

ACCESS



EDUCATION



OPPORTUNITY

Kiwimbi International Report to the Community Annual Report 2020



Dear Friends,

2020 was a year like no other across the world. Kiwimbi was challenged as we all were to adjust, with Kiwimbi International's first Virtual Karamu and, more significantly, lots of work on the ground in Kenya. We credit all of our staff in Kenya with keeping the organization not only running smoothly but also making great strides in creating educational opportunity.

The death and devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic that hit so many countries was not as severe in Kenya. The economic and educational impacts, however, were staggering as cities and neighborhoods were quarantined, travel came to a standstill and schools were closed throughout the country by government mandate from March onward.

Thanks to you, Kiwimbi was able to continue changing lives by providing access to resources such as books, computers, academic and vocational education, cultural heritage, agricultural training including an awareness of environmental impacts and the critical importance of indigenous plants. A few highlights of 2020 follow.

You have changed lives, making a world of difference to thousands in rural Kenya!

Thank you,

Lynne C. Rathgeber
Board Chair

Olubayi Olubayi
Executive Director



Changing Lives

the PIVOT

Facing the challenges created by the pandemic, we needed to adjust quickly. As a small, locally run organization, Kiwimbi was able to pivot:

- ◆ Assured that local children had access to educational resources even though they were not permitted into their classrooms
- ◆ Recruited local teachers to volunteer
- ◆ Created scattered small group learning experiences for children throughout the extended community.
- ◆ With exams postponed, focused on the needs of individual students as never before.

Under the careful watch of local government officials, we kept the Library open (limited, socially distanced access) so that kids could borrow books throughout the year.



End result? As most Kenyan children were precluded from academic learning, those who had access to our resources actually continued to progress and gained particular strength in the basics.

And it paid off! The Grade 8 students completed their 2020 national exams in March of 2021, and over 50% of them passed – a huge achievement given a typical exam pass rate of 3% in rural communities like ours!

This was true even for the poorest of the schools we focus on. We credit the time we had to go back to the basics with them, concentrating on reading and math as opposed to the actual exam preparation.



ACCOMMODATIONS and ADAPTATION

🔥 Food for Thought:

We adapted the lunch program. Children might come for lessons and lunch, but they were also sure to bring their younger siblings. Neighborhood kids showed up too. The demand was greater than ever; Kiwimbi accommodated as best we could!



💧 Vocational Training:

Our Tailoring students were divided into groups and assigned days to meet. They learned to make masks so that staff and students had the protections they need – a perfect solution to the challenges of the day!

With Carpentry students needing to learn practical skills and the importance of a quality product, and with plastic chairs filling the Library, Kiwimbi began focusing two years ago on having our students learn to make chairs similar to the boma chairs of local farmsteads that fold up for easy storage. Carpenters developed and built folding chairs that surpassed the ones they had grown up using in comfort and quality.

In 2020, our Carpenters were able to use the internet to research alternative designs that are proving popular locally - folding wooden chairs to last a lifetime and represent the pride of a job well done!



Traditional boma folding chair



First version developed by
Kiwimbi carpenters



2020 updated version, being sold locally

INNOVATION HUB and YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Kiwimbi was named as a county Innovation Hub and Youth Empowerment Center, a designation in partnership with the Ajira Digital Program, supported by local Member of Parliament, the Honorable Oku Kaunya.

This meant:

- ◆ A new fiber optic connection
- ◆ Faster and more reliable internet service
- ◆ Access for up to 1,000 people at a time
- ◆ Reach outside the Library itself

The program is a government initiative to provide access to digital job opportunities to over one million young people in Kenya. Each person who completes the training will have a mentor to guide them through the process of searching for jobs. What a wonderful opportunity for the young adults in Amagoro!

There are not any restrictions on access to the service and a password is not required. Service at the Library has not slowed down, even with many people logged on in the surrounding community. Many more college students and adults are coming daily to the Library to take advantage of this internet accessibility upgrade.

Read more about the program:

<https://www.thecounty.co.ke/2019/12/mp-unveils-sh1million-innovation-hub.html>



RIPPLES

In 2019, St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish Life Guild donated enough money to Kiwimbi to enable us to install solar power.

This reduced the price of local electricity for us, while at the same time improving reliability of our service considerably, making WiFi more reliable as well.

That same year, the local Member of Parliament pledged to donate 13 computers to the Library, which arrived in 2020.

These two acts of generosity created the viability for the fiber optic connection and the innovation hub and have been transformative locally!



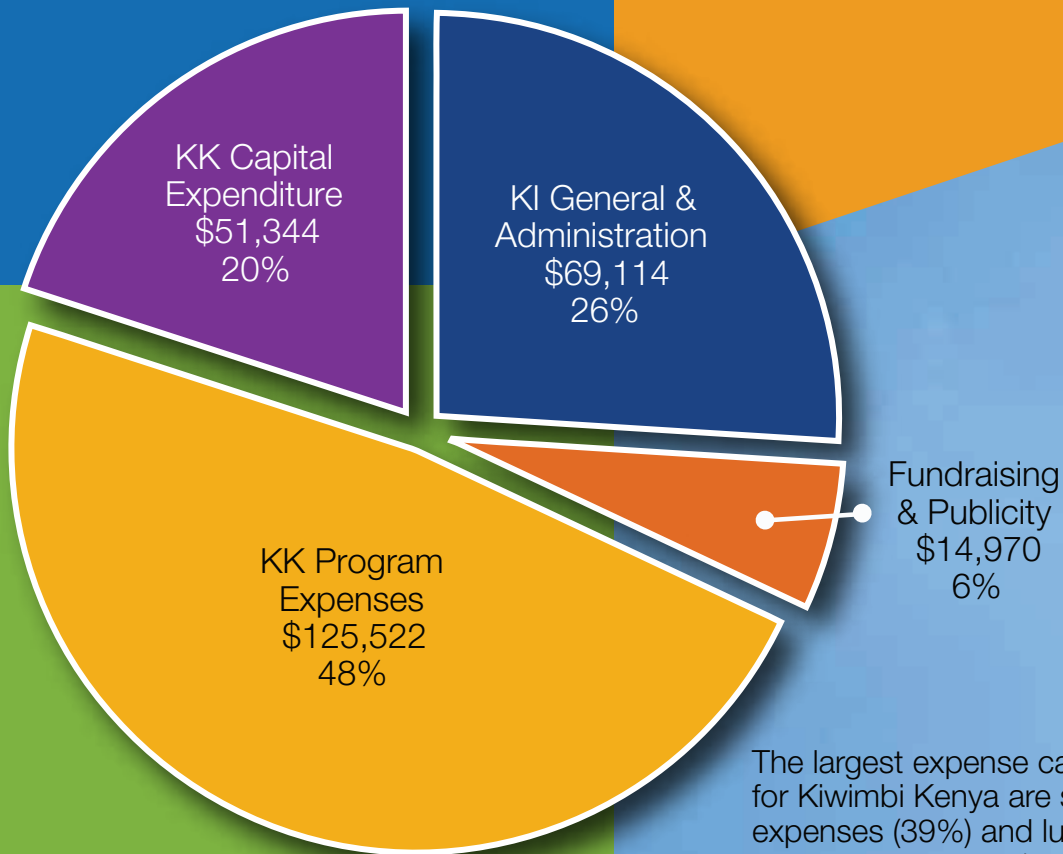
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Annual Report 2020

By-the-Numbers



The largest expense categories for Kiwimbi Kenya are staff expenses (39%) and lunch program expenses (19%)

in 2020 ...

WE ADDED BOOKS



175
NEW BOOKS
PURCHASED

OVER
20,000
BOOKS
IN THE
LIBRARY

WE FED



66,456
LUNCHES TO
213
STUDENTS

OVER
1,000
CHILDREN
WERE
PROVIDED
CLEAN
DRINKING
WATER

WE READ



11,500
BOOKS
CHECKED
OUT BY
50
SCHOOLS

OVER
8,400
BOOKS
CIRCULATED
THROUGH
KIWIMBI
SATELLITE
LIBRARIES

- 63% from Kiwimbi's 3-school prep program who took the National Exam passed in 2020
- Over 200 members of the local community benefitted from library services each day including solar power, internet and newspapers
- 220 students participate in Kiwimbi's drawing and painting programs

“Education is the **most powerful weapon** you can choose to **change the world**”

Nelson Mandela, Philanthropist and former President of South Africa

In 2020, more than 300 individual donors, foundations, corporate partners, and local businesses contributed to Kiwimbi, giving students that treasured key to unlock the door to new opportunities that will improve the quality of their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

Kiwimbi gratefully acknowledges our loyal donors, who supported our efforts in 2020

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GIVING

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 Janet and Daniel Van Abs

Thank You All!

On behalf of the families we serve, we sincerely thank you for your support. We worked hard to ensure that the information presented here is accurate. If you have any questions, comments, or corrections, please let us know.

We can be reached at: 440-549-4624 (that's 440-KIWIMBI) or info@kiwimbi.org. Kiwimbi International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Kiwimbi

. . . Opportunity through Education

Our Mission: To partner with underserved communities world wide to create educational opportunities through locally run learning centers

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