My name is Auma Christine, I am 14 years old and currently in Primary Seven at Mifumi Primary School.

I would like to share with you the things I saw and learnt when I visited the schools in Jersey, Isle of Man and London last year in May.

I was overjoyed when I was told I had been selected as one of two representatives for my school to travel to the UK. There were a total of 30 children who were shortlisted but I beat them all at the interviews. I think I was selected because I could speak English and I am not shy.

When we arrived in the UK, we visited a lot of nice places like the Buckingham Palace but what I appreciated most was the schools visits. In the classrooms, I saw things were done differently compared to the schools in my village.

The teachers were talking nicely to the children and they knew their names; and the children talk confidently to the teachers in class. They are not shy or fearful.

At my school, when the teacher is teaching us about parts of a flower, they draw on the blackboard; but in the UK, the teacher and children bring the real flowers in class and put one on everyone’s desk. Together, they dissect them, show and name each part as they go.

Also, the children use computers for learning. Their blackboard is different from ours. It is like a screen.

When the lesson is changing, the teacher does not move to classes, it is the children who switch classes.

When the schools call for assembly, the children do not have to stand. They can be seated.

The children start to go to school when they are really young so many of them in primary are younger than us.

Also there, children study in primary year one to year six and you go to high school.

It was very good for me to see these things. When we returned I told my teachers about how things are done in the UK. I told the children, the large water bodies and animals that I saw at the zoo.

I thank everyone in Jersey, Isle of Man and London who are very kind and continue to support our School and teachers.

I am also glad to be at Mifumi Primary School because we have a library from which to learn a lot of things; just like the children in the UK.
Mifumi Primary School participates at the fundraising gala in Jersey

A team of three from Mifumi Primary School were invited by MPS-Jersey Charity and Standard Bank to attend and participate at an event in the United Kingdom.

The 11-day event was aimed at forging links and raising funds for the charity's projects towards infrastructural and academic development of Mifumi Primary School; and sharing teaching, learning experiences and good practice.

The Uganda coordinator for Mifumi Primary School, Beatrice Atyang, Teacher Trainer Margaret Apio and 12-year-old School Pupil Christine Auma attended a series of planned events in London, Isle of Man and Jersey.

This trip was very successful and the fundraising event raised a considerable amount of funds for the school towards school renovations, Teacher remunerations, text books, teaching & learning equipment, play equipment, academic improvement costs, capacity building, among several other causes.

Patrick Brennan particularly played a key role in ensuring that the visitors from Uganda were on schedule and kept abreast with all eventualities.
**Tuesday 1st May 2018, Jersey**
The Ugandan participants were welcomed to the United Kingdom by a team from Standard Bank - Jersey that included; Matt Gorman, George Taylor, Claire Griffin, Gary Cracknell, Jeanine Carey, Gillian Dube and among others.

**Wednesday 2nd May 2018, Jersey**
The team from Uganda had the opportunity to visit Standard Bank Jersey. Beatrice Atyang and Margaret Apio gave an overview of the charity’s work in Uganda; specifically highlighting the impact of its projects and donations to the school and community of Mifumi Village. Margaret particularly noted how the charity’s funding had enabled practical pupil focused learning.

Christine shared her experiences of being a pupil at Mifumi Primary School.

Later that day, the team visited Mont Nicolle Primary School and St. Martin’s school. At the assemblies the Ugandan visitors made brief presentations about Mifumi Primary School. The pupils were allowed time to ask questions and learn about Uganda. At both schools, the visiting team was involved in a normal routine class activity.

**Thursday 3rd May, 2018, Jersey**
St. Mary’s School and Helvetia School provided an intriguing experience for the Uganda Visitors. Beatrice and Margaret participated in school class activities.

The visitors were treated to a choir presentation by Helvetia School. Christine from Mifumi Primary School joined the choir presentation. Beatrice later joined the School’s Education Director, Justin Donavan at a press conference.

At both schools, pupils were allowed sometime to interact with the visitors. Pupils from Helvetia introduced Christine to their school dog.

Later that afternoon, the team from Uganda visited Grouville School. Mifumi Primary School has a long friendship with this school that has been maintained through occasional Skype calls where children share their experiences and ideas.

**Friday 4th May, Jersey**
The visit to Sameres School, St Lawrence School and Jersey College for Girls marked the last of the schools’ engagement in Jersey. The events in Jersey were crowned with a Gala dinner, the main fundraising event, that was organized by MPS Jersey Charity to raise funds for Mifumi School. The event that was well attended, brought together a number of MIFUMI stakeholders, who had gathered to show their loyalty to MIFUMI’s cause.

**Tuesday 8th May, Isle of Man**
The team from Uganda visited Henry Bloom Noble School and Bradden School in the Isle of Man. Bradden School was the next to be visited in this Island. The school has an average of 24 pupils per class and a total of 116 pupils.

The afternoon was spent at Manx Radio Station where Beatrice, Margaret and Christine joined Pat and Gary at a talk show.

The day was concluded by a visit to the Education Minister’s office, where they were fortunate to have his audience. A number of issues were discussed that ranged from different education systems to cultural backgrounds. The Minister was so supportive and promised to collaborate with the team in the near future.

**Wednesday 9th May, Isle of Man**
On Wednesday afternoon, the team visited Onchan Primary School that has about 400 pupils. This school like Bradden, has been very supportive to Mifumi School through the continuous donations that keep flowing in. The team was also impressed by the fact that the school uses fancy animal names for their classes that included; Lady Bird, Wild cats, Butterflies and so forth. During the tour of the classes, the team got an opportunity to interact with the pupils and teachers where they shared their experiences.

**Thursday 10th May, Isle of Man**
On the last day on the Island, the team visited Laxey Primary School and King Williams College; a private secondary school with about 400 students. MIFUMI had earlier in the year received numerous schoolbags donated by Laxey Primary School. Beatrice the coordinator was delighted to finally meet the pupils and administrators to thank them in person. Later that evening, the team departed for London.

**Friday 11th May, Isle of Man**
While in London, the team from Uganda made their first visit to the London Standard Bank office, where they were welcomed by Gemma Zinyama who ushered them for a meeting. A few presentations were made and vote of thanks were exchanged.

Later that afternoon the team went sightseeing and had the opportunity to visit famous places like Buckingham Palace where they witnessed “The changing of Guard”.

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Our greatest appreciation goes to MPS Jersey Charity for sponsoring the trip. Standard Bank played a key role as our hosts in Jersey, Isle of Man and London.

Special thanks go to the following, who have been instrumental in ensuring that all planned events came to fruition; Matt, George, Patrick, Allan, Sandra, Jeannine, Gary, Mark, Gillian, Gemma among others.
Dormitory facility starts to improve performance

My performance has improved
I live with my mother and I have 3 siblings. My mother says I used to be stubborn and playful. I did not like to read my books. My grades were very bad. So they brought me to boarding school in Primary Five.
Since I joined boarding I started to see I was understanding and concentrating in class.
Last year I saw myself improving in class. In First term I was the 27th, in second term I was the 24th and by third term, I had improved and reached the 4th position.
I realised children in boarding have better opportunities to study and pass well. I also have good friends here who encourage me to read.
I am looking forward to becoming a nurse so I can treat the sick.
Brenda Aketch 14 years in P.6

I can access my teachers easily
I started attending boarding in Primary Five. My home is very far and my parents wanted me to go to a good school. So they sold a few animals and crops to get me to boarding school.
The good thing about boarding school is that I have more time to read; compared to if I were home. Immediately I reached home, I would start on chores like going to fetch water, cooking and gardening in the morning. In the boarding section, the teachers support us with revision after class and night preps. The teachers are near and I can ask them questions if I did not understand something after class.
I am hoping to get a first grade so I can get enrolled to a good secondary school and maybe a scholarship or a bursary if I work hard.
I really want to be a lawyer; I want to represent children’s rights like the right to education and shelter, and food. Some people abuse children’s rights. I know a boy who was not taken to school, they used to beat him and throw him out of the house. He would sleep under the tree.
I also want to be a lawyer so I can make a lot of money and be rich. I am going to be a lawyer.
John Otala 13 years old Primary Seven

Mifumi Primary School Boarding Section was formally operational following the generous donation from Winni Binns Trust that saw the construction of 2 dormitories with boarding and washrooms. The dormitories were purpose built to accommodate both boys and girls separately. Standard Bank more recently furnished the dormitories with beds and lighting.

According to Moreen Idongiti, the teacher in-charge of all the children enrolled in the boarding section, the facility has alleviated a lot of the academic challenges faced by some of the children at Mifumi Primary School.
A child in the village is naturally expected to leave school after classes and immediately embark on chores waiting for them at home such as fetching water, starting to cook and at the rise of dawn, they must go to the garden during rainy season. By the time the child reaches school, they are tired from last night’s chores or late from the morning house work. This makes them very tired. They do not have time to revise their books both at school and at home. Some walk very long distances as far as 10 kilometres to and from school.

Moreen also noted that the boarding section has indeed shown there are good perks that came with it. This boarding section is very helpful for children in the candidate classes. It is a facility we encourage parents with children in upper primary to use. I am glad to note that the majority of our best performing pupils in upper primary are from the boarding section. We are hoping to improve the facility and encourage more enrolment.
I meet with the children every day and I make sure the teachers in-charge of the boarding night prep support the children. I ensure they feed and go to bed on time.
But the most important thing I tell them is that they are here for a purpose.

Mifumi Primary School
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