

General Policy
Backup Uganda Foundation
2015 – date

Foundation profile

The Backup Uganda foundation is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of education in Uganda, the northern region in particular. The foundation mainly does this by focusing on students with learning challenges. At the moment, these students do not receive the attention and support that they need to perform up to standard at school. In Uganda, learning problems and ways to tackle them are barely known. In addition, within the current school system there is hardly any attention for individual students. The consequence is that many of these students are not able to finish their education, which means they do not get the opportunity to achieve what they would be able to attain with proper support.

The Backup Uganda Foundation supports the development of strategies for appropriate guidance of students with learning challenges in (Northern) Uganda. This takes into account a situation in which a part of all students attends day schools and the other part attends boarding schools. The foundation's central points of interest are direct support for students; training teachers and other education-related staff; and stimulating a general process of becoming aware of the existence of learning problems and how to deal with them.

The foundation strives to achieve its goals through direct support for the Non Governmental Organization (NGO) of the same name in Uganda, 'Backup Uganda'. This NGO will be formally registered with the Ugandan National NGO Board by the end of 2015 – early 2016. This registration process has been started mid-2015.

Both while recruiting board members, while raising funds and while implementing projects, the foundation aims for equality based on origin, skin colour, sex, age, nationality, political preference and religion.

Goals

Both the Backup Uganda Foundation and the NGO that is supported by the foundation, have the following central goal:

The promotion of individual attention for students, especially for students with learning challenges, and furthermore everything that is directly or indirectly related with something and other or can be conducive to this in the broadest sense of the word, as well as carrying out all further actions, that are connected to the previous in the broadest sense or can be conducive for it.

The foundation intends to achieve this goal through:

1. Offering support that fits the individual student and the Ugandan cultures and history;
2. Direct guidance of students in learning to tackle their own pitfalls in their education;
3. Cooperating with and developing skills of education-related and teaching staff;
4. Exchanging knowledge, skills and experience between education and pedagogical experts and teaching staff.

Current projects/activities

One of the spearheads of the foundation is to not just offer support based on its own ideas. This is why the foundation has started supporting a research about the current situation when it comes to students with learning challenges in Uganda. The results of this research will serve as the starting point for the first pilot projects within schools and communities in the northern region of the country. After a thorough evaluation of this pilot phase, the projects will be expanded.

Up to today, the research has roughly brought the following results:

- a. At the moment there is only one other organization in Northern Uganda that pays attention to students with learning challenges;
- b. Teachers would love to give their students more individual attention, but they do not know how to do this. One of the main challenges is the large number of students in their classes;
- c. It is difficult to make distinction between learning challenges and a poor quality of teaching.

Promotion and communication

At the moment, the Backup Uganda Foundation promotes itself in the following ways:

- Through the website www.backupuganda.org;
- Through the facebook page www.facebook.com/backupuganda;
- Through using flyers and word-of-mouth advertising on markets and fairs;
- Through networking appointments with organizations and individuals who are active in the same sector.

The board of the foundation and the representatives of the NGO mainly communicate through e-mail and meetings.

Fund raising

Up to today, the foundation has mostly raised funds through non-recurring campaigns. Examples are a small-scale cupcake sale, a benefit concert within a family setting and selling Uganda-related products at markets and fairs. In addition, several small donations were made by private individuals.

In the future, the foundation hopes to start up collaborations with primary and secondary schools and training institutes for teachers, among others.

Supervision and spending of funds

The supervision of the financial means is done by the treasurer, who maintains a basic administration. The treasurer gives account for the policy that is pursued in relation to the budget made. The treasurer writes the annual financial report, which is published on the foundation's website within a month after the board's approval.

All current projects are included in the annual budget. If a request is made for a new project during the current calendar year, a budget will be made for this project first, before it starts. This budget will be included in the annual report afterwards.

Up to today, funds are spent on the official registration of the foundation and several small expenses related to the research and promotion material. Funds are spent by agreement with the treasurer. Large expenses are discussed with the entire board of the foundation. Board members can recover expenses with the treasurer, but they do not receive a reward for their efforts.

The foundation does not aim to make any profit.

The foundation's capital is not used to invest.

All income benefits the projects, with the exception of recurring expenses and the recovery of expenses made to benefit a project.

Coerd van der Zwaag

Jan Kruisselbrink

Anneke Scholten

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Board and contact information

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Chairperson	Coerd van der Zwaag
Secretary/treasurer	Jan Kruisselbrink
Board member	Anneke Scholten