational training skills classes, specifically sewing. Currently, the vocational students are limited to using only pedal machines. For these talented students to be truly competitive in the job market after graduation, they urgently need access to modern, advanced equipment. The principal, Maurice, confirms that essential tools like zigzag, embroidery, serger, and button machines are simply too expensive for the school to purchase.



How You Can Empower a Student's Future

Would you consider donating toward this vital equipment through Deaf Action's Christmas Gifts? Your contribution would empower these students with modern, in-demand skills and significantly improve their employment prospects after graduation.

Graduate Spotlight

Congratulations to Odile Nsengiyumva, who has successfully completed her vocational training in sewing! She has graduated and is now ready to apply her skills. We wish Odile and her family all the very best in her future endeavours.

UGANDA



Neville Muir Comprehensive School celebrates graduation

The Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Lira, Uganda, celebrated the graduation of its students



Andrew getting the royal treatment!

Sponsored students graduate!

Deaf Action Uganda (DAU) sincerely appreciates the sponsorship of Deaf Ugandan students over many years. Four students completed their studies in 2023 but only celebrated their graduation last month. The four boys - Jordan Giita, Kenneth Manana, Samuel Mayanja and Brian Ssemujju were waiting for their UNAD graduation ceremony as they only hold graduations every two years. Solome finished her study last year and joined the four boys for the UNAD graduation ceremony this year. They all received tools to aid their entrance to the workforce. Deaf Action will be following up on the graduates to report on their progress.

The final student in the program, Mary Kyosimire, will complete her studies this year and graduate in 2026. Hers has not been an easy passage. Mary also expresses her sincere appreciation to the kind donors who supported her through the program.

The graduation of these five students brings our sponsorship program in Uganda to a close. The sponsorship of young students in Uganda has been tremendously successful over many years, producing a number of current Ugandan workers, including DAU director Tonny Eyoku. The DAU Board acknowledges with fond appreciation the many Ugandan students who have benefited from the program. Going forward, we will be focusing our sponsorship of students in other countries.



Solome, Brian, Jordan, Samuel and Kenneth

in October. Four students in the graduating class were Deaf. Andrew, Kathi and Stacy were welcomed along with local council members and members of the Board of Education as special guests, enjoying dramatic performances, dances, and presentations. Under a sapphire sky, the students celebrated at times raucously, and were cheered on boisterously by their friends and families as they received their graduation certificates. Twenty-nine Deaf students remain at the school to continue their vocational studies.

Students celebrate Deaf awareness week!

In October, a number of our Bible school students in Uganda celebrated the Kampala Disability Festival 2025 as well as Deaf Awareness Week in conjunction with DFCU bank. The bank donated 10 litres of oil, 1 box of Soap, 50kgs of Maize flour, 25kgs of rice and 50kgs of beans. They also gave UGX60,000 for the students' beef and soda beans.



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International Director



Matthijs Terpstra
International
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack
Communications
Coordinator



Kay van Namen
Sponsorship &
Administration
Coordinator

The International and National Boards, staff, representatives, and volunteers of DMI and DA extend our warmest wishes to all our supporters for a wonderful Christmas and a very safe, peaceful, and blessed 2026.

We are profoundly grateful for your incredible partnership this past year. Your generous prayer, financial contributions, and physical support have been instrumental in our mission and have made a lasting difference.

We look forward to serving alongside you again in the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!



www.deafmin.org



www.deafministriesinternational.com

DMI DONATIONS:

Christian Ministry + School,
Employment and Aid Projects
(non tax deductible in Australia)



e-mail:
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Credit Card facility available
through Australian office or
PayPal (secure) on website.

www.deafmin.org/donate

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