



We must understand that

Literacy is a social justice issue

School Readiness in Context

- Uganda, Lake Bunyoni
- Rwanda, Teach Rwanda and school visits, Kigali, Duha, REAP



Rollins

HUME HOUSE
CHILD DEVELOPMENT &
STUDENT RESEARCH CENTER

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- Professor of Psychology
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- Children's Defense Fund Fellow 2019
- Global Livingston Institute Teaching Fellow

Kyabahinga School, Nursery

Partners in Early Education

Global Livingston Institute
Entusi Site – Lake Bunyonyi, Uganda

The mission of the Global Livingston Institute is to convene global communities to learn and advance best practices in community development and create equitable, sustainable, and culturally responsive solutions to challenges in the areas of health, economic development, and the environment. Site of Educator’s Summit and teacher trainings and supporting partner.

Enjuba - Kampala

enjuba is a catalytic children’s education organisation focused on improving learning outcomes through Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Uganda. Programs include spelling bees, publishing children’s books and creating of ECD centers in rural public schools. Founder Aaron Kirunda taught and led trainings.

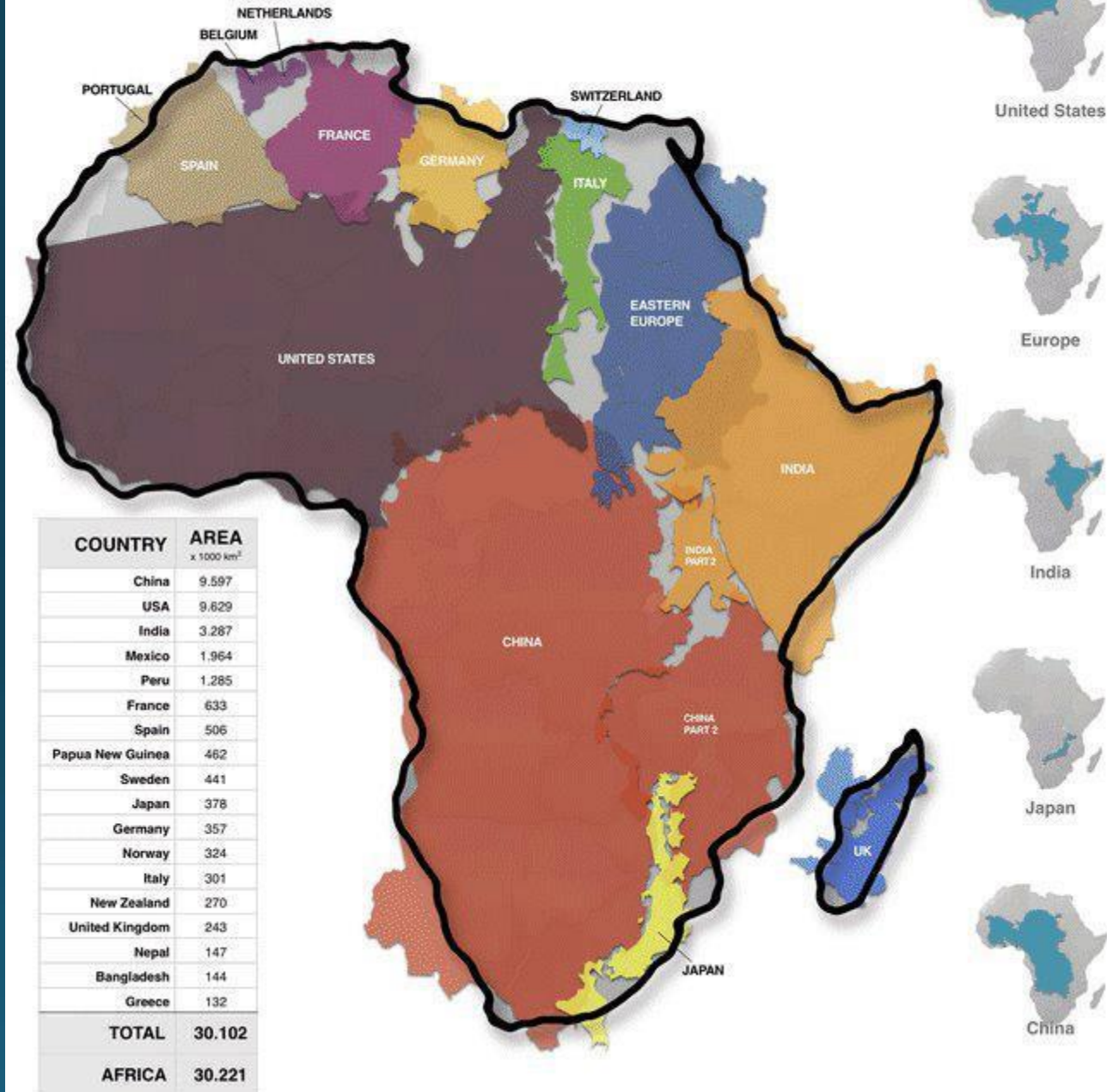
TEACH Rwanda - Rwanda

TEACH Rwanda operates model/demonstration preschools and does teacher training and mentoring. Founder Jan Brown taught and led trainings.



The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant *Immappancy*, by Kai Krause
Graphic layout for visualization only (some countries are cut and rotated)
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data



Kayabahinga School

What Do
You See?



Schools

- Dedicated teachers and trained administrators
- Training for teachers minimal & hard to access
- No funds for materials, reduced class sizes, or better teacher pay
- Active learning in early education seldom seen in rural/pastoral areas
- No plumbing, electricity, or Internet access



Early Education in Uganda

There is a Plan

- Full access to Nursery and Preschool = Uganda and UN Millennium Goal
 - National plan in place for free, play-based, constructivist early education
 - National plan and curriculum meets best practice standards
- **BUT it's not being done**
 - Training for teachers minimal & hard to access
 - No funds for materials, reduced class sizes (40), or better teacher pay
 - Active learning in early education seldom seen in rural/pastoral areas
 - **Not preparing for global:**
 - problem solving, competitive jobs, leadership, even literacy

What Is The State of Lake Bunyoni' s Children?

FIRST

We interviewed 57 educators at Kisiizi, Kyabahinga, Kifuka, Mugyera, All Saints Church Kindergarten, Murambo, Bwama, Katiba, and Bufuka Primary Schools. (Kate Knight, Bright Kiboniere)

NEXT

We revisited Kyabahinga, Kisiizi, Bufuka, Katiba, Bwama, Mugyera & Kifuka Primary Schools and did classroom observations (Sharon Carnahan, Bright Kiboniere)

Then

We gathered with over 30 Headmasters, Teachers and Government and Church Leaders for a School Readiness Summit at Entusi Resort, Lake Bunyoni in February 2019

COVID19 Time: Gathered 25 teachers and administrators for basic training in active learning

2022: Reviewed existing best practices in the region

2023: Training Partners, solar chargers, gardens, libraries

Lake Bunyonyi

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PRIMARY SCHOOLS on LAKE BUNYONYI



Goal:
All children will
enter school
ready to
succeed &
transform their
country

- Ready children
- Ready teachers
- Ready families
- Ready schools

The children who canoe to school

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-39589447>

HOW? Listening to Leaders: Interviews

- Teachers want resources & training
- Parent Sensitization
- Most parents are illiterate and communication is hard
- Hardships caused by the remote locations include walking 5 kilometers to school, teachers needing to live at school without safe housing, no electricity
- Hunger and malnutrition in pupils and sometimes teachers
- Desire for more church support
- Incomplete number of school books and no story or reading books
- Exam fees charged by the District for weekly or monthly tests leave many children out of the education process, because they can't afford tests or extra tutoring
- Lack of knowledge of government policy action plan in ECD, or access to printed resources produced in Kampala.

Leadership Summit small group



- One teacher said:
- *(Before school,) The parents teach the children to work very hard, to maintain their health, to speak their language, but other than that, not at all.*
- *They are working, and caring for their other children.*

Listening in Interviews

| Summary of Key Concerns | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Lake Bunyoni Schools | Children Included | Nursery at School? | Low Parent Involvement Levels | Parent Socialization is Urgent | Pupils Hungry/Missing Lunch | Lack Storybooks, classroom materials | Electricity |
| 10 | 3737 | 80% | 90% | 90% | 40% daily | 100% | 0% |

Listening to Entusi Women Society

(Topic: The First 1000 Days & Reproductive Choices)



*I have 10 children.
Is it too late to
help them?*

*How can I get
contraception that
my husband cannot
see?*

Strengths in Schools

- There are experienced, trained teachers in administrative positions in all of the schools.
- Each Headmaster identified excellent teachers on his staff.
- All follow the government-approved curriculum.
- Attendance is taken and tracked, and large numbers of children in attendance.
- The schools are staffed and open every day, although there are no provisions for substitutes, and children may spend a day without a teacher.
- There are radios at all schools.

Learning by Song, Repetition and Imitation

- **Song: Bend Down, Stand Up**
- We were going to our school in the morning
- On the way we met some local children who could not attend school
- **But we convinced them to go to school because education is the future!**
- They agreed and joined us to school
- So far they are doing well in class!

Preschool children
copy a figure from
a model onto slates



Uganda

Summit on School Readiness 2019 Community Leaders & Teachers Created an Agenda

FOOD

Hunger and malnutrition are the main barriers to education

30-40% children hungry, have no lunch, malnourished, many stunted

Ramp up efforts to set up home gardens with families

Look for funding to provide sorghum enriched porridge to children at school

Set up school gardens with help from Entusi

Keep asking for parents to send school lunches

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

- There are no classroom materials for learning or play.
- Develop classroom materials from local products -- Collect bottle caps, fishing baskets, used tires for sandbox, reeds, etc.
- Add classroom scheduled time for small group play and critical thinking activities
- *Learning Toys Production Guide for Early Learning Programs and Home Play*. Developed for PLAN
- Seek support to establish school libraries & book donation

TEACHER TRAINING

- Teachers need training in early childhood education, and how to have active learning through hands on activities.
- Meet with Ministry officials in Kabale. Identify ways to access training in early childhood education rundato implement the Ministry's vision of active learning.
- Seek funds for local training at Entusi (Rollins College, TEACH Rwanda)
- Consider focus on one nursery school as model/demo/training site

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- No consistent parent education programs. Low parent sensitization.
- Ask for help from the Anglican Archdiocese to hold regular parenting classes, emphasizing ways to support education.
- The Church is an essential partner.
- Request print materials on school and health topics from governments or local NGOs
- Spelling Bees (enjuba) or other area-wide schooling activities to raise awareness and build community

Food and nutrition

Materials for Classrooms

Teacher Training

Access to local resources

Parent Sensitization (knowledge and involvement)

Electricity and internet

conclusion: priorities

Strategic Plan?

Demonstration schools vs

- Choose 2
- Add training
- Raise excitement not resources
- Spelling Bee
 - Fun
 - Reading
 - Get into school

A little for each

- Teacher PAY
- Train all
- Look for \$
- How do you penetrate a school system?

update

- Solar chargers

- Library security





CONTINUATION SUMMER 2023



Thank You