

# WALIWU PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROJECT PROFILE 2011-2012-2013

Waliwu Primary School is a project that Just Cause first visited in 2012. It is located on Buvuma Island in the middle of Lake Victoria. Due to the remote location, it takes two hours to reach by boat, this is a place that is not visited by many people.

Buvuma, a highly populated area, is the second largest island on Lake Victoria with little government support for education. Upon visiting Waliwu Primary School for the first time and seeing the deficient structure that was being used as a school, Just Cause decided that this project was a perfect fit for us.

The original structure consisted of a single building with some boards on the outside, a makeshift platform for student performances and no teaching aids such as chalkboards or desks. The initial visit included a tour of the facility, a meet and greet with staff and school supply distribution to the 120 students attending the school. We also delivered classroom resources and general school supplies to the teachers. These were the first school supplies (and footballs!) ever for both the staff and students at Waliwu!

We were impressed by the dedication of the teachers and the excitement and commitment to learn demonstrated by the students despite the very limited facility. We arranged to have chalkboards and benches constructed by local labourers. This meant we were able to not only provide much needed furnishings to the teachers and students at the school, but provide some desperately needed economic support to the community by employing local carpenters.

In 2013, Just Cause visited Waliwu with a team of volunteers. Upon our arrival we were dismayed to witness that the structure that was in place the previous year had been greatly damaged by a violent storm during the rainy season that year. This meant that the school building no



longer had walls and resembled more of a lean-to than a school. The chalkboards and desks that had been delivered were still in tact and were a point of pride for the school as they were eager to point out their survival to us.

Despite these challenges, the teachers continued to be committed to teaching the students and children still attend classes each day. Unfortunately, the population of the school had declined as many parents were choosing not to send their children because of the state of the building.

Just Cause volunteers distributed school supplies to both teachers and students at the school. Each student received enough school supplies to last them for the full school year, including books, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, math sets and calculators. In addition, students each received a personal hygiene kit made up of donated items that were both collected and assembled by our volunteers in Canada. Teachers at Waliwu Primary received individual kits with curriculum guides, teaching resources and classroom supplies.

Just Cause volunteer teams arranged and lead an art workshop with all of the students and staff at Waliwu. Students were asked to identify four words that had a special meaning to them. These

words were translated from English to Luganda and both languages were written by students onto posters. These words reflected the spirit of the community; love, happiness, prayer, peace and hope. Each student had their hand painted and placed a handprint on a banner painted with an outline of Africa. This was also done by the Canadians on our team to establish a sense of unity and solidarity.

Just Cause was able to communicate our hope for the future of this school and the continued education of the children. After meeting with the teaching staff, students and parents to deliver the supplies and to pledge our commitment to continue working with Waliwu Primary, many parents agreed to send their children back to school! A major step! It is our hope that in 2014 we can make a larger impact to this struggling school.

Are you interested in visiting Waliwu Primary School on the remote island of Buvuma? Would you like to support a school which desperately needs sponsors to help them rebuild? If either of these opportunities are something with which you would like to get involved please contact us at

[volunteer@justcausecanada.org](mailto:volunteer@justcausecanada.org).



## OUR WORK AT A GLANCE

- Distributed school supplies to 120 students for the past 2 years
- Hired local carpenters to build benches and chalkboards for the school to begin furnishing it.
- Assembled hygiene kits for all students in 2013
- Provided classroom resources, National curriculum and teaching guides in the 5 key primary subject areas
- Donated sporting equipment and art supplies to the school
- Organized educational activities that included all of the students attending the school
- Provided much needed medical care for a student with a medical emergency whose mother could not afford his surgery.

