



**Deki**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Uganda had the longest school closures *in the world*

2021 – Letter from the Director



The pandemic has created many challenges for people throughout Uganda. The education system and students are in crisis: teachers have left to pursue different careers, schools have been converted into other uses, and students that have been out of school for two years have fallen behind or have little interest in continuing their education. Inequalities are also growing, since only well-resourced schools are able to cater to student needs and overcome the challenges of long-term school closures

**— But not in our community, thanks to Deki —**

I can't wait to share with you the monumental impact that Deki has had in our community. We've withstood the challenges of the pandemic, and continued to come out on top: from representing the entire region in national competitions, to our students scoring the best in the sub-county on their exams. This has been truly transformational for our students, their families and the community.

*Thanks for making sure the children in our village don't get left behind.*

*- Founder and CEO, Etyang Fred*



## Nahla Nursery and Primary School

## Back to Class - But not for long

After 2020 school closures, the Ugandan government created a phased reopening plan for returning to in-school classes.

**Primary 6 students** came back in March, after being out of school for one full year.

**Primary 4 and 5 students** started back in April.

In June, it would have been time for students in **Primary 1 - 3** to return to classes.

Instead, the Delta variant of Covid-19 hit and the country went into lockdown, with schools and transportation fully closed again.

## We Never Stopped Providing Education

We continued to teach our students safely in small groups while schools were closed.

We also added additional take-home assignments on top of what the government produced as part of the national curriculum, to make sure our students kept learning..

Our teachers were especially dedicated to the Primary 7 students. After our 2019 graduating class performed so well on their final exams, we were excited to see what the next group of Primary 7 students could achieve this year!



### **Nahla Students**

create drawings for their pen pals in the United States



## Nahla Students

participated in a soccer tournament

## We Kept Students Engaged!

In order to keep our students engaged and excited about their education, we had them participate in activities hosted by the school.

**We held a soccer tournament** that our students and the community were excited to participate in!

**We also launched a pen pal program** so that our students can be motivated by the excitement of having a pen pal in the US! For the first time, we had students creating drawings to exchange with their pen pals.

## We Kept Girls Learning

During school closures, girls were especially at risk of falling behind, so we focused on giving them support to continue their education.

Rita, one of Deki's students, stopped completing her take home work, and was pressured by friends to give up on her education. When our teachers told Deki's director that Rita was falling behind, he became concerned. Fred, our teachers, and the elders in the community got together and counseled Rita on the importance of completing her education.

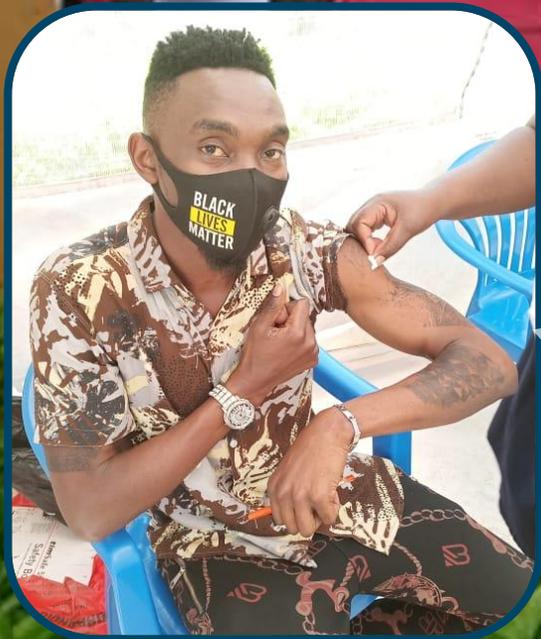
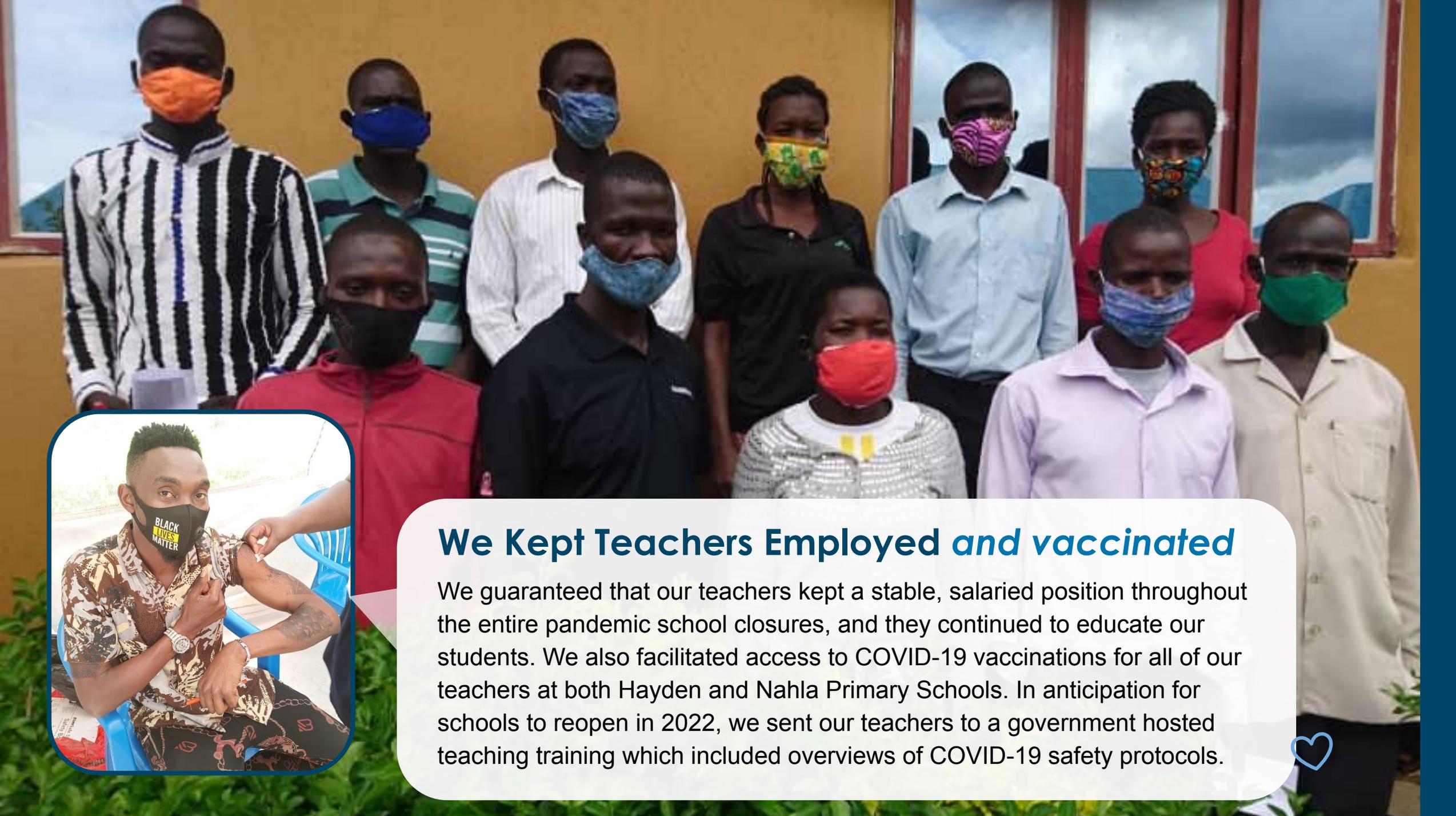
Thanks to their dedication Rita did not give up on her education. She is continuing to study!

**During the first lockdown in 2020, Plan International reported that 1,113 teenage girls in Lira became pregnant.**



**Meet Akite Rita**

13 years old, Primary 5 Class



## **We Kept Teachers Employed *and vaccinated***

We guaranteed that our teachers kept a stable, salaried position throughout the entire pandemic school closures, and they continued to educate our students. We also facilitated access to COVID-19 vaccinations for all of our teachers at both Hayden and Nahla Primary Schools. In anticipation for schools to reopen in 2022, we sent our teachers to a government hosted teaching training which included overviews of COVID-19 safety protocols.



## Our Students Competed in National Quiz Competition Finals!

After first competing in a local Quiz Competition, and then the semi-finals held on zoom, **Nahla Primary School came out as the number one school in the region!** Two of our Primary 6 students, Abongo Brian and Nyangkori Jesse, were invited to the finals in Kampala. It was the first time for both students to visit Kampala!

**We are so proud** that our students from the village competed at the same level as schools from all across the country, including the capital city. The students performed great on the quiz for the finals – they only missed one question!



### What's a Quiz Competition?

Students are quizzed on the subjects they learn in class. The main focus of this competition was social studies and included questions like: **"Where is the headquarters of the United Nations."** and **"Name the President of the United States of America who was of African origin."**

# Nahla's Students Performed Best in the Sub-County, **Again!**

## 2020/21

School Name	% D1 & D2
Nahla Primary	67%
Agweng Parents	29%
Orit Primary	13%
Fountain Boarding	9%
Agweng Primary	5%
Coorom Primary	3%
Abala Primary	2%

Despite all challenges, our Primary 7 students prepared to take the final exams for their extended 2020 school year. The community held a prayer session to bless the students before they took their exams. They also celebrated the occasion by slaughtering a goat for everyone to enjoy.

**All of their hard work studying from home paid off – they performed the best in the sub-county by far!!** Even outperforming boarding schools!



## The Community is ready us to open **Hayden Primary School**

In 2021, we kept having to delay the opening of our second school due to continue school closures. However, we kept the community and the teachers we hired in 2020 engaged so they would be ready when the school could open.

A young girl with short hair, wearing a blue and red striped polo shirt, is smiling and leaning against a light-colored wall. The background shows a dirt path and green vegetation under a clear sky.

Future students  
are ready for us to  
open **Hayden  
Primary School**

**Students like Winnie** are excited to go to our second school when it opens.

Without our school, most of the children in the area spend their time at home. During a typical day, you can find them digging in the garden, or cooking for their family.

**Currently Winnie and her siblings are not in school.**

After she gets to go to Hayden Primary School, Winnie wants to become a medical doctor so she can treat people in the community for diseases.



## We made preparations to open Hayden Primary School in 2022

We wanted to be ready to open Hayden Primary School as soon as it was possible, so we focused on making all the preparations necessary to open, such as constructing desks and chalkboards, and purchasing textbooks, cooking supplies and other school supplies.

A blue Isuzu ELF 250 truck is parked on a dirt road. The truck is a single cab model with a flatbed. The text 'ISUZU ELF 250' is visible on the side of the cab. The background consists of lush green trees and vegetation under a clear sky. The truck is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing left.

## We made progress on our Sustainability Plans

Our truck rental business started bringing in income! But lockdowns and curfews due to the pandemic have had a negative impact on Uganda's economy. While we are excited that we started bringing in an income, we were still held back by these challenges, so we plan to keep building this business in the future.

# 2021 Impact



## OTHER SCHOOLS

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS** were converted to other uses like rental property

**TEACHERS** went unpaid and had to leave for other careers

**STUDENTS** didn't receive any kind of education support at home while schools were closed

**EXAM** performance was extremely low due to time away from school

## DEKI'S SCHOOLS

**2 SCHOOL BUILDINGS** were kept in good shape, ready for schools to reopen

**13 TEACHERS** had stable jobs and continued to get paid and educate students

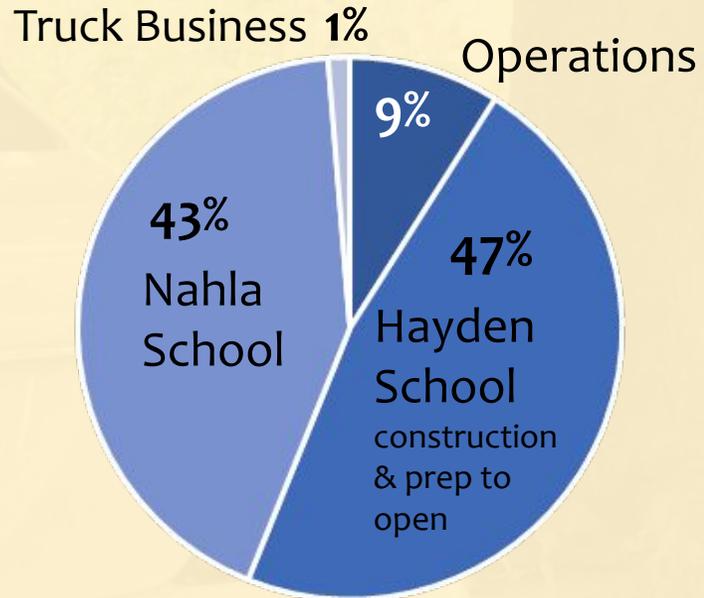
**450 STUDENTS** were educated in small groups, and had ongoing assignments and feedback from their teachers

**EXAM performance was high** due to our continued engagement with students

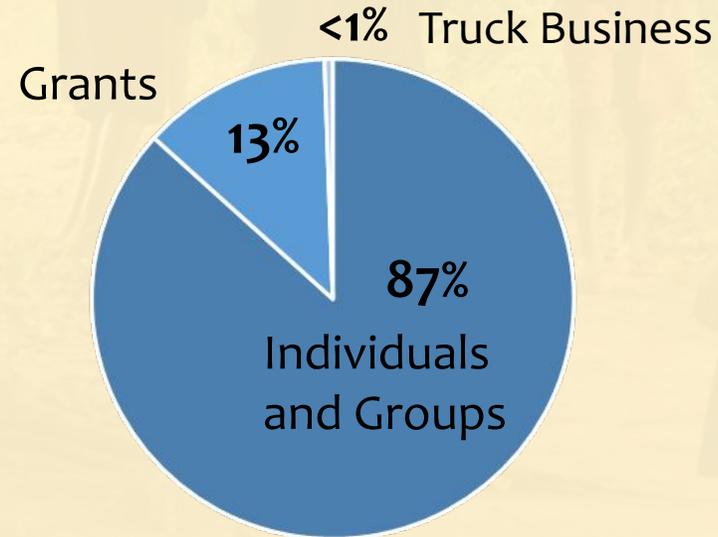
# FINANCIALS

2021 Assets	\$30,781
2021 Income	\$54,926
2021 Expenses	\$75,819
<b>2021 Net Income</b>	<b>\$9,888*</b>

## 2021 EXPENSES



## 2021 INCOME



\*Remaining net income has been raised to operate Nahla and Hayden Nursery and Primary Schools in 2022



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT OUR SCHOOL IS THE ONE THEY ARE THE MOST PROUD OF IN THE AREA

– Local Government Officials,  
Lira District

They said **they would do whatever they can** to ensure that our school is successful.