

MUSIC FOR LIFE END OF PROJECT REPORT – JULY 2022 – FEBRUARY 2023



Children at St Stephens Nakapinyi training by practice on stage at the school



Music for Life -. The two school choirs combined presenting an item at FOL@30 celebration at Vision for Africa Hotel in Mukono



Final project report 2023

- *Project timeline: July 2022 – February 2023*
- *Funding source: Holy Trinity Rathmines and Victoria Johnston*
- *Amount attached: 40,818,251/= (Forty million, eight hundred eighteen thousand two hundred fifty-one shillings only).*
- *Project Coordinator: Wesuta Bernard Masaba*
- *Project schools: St Stephen Nakapinyi and Good Shepherd Primary School*

Project Background

According to the United Nations Population Fund's young people fact Sheet for Uganda, <http://uganda.unfpa.org> 35% of Uganda's population are adolescents. It is envisaged that adolescents make up a quarter of the population in Uganda (UNICEF Adolescent programme). Yet life is harsh for many. Poverty, HIV and AIDS, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence and low participation in secondary education make it difficult for young people to fulfil their potential.

Adolescent girls face multiple vulnerabilities. Adolescent girls are severely and unevenly at risk of HIV infection – two thirds of all new HIV infections are contracted by adolescent girls. Many girls also drop out of school because of unwanted teenage pregnancy and early marriage. According to the Ministry of Health, 25 per cent of Ugandan teenagers become pregnant by the age of 19. Close to half are married before their 18th birthday and continue having babies into their mid-40s.

The above statistics reveal that Uganda has a young population that requires clear and purposeful guidance and development. When these youths are not guided, they are swayed away by peer pressure, strong sexual pressures, drug abuse involvement and morally decayed societies. Statistics reveal that most of these youths are currently in School and therefore transformational programmes should be taken in schools where they spend much of their time.

According to Uganda's school calendar, children spend almost 75 percent of their time at school and very little time at home with parents. This means at school there must be several programs that develop children and youths holistically. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many of the schools in Uganda. Many schools' focus on producing academic results and hence end up producing "half-baked" children and youths without life skills and proper character. Church too, has a very big part to play in moulding Adolescents in accordance with Biblical principles through Christian music instruction.

It was against this background that Fields of Life developed this project to teach children music as a special aspect and for life skills development at St. Stephen Nakapinyi Primary School of Naama Sub-County in Mukono district and Good Shepherd Primary School in Luwero district Makulubita Sub-County.

Project Goal

To meet holistic needs of Adolescents through promotion of music; emotional, social, behavioural and spiritual development.

The project was set to achieve the following two specific objectives:

1. To teach school learners and teachers the use of music in promoting meaningful learning.
2. To help learners and teachers appreciate the value of music in discovering hidden talent.

Project Progress.

The project covered two primary schools as indicated in the introduction above, a specialized music trainer was identified and hired to train the children for ten weeks with the help of music teachers attached to the project schools. Additional specialized personalities in music were brought in by the hired lead contract holder to boost the project to the required level. Two days were used each week for expert trainers to interact with the children and teachers. Tuesday and Thursday were special days music trainers would go to meet children in each school to engage in high skill development while Monday, Wednesday and Friday teachers of music would run the music drills and practice. It was collaboratively done and in consultation with the lead consultant.

Project Outcomes/results

The project gave the children an opportunity to develop and build their talents in music. Although the schools had three months in the contract for training, some unavoidable circumstances like Christmas week and delay of procurement of instruments availed the time of 10 weeks of engagement. Sensitization of parents and teachers helped secure space and availability of children for training and practice since it was done mostly in the school Holidays.

- ❖ Two school choirs were trained and equipped to make a high-level presentation to international guests at Vision for Africa during the Fields of Life 30-year celebration. It was presentable to

note. The stage appearance was super, and the audience focused. Children were very excited and lively. The celebration song code-named “Fields of Life” was made and staged for the audience.

- ❖ The children gained life skills in music to dance, sing, play air and string instruments, play drums, keyboard, and coordination of xylophone keynotes to produce melodies required. It is highly anticipated that children will compose Christian music and present in school during inter class and speech days and at their churches. This will develop critical thinking and teamwork. They will compose and act Christian plays- skits to preach the gospel. Many will become gospel artists in future. The opportunity was provided by Music for Life engagements in the schools.
- ❖ The song “Jehovah” was developed and sung by the children with great attention to hold God as the leading hope for life. It was presented with wide smiles from children’s faces and a twist dance of shoulder and body shake style.
- ❖ Three traditional dances were taught to the children and these displayed and depicted numerous cultural dimensions to children.
- ❖ General music attracted learning to sync the melodies as they dance and play their new instruments. Practice makes perfect sense and there is great room at the top for creativity and excellence in the meaning of music in their lives.
- ❖ Instruments delivered to the schools added value and vigor to the training and practice of the beat, string, air, electronic devices, and appliances were so enriching to the system. These improved their touch and feeling senses. The instruments purchased included the following Yamaha Keyboards, PSR, Keyboard stand, stabilizers, PSSA50 keyboard, speaker, F310 guitar, guitar strings A7920, guitar strings ESB50, guitar stand, guitar F310 TBS, a set of drums, set of bow harps, set of xylophones, a pair of metallic shakers, a pair of rattles, tube fiddles, set of bells, set of dancing skins, set of flutes, set of calabashes.
- ❖ School music teachers intensified their commitments to the practice of music and dance as an added advantage to build skills in creative arts. They integrated the old and new skills to strengthen their ability in the music industry.
- ❖ Music trainers had an opportunity to serve God in word and action with children and teachers as new friends.
- ❖ Attendance at Good Shepherd had 40 children attending the training but with a mixture of new willing members came in daily. While at St. Stephen Nakapinyi Primary School, 25 choir members attended the training and practice.
- ❖ Fields of Life gave an opportunity to the children to attend a studio for recording of a special song and this was a fabulous experience from the village schools into the Kampala City crowded Music Centre. Music for Life gave children a striking experience to this level.
- ❖ The choir had a starting devotion of a few minutes each day and closing prayer after a short word to build their spirituality, this was very encouraging to have an experience of this nature. This improved their prayer life to a certain level. Praise and worship sessions were inbuilt with the starting minutes.
- ❖ Bible Life was evident as each time of training and practice had a Bible reading for that day. Children were encouraged to read the word.
- ❖ Attitude identified indicates respect for the music as adults and children continued to attend the sessions in the schools. They watched and appreciated the training and practices.



Lessons learnt.

Throughout training with the interaction with children and music teachers it was realized that:

1. Children can do anything provided they are guided and given the opportunity to participate in the planned activities for their benefit.
2. Consulting stakeholders during the inception meetings provided an informed decision to implement the project with clear understanding of the situation surrounding the schools. We managed to engage logically taking into consideration the key needs of the schools.
3. Hiring the Christian Music specialist facilitated the implementation. It was logically managed and within the contract timing. Giving assignments to expert people saves a lot of time and other resources.
4. The project budgeting process initially did not include all costs as the project actual implementation appeared. There were hidden costs that came up, like feeding and transportation that were quite high. Additionally, the trainer's professional fees were underestimated in the budget. Next time it would be better after we have learnt these lessons.

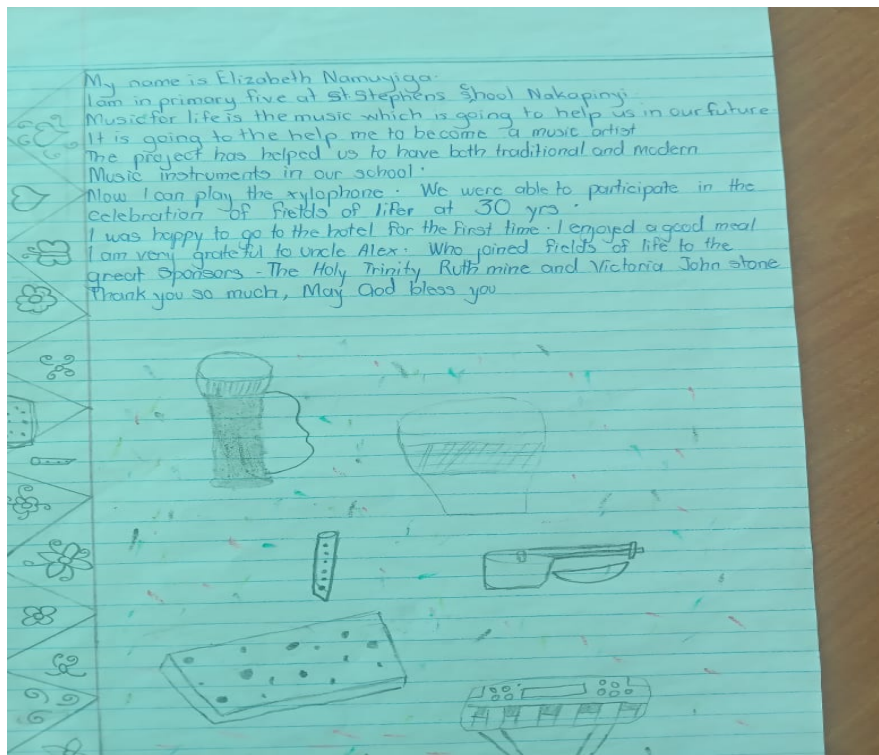


Stories/voices from teachers

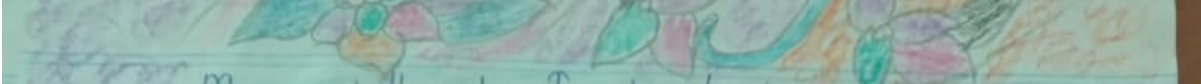
- ❖ Joseph the school Director at Good Shepherd said “Music for Life has added value to our school in terms of new training and practice. The new musical instruments provided by Fields of Life have boosted the department of Creative Arts and children’s level of performance, we have been renewed and holding new energies for music”
- ❖ Margaret the Headteacher at St Stephen Nakapinyi remarked “Fields of Life has always come at the time it is most needed to address the needs of the school, Music for Life training and practice has improved children’s confidence in public speaking and appearance. My children for the first time went to record a song in the studio in Kampala because of Music for Life project, be blessed”
- ❖ Godfrey the Music teacher at St Stephen Nakapinyi mentioned, “Music for Life has brought new life in the school and our children have enjoyed the training and practice carried since the project started. As a school, we are highly appreciative to Alex/Victoria and Ingrid for Identifying supportive team that raised funds towards this project. We are incredibly grateful”
- ❖ Ronald the Music teachers at Good Shepherd commented “My work of music teaching and training has been simplified by Music for Life because all the new traditional and western music instruments are an added miracle to what the school had acquired earlier. Our school has a new face in music performance. Thank you for the support.”



Remarks from children below.






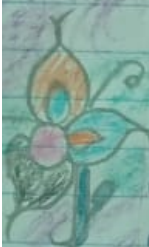


My name is Hannah Tumukunde. I am in primary seven. Music for life is a music which is going to help us in future. Music for life is going to help me because I have learnt how to sing, dance and play instruments. Music for life has provided us with so many things like they gave us musical instruments children have learnt how to play instruments, singing and dance.

My benefit is I have learnt how to sing, dance and playing instruments. I went to the studio to record the song which was a good experience in my life. I had never entered a studio.



I expected music for life to help me in future, in future I want to be a musician and teach others. I was happy because I saw the vice president, I also went to the hotel for the first time. Late things I had never eaten and have reached places I had never gone to because of music for life.

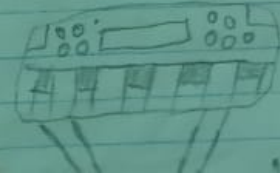
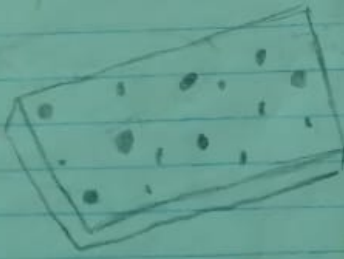


I thank field of life for bringing us Uncle Alex who got us sponsors for this project. Thank you Holy Trinity Bathmines and Victoria Johnstone for loving us and changing our lives.

My future is now bright because am going to become a gospel Artist.



My name is Elizabeth Namuyiga.
I am in primary five at St. Stephens School Nakapinyi.
Music for life is the music which is going to help us in our future.
It is going to help me to become a music artist.
The project has helped us to have both traditional and modern
Music instruments in our school.
Now I can play the xylophone. We were able to participate in the
celebration of Fields of Life at 30 yrs.
I was happy to go to the hotel for the first time. I enjoyed a good meal.
I am very grateful to Uncle Alex who joined fields of life to the
great sponsors - The Holy Trinity, Ruth mine and Victoria John stone.
Thank you so much, May God bless you.

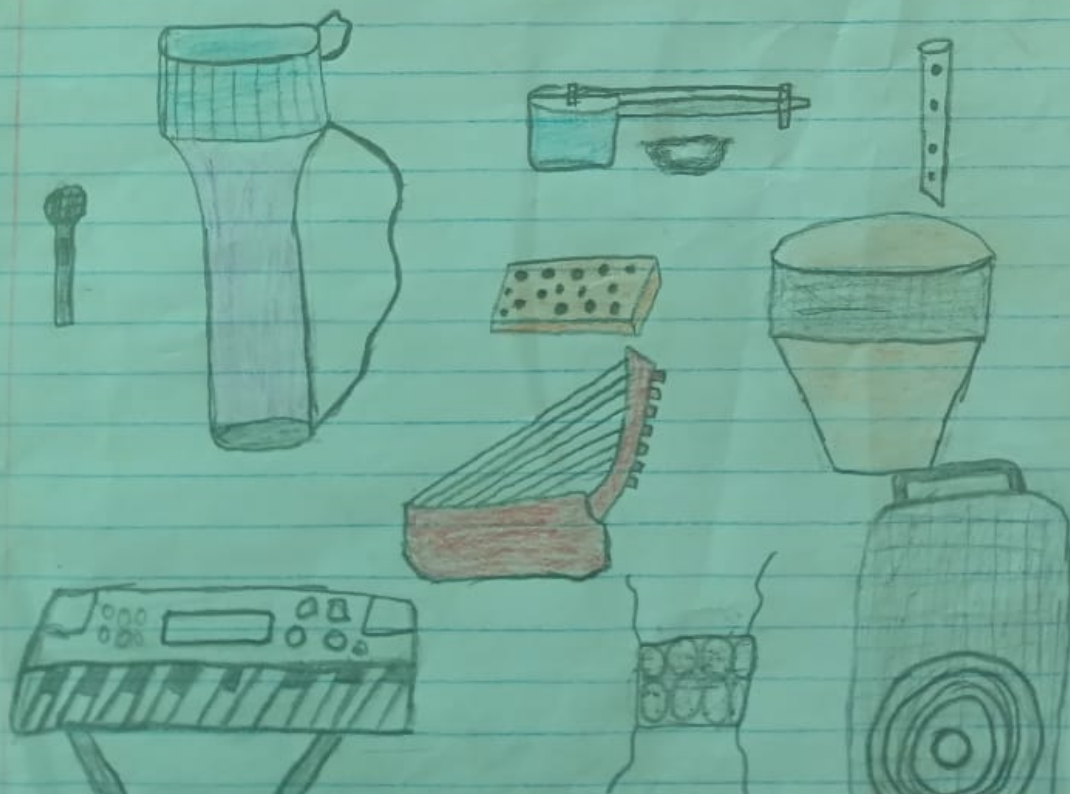


My name is Kambugu Mark
I am in primary six.

I am here to talk about Music for life, Music for life is the music that can help one to leave a better life in future through Singing gosple music, dancing and acting plays.

I am grateful to this project because ever since it was introduced in our School. I have learnt many things like playing bow harp, tube fiddle and drums.

All traditional and modern music instrument
I am so grateful to Uncle ALEX who linked fields of life to HOLY trinity Ruthmines and Victoria John Stone, the sponsors of this project
May God bless you all.





My name is Difass Lubowa. I am in primary

Six.

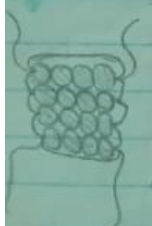
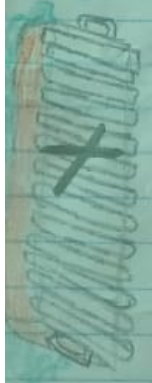
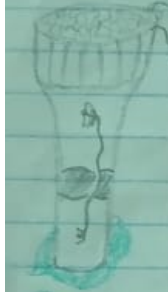
Music for life is music which is going to make our future bright.

Music for life has changed our school because we were able to get traditional and modern music instruments. We have also learnt how to play these instruments. For me, I have learnt to play a

piano which I didn't know that one time I would get a chance to play it. My friend Mark has learnt how to play a guitar and a tube fiddle.

As a child, I have learnt many things from Music for life and I have been able to reach places I had never gone to. We have learnt many songs and one of them was the celebration song for fields of life at thirty. This was my first time to the studio for recording and then presented it in a big hotel called vision for Africa. This was my first time to go to a hotel where we really learnt a lot and enjoyed.

I thank God for Music for life project. I am sure am going to become a gospel artist and preach the gospel of God through music.



Thank you fields of life for changing our lives. Thank you uncle Alex for connecting fields of life to the Holy trinity Rath mines and victoria John stone who have sponsored this project.

May the good Lord bless you our sponsors.

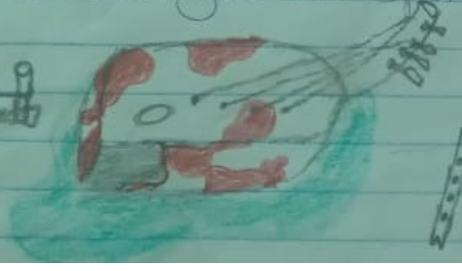


Photo gallery



Good Shepherd Mass Choir during auditions time.



Choir on stage presenting an item during the Fields of Life @30 celebrations at Vison for Africa Hotel at Kiyunga in Mukono District. Tony the trainer in black and cap conducting the music.



Children at Good Shepherd doing practice on string instruments.



Pupils of Good Shepherd in a body shake dance to display the skills during the training sessions.



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Music for Life Project Financial report		UGX
Feb-23		
Opening balance		40,818,251
	Income	

			-
	Total Income		40,818,251
		Expenditure	
		Budget	Actual
1	Purchase of musical instruments and costumes		17,595,000
2	Meals and refreshments for the trainees		6,672,500
3	Professional Training		10,000,000
4	Support costs		6,687,710
	Total Expenditure		40,955,210
	Surplus		(136,959)

BERNARD MASABA – OUTREACH COORDINATOR

END OF PROJECT REPORT -MUSIC FOR LIFE.