

Annual report 2021 logbook for Mother Aida Foundation

The 2021 annual report consists of a log written from the Netherlands and a short report written by Lydia Amongi. In this log we kept track of how the year went. With always the uncertainty about whether or not the school will open. All in all, schools in Uganda have been closed for almost two years now. We hope that schools will be able to reopen in January 2022. There is now a lot of uncertainty for the Mother Aida foundation.

Jan 20, 2021

In January 2021, there was talk of opening the school after the lockdown. The following actions were taken:

Teachers made home visits and called parents to let the children go back to school. First term the school would provide free meals, free face masks, and give goats to new families. Announcements were made in church that the school would open again.

On January 15 2021 the national elections was held.

February 7,2021

Schools were opened in a phased manner and Mother Aida school could only open for P6 from 1 March.

Fortunately there is also good news, two goats were born on the school farm today.(Feburary)

Bad news today....the water pump house has been broken into by thieves and the water pump and all taps have been stolen. Lydia called the police and an investigation conducted but no arrest made. This affected the supply of water to the community because they also uses the water pump and now has to walk further to get water.

The children of P6 have been allowed to come to school in recent weeks but have not appeared. Parents are still afraid of the virus and many children are helping to earn an income at home. There is no money for school fees.

Lydia, together with the headteacher, has personally spoken to many parents and parents have promised to let their child come back to school. When is this possible? We will have to be patient. The church is now also calling for children to go back to school.

The dry season will last until April and we hope that children will come and the problems will be solved in the coming months. Expansion of the herd (two cows) is also only possible in April, there is not enough grass now.

The markets, shops and churches are open again and people gather in large groups. For example, a child had died and many people attended the funeral but has to observe the standard operating procedures against the Corona virus. The children in Uganda are now allowed to go to school for a few weeks. The government has issued a school calendar that must be adhered to. They want to open the schools gradually.

The Mother Aïda school initially had few pupils in P4, P5 and P6 and the gradual opening of schools could not apply to them who are only allowed to come at the end of May / beginning of June. The nursery is not allowed to go to school at all.

Two teachers are allowed to come to school despite the fact that there are no students and these two teachers are paid from the school fees will now also be paid temporarily from a small contribution from the Mother Aïda foundation, € 1200 is committed for this until the end of December 2021. (A teacher earns about \$60 a month.). These teachers go home from school to the children at home and talk to the parents about getting the children back to school from the end of May. Bicycles are also purchased from this amount. The children's houses are scattered far and wide.

Lydia also organizes, together with Community leader Agnes, a parent meeting at the end of April at the school compound to discuss the importance of going back to school with parents.

We are still considering reducing school fees to lower the threshold, but the experience is that children stay if parents pay something.

Priority: The kids back to school!!

Also in church and on the radio there are calls for the children to go back to school. There is enough food at the school to give the children free school meals for the time being.(food program 2020)

April 13, 2021

A calf was born last month. The first calf of the school farm. Two cows are also bought. In total the school now has 8 cows (including the calf).

April 14 2021

A flower arranging campaign was held in De Hofkerk. We make 39 bags and 2 flower arrangements and thanks to our sponsor Groenrijk we can credit a nice amount of €660 to the account of the Mother Aïda foundation. From this we can have the stolen water pump replaced.

We also receive €750 from the central deacon of Delft to spend on a solar panel for the school. We had already saved €150 and have now saved €900 for this. We will realize the solar panel at the end of 2021

May 2, 2021

The two new cows are taken to the farm. The chickens have many chicks and the goats are growing well too.

The restored water pump is now widely used throughout the community. Since November 2020 there is no water supply through pipes to the village where the Mother Aida school is located. The rest already had to rely on a borehole for the entire community. Now everyone has to get their water from somewhere and the restored water pump in the compound of the Mother Aida school is very helpful. The parents are very happy with the restored water pump. There is a huge shortage of good water supplies.

May 13, 2021

Today there is a first parent meeting. Lydia called and invited all the parents. Much is now being invested in personal approach of the parents to make clear whether the children are coming back to school and what any obstacles may be, 16 parents and 4 teachers attended. It is rainy season and many parents chose to plant today and not come to the meeting.

Meta had made a short speech for the parents and this was much appreciated. The parents have indicated that they hope that we will continue with the goat project. We will start assigning goats again when the school opens and the students continue to come to school.

Tuition is a problem for many families. We'll see how this will play out in the near future. From June 7, the youngest groups will be allowed to go to school for a few months. We hope for a good registration. Two teachers will start home visits from May 17 and hand out flyers to encourage parents to send their children to school and on June 2, the teachers will plan their lessons. Teacher Lydia lives in the compound of the school and turns the water pump on and off and supervises this.

June 9, 2021

On June 8, His Excellency, the President of Uganda announced another lockdown for 6 weeks, Schools are not allowed to open..... what a huge disappointment. The teachers had just been appointed until December. The parents were informed and the school was fully equipped. This means that a large group of children have now been out of school for 1 ½ years. Churches are also no longer allowed to open. This has a huge impact on people and their daily lives.

A pancake campaign will be held in the Hofkerk on June 9th. This yields a nice amount. €1100 We can now realize the solar panel and the power supply for the Mother Aida school.

June 12, 2021

Mother Aïda foundation adapted plan (concept) Goats, cows and chickens.

Now that there is another lockdown in Uganda and the children are still unable to go to school, we are taking stock of the plans for the Mother Aïda foundation.

Goats have not been given to families for the last 1 ½ years now and we are now evaluating this:

*Experience shows that too many parents leave the school after a while after receiving a goat. As a result, we miss continuity at the school.

*We are now faced with new choices due to the Corona pandemic, many parents cannot pay the school fees. The Mother Aïda school is a private school and the teachers have to be paid from the school fees.

* Before and after the lockdown, everything will be done to motivate parents to send their children to school and pay the tuition. A parent meeting has already been held and an investment has also been made to furnish the school as well as possible with the necessary hygiene. There are also 2 teachers who are paid from sponsorship money until December 2021. The teachers make home visits by bicycle to show parents the importance of education.

Due to the new lockdown, this has also come to a halt and the teachers have returned to their homes and own living environment. We therefore have to wait and see what the effect is after the lockdown. Because the Corona pandemic has now turned everything upside down, now is the time to make new changes and we have thought about it all and come to the following plan:

The main goal of the Mother Aïda foundation is to create an independent community that saves itself and offers opportunities for the children and their future. Education is key to this.

We can organize the goat project differently. From now on we will buy goats from the donated money for the goat farm. The goat and cow farm already has 6 goats and 5 cows. There are also 45 chickens. We will add 30 goats to the farm in July. We will breed the goats and give the young female goats from the goat farm to families from the school who stay at school and can use the goats well. As support.

Lydia is going to decide who gets a goat. For example, families can continue to raise their own goats to strengthen the family income. This is the same as now only now all families get a goat. We will therefore monitor this more critically so that there remains more bond with the school.

The male goats that are born can be sold to cover school expenses, pay for vet fees and chicken feed, and invest in new goats or school development.

This creates a less dependent community on donations from the Netherlands. And we come to our main goal: independence.

Breeding continues with the cows and chickens and the cows are the piggy bank for the foundation. The reserves. In addition, there is still the plan to give the milk to the school children, as well as the eggs for the chickens. The chickens could also be given out to families if there are not enough young female goats. People in the Netherlands can still buy chickens, goats or cows for the school farm and give them names, but the link to the families then remains with Lydia and the management of the school.

Other donations and investments

With regard to major additional investments such as a solar panel and power for the school, we will realize this when the school is running again and there is security. We hope to have this achieved by the end of December 2021. These major investments are one-off and will be phased out in the coming years. The sponsor money from the Netherlands will stop by 2025 at the latest, as we are doing now. We will remain connected afterwards, but assume that the Mother Aïda foundation can then continue to support itself without additional donations.

July 30, 2021

The lockdown is being extended and the children are still not able to go to school. The markets are open and so we can buy the 30 goats to invest in the farm and start with the previously described plan. Lydia will inspect the farm on August 6 and discuss how she will arrange the goats. At the end of August, 30 extra goats are bought and placed on the farm. The animals are healthy.

October 14, 2021

It is now clear that schools will not reopen until January 2022. The extra goats for the school farm will be bought between now and December and placed on the farm. There are some problems on the farm, a calf has died, eaten too much cassava. Also, extra help is needed. Lydia to find an extra animal keeper. One for the goats and one for the cows. She has to manage these people every day by calling them. Lydia is going to have the farmland fenced and planted so that the cows and goats get extra food. They also buy goats with which strong goats can be bred.

It remains to be seen how the school will continue and in November and December Lydia will activate the parents to send their children back to school. It is still questionable whether school fees can be paid because many parents are poor and Covid has reinforced this.

December 12, 2021

A shepherd has been found to herd the goats on the farmland. The shepherd who was already there is for the cows.

December 21, 2021

In the Hofkerk we make flower arranging bags. The proceeds go to the Mother Aïda foundation. In the spring, as soon as the school is up and running again, we will make a plan how we will use the money further. For now, we'll just have to wait and see how everything develop.

December 30, 2021

Rinderpest on the farm kills three goats. The other 27 goats are healthy and four goats are pregnant. The 10 goats that still have to be bought will only come in March or April when it rains again. There is now too little to eat. These goats will come from another region to be able to breed as many healthy animals as possible and to prevent inbreeding. The 9 cows are healthy and four calves are expected. The chickens are also doing well and chicks have been born again. At the moment we assume that school can start again in January. Much attention is paid to the children's return to school. In the coming week, Lydia will conduct interviews with the children who are registered to see at what level they will be taught and especially how the child and the family are doing.

The teachers have also moved to the city in the Corona time and new teachers have to be appointed. In addition to a downturn in the economy, Uganda also has to deal with drought and too little food and therefore little income for the people. It remains to be seen what the future of the school will look like, because paying school fees forms the basis after all.

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