In responding to the scarcity of water within the school premises, Mifumi Primary School Jersey Charity (MPS Jersey Charity) made a financial donation to Mifumi Primary School that saw the purchase and construction of three water tanks to enable the school harvest rain water during the rainy season.

MPS Jersey Charity was set up by a group of individuals and agencies from the Channel Islands in the UK to respond to the academic and infrastructural needs of the school in securing the basic right to quality education to the rural poor in this village.

The Water Tanks serve as a close and convenient source of constant water supply within the School premises during the rainy season. They have been strategically placed to meet the various needs at the school premises.

Water Tanks- a convenient water source during the rainy season

The tanks were placed at the children’s dormitory to serve the laundry and washroom and teacher’s quarters; at the kitchen to meet the kitchen needs and the last one was placed next to the community hall.

Mifumi Village experiences water crisis with majority of people depending on the stream just at the foot of the Primary School as the closest source of water. Whereas the schools boasts of a borehole that is strategically located in the school field, this borehole serves as the only source of water to the school; which means long queues resulting from the need for water by the various facilities at the school such as the school kitchen, the dormitory and teacher’s quarters and the water dispensing hand washing facilities at the washrooms.

With the borehole about 250 metres away from the boarding, kitchen, washroom and teacher’s accommodations, it requires a bit of a walk to and from the water source.

Twice a year, for a total of 6 months during the rainy season, the water harvested into the tanks alleviates all the water problems within the school premises listed above.

Obbo Clement, the Deputy Head Teacher was especially grateful for these rain harvesting facilities. In appreciation for the donation made by MPS Jersey Charity through Standard Bank, Mr. Obbo had this to say; ‘We are most grateful. During rainy season, children and school staff don’t struggle at the borehole. They have various sources of water. The Cooks also have a close source of water to clean up the kitchen and utensils before and after cooking. They do not have to walk long distances to ferry water from the borehole. In conclusion, what these water tanks have done is to bring water closer for use within the school premises and most importantly contributed to time management at school. Timeliness on the part of the teachers, pupils and the kitchen staff by cutting down on long queues at the borehole. Thank you again Standard Bank team’
Solar lighting – significantly benefits the staff and pupils

In 2016, Mifumi Primary School Teachers and pupils prepared a wish-list that they shared with Standard Bank Jersey-Mifumi Primary School Jersey Charity). The Charity honoured one of the wishes that emerged most pressing then; a solar lighting facility at the school premises.

The school dormitory, teacher’s quarters and 2 classrooms blocks were solar electrified and the benefits for both the teachers and pupils have been numerous.

According to MIFUMI Division Coordinator, Ms Beatrice Atyang, the solar lighting facility at the school premises has;

- mitigated the risk of school dormitory fires often caused by kerosene lamps and candles.
- contributed to significant savings on the monthly national grid electric bills by almost 60%
- enabled pupils revise at night and in the morning in well-lit and convenient places such as the classrooms.
- enabled teachers to continue their lesson preparation and revision in a quiet and convenient place after a long day.
- continued to provide security for pupils in the boarding section.

Beatrice also added that prior to this solar electrification, the unreliable power supplied by the national grid was crippling most of the after class school programmes such as night and morning preps for pupils and teachers.

Beatrice cited the biggest problem with depending on the national grid electricity suppliers as, the turnaround response time in resolving power blackouts which often takes up to several months, this in turn cripples the already scheduled after class routine programmes at school such as night preps/ revision.

From her narrative, the power blackouts were as a result of a series of incidents such as; incidents where thunder storms brought down electric poles, unlawful tendencies by some communities members who vandalise electric poles to illegally tap electricity from the main supplies lines causing transformers to blow up, and finally, when the area was scheduled for the routine load-shedding.

The solar lighting has thus alleviated these problem and enabled a consistent and functional academic routine at the school.
Mifumi Primary School Nursery- carving out a commendable reputation for itself.

By the end of 2016, Mifumi Primary School- Nursery had come to be known as the most outstanding and sought for in the entire sub-county that consists of 7 villages.

Most nursery schools in the village are not government certified or do not have dedicated class teachers like Mifumi Primary School-Nursery.

The 2018 enrolment saw over 130 children attend the pre-enrolment interviews at the school for 45 openings. Mifumi Primary School-Nursery can only enrol a maximum of 45 pupils each year. This year the school enrolled 25 girls and twenty boys.

According to Amito Grace, the head teacher for the nursery section, the School conducts very fair and transparent interviews on clearly spelt out enrolment criteria.

First, we consider the age of the child who must be atleast 4 years; then we consider other things like their ability to speak, socialise and some basic cognitive skills, among other things as defined in our interview documents."  

Amito also noted that continued support from MIFUMI and well-wishers to the school to has enabled the nursery set a good learning foundation for these young learners.

Over the years, records at the school have indicated that most of the best performing pupils in Primary seven started from Mifumi Primary School-Nursery.

The Nursery section has initiated consultative meetings with the school management and parents to institute a 1 pound fee per child per term that will enable cater for the school hygiene and care needs of the little ones. The 1 pound contribution will be used to purchase toilet paper, soap and emergency sets of underwear in case the children soil themselves.
Within a week of reporting to her new duty station at Mifumi Primary School, Alupo Dorothy was appointed to the role of Senior Woman Teacher and now almost every pupil knows her by name. Today, on top of this responsibility, Dorothy is the teacher in-charge of the welfare of all pupils at the school and manages an extra-curricular club- scouts.

As Senior Woman Teacher, Dorothy is extending counselling and support to all female pupils at school to enable them stay and complete school. She encourages equal participation for both girls and boys in and out of class activities to instil confidence in the girls in the process allowing them realise their full potentials and take up all opportunities intended for all pupils at the school.

Dorothy has also established a routine of meeting with the parents of most of the girls in her school to offer, advice and counsel on supporting their children regardless of their sex to equally access education.

As the in-charge of the welfare of pupils, Dorothy ensures that all the academic and wellbeing of the pupils at Mifumi Primary School are prioritised at all administrative and operational decisions at the school are made in consideration of this.

Dorothy is a committee member of the School’s plenary board and her mandate is to inform on and influence decisions on the welfare.

Finally Dorothy has most recently introduced the Scouts club at Mifumi Primary school. Whereas the idea of such a club is new to the school, Dorothy says the scouting disciplines will go a long way in grooming responsible, confident, creative and well-rounded pupils.

Teacher Dorothy made a case for why Scouting should be encouraged and supported in schools saying; Scouting allows pupils engage in an outdoor physical activity that allows them to learn from their experiences, think creatively and find solutions to situations before them.

Scouting is a very social activity that builds self-confidence and esteem, the one thing crippling many rural based children from realising their life goals.

All the activities I have designed for this club try to raise and nurture these abilities in my pupils.

Dorothy has made a request with a list of requirements to the school administration to enable her set up a functional Scouting club. So far she has registered over 40 pupils who are very keen to join and participate in this club.

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