PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE)

GREENING UGANDA SCHOOLS REPORT 2025

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
13 CLIMATE ACTION
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

PLANE Displaying Climate Change Action messages to children at Kiboyo Primary School in Mugusu Town Council

Pupils of Stephens Wisdom Primary School in Kiwamba sub county Displaying Climate Change Action messages

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLATFORM FOR THE NEEDY (PLANE) BACKGROUND	4-5
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS	5
PLANE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOREWORD	5
PLANE BOARD CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE	6
SUMMARY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC	9-10
INTRODUCTION	10-11
PROJECT OVERVIEW	11-12
CHALLENGES ADDRESSED	12
SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED	13
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	14
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	15
LONG-TERM IMPACT	16-17
CONCLUSION	17
RECOMMENDATIONS	17-18
OUR APPRECIATION	18
POEMS ON PLANTING TREES	18-20
PHOTO GALLERY	20-21

PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE) BACKGROUND

Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives: PLANE Making a Difference in Rural Uganda

PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Fort Portal Tourism City, Western Uganda. Since 2010, PLANE has been committed to advocating for and protecting the rights of children and women through various initiatives aimed at fostering a healthy, violence-free society.

OUR MISSION

PLANE's mission is to transform the lives of disadvantaged populations in Uganda through empowerment programs, human rights advocacy, health promotion, and literacy campaigns. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for vulnerable individuals and communities.

Key Areas of Focus

Health Awareness and Social Security

- **Health Promotion**: Educating communities on general health awareness.
- **Social Security:** Providing economic empowerment for teenage mothers.
- **Violence Prevention:** Advocating against violence toward children and women.

Educational Support

- **Orphans and Vulnerable Children:** Providing scholastic materials and school fees to ensure access to quality education.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Implementing programs that support youth education, with a focus on girl child education and teenage mothers' empowerment.

Women's Empowerment

- Livelihood Interventions: Supporting rural women through skills development and livelihood projects.
- **Maternal and Reproductive Health:** Conducting awareness campaigns and health clinics to ensure women have access to essential healthcare services.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention

- Support Services: Offering counseling, legal support, and community outreach to protect women and girls from abuse and discrimination.

Environmental Education and Conservation

- **Sustainable Practices:** Promoting environmental responsibility through tree planting initiatives, waste management projects, and awareness programs.

Joyous boy at New Valley Junior School names his tree "Ronald"

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its inception, PLANE has gained recognition for its capacity to enhance health promotion programs, advocate for children's rights, and empower youth and women. Our registration with the **Uganda National NGO Board (Reg. No. INDR111193949NB) and Kabarole District (Reg. No. 2323)** underscores our commitment to these causes.

How You Can Help

Join us in making a difference. Together, we can empower communities, protect the vulnerable, and transform lives in rural Uganda.

PLANE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOREWORD

Mr.Waddell Stephen the Executive Director PLANE Uganda

"A Greener Future Together"

"Today, we celebrate a significant milestone in our journey towards a greener Uganda. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the schools that have partnered with us in the Greening Uganda Schools Project. Your acceptance to plant trees in your schools is a testament to your commitment to environmental conservation and the future of our children.

I would also like to thank Global Giving for providing PLANE with a platform to fundraise for this project. Your support has been instrumental in enabling us to reach out to schools and plant trees.

On a special note, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our generous donors who have supported this project. Thanks to your contributions, we have been able to plant 4,850 trees in 26 schools. We pray that with your continued support, we can reach out to many more schools and empower them to become champions of environmental conservation.

Without your generous support, our work wouldn't be visible, and no impact would be felt. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of our children and the environment.

I would also like to thank our partners, Natural Resource Defence Initiative (NRDI), for their unwavering support. Together, we promise to form more environment conservation clubs in schools and monitor these trees for sustainability.

Let us continue to work together towards a greener future for Uganda. Thank you."

Mr.Waddell Stephen the Executive Director PLANE Uganda.

Trees ready for planting in Kiburara

PLANE BOARD CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE

Madam Kasabiiti Grace –PLANE Board Chairperson

"Empowering a Greener Future"

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the generous individuals who have passionately supported PLANE, especially our Greening Uganda Schools project," said Grace Kasabiiti, Chairperson of the PLANE Board. *"Your donations have made a significant impact in promoting environmental conservation and sustainability in our schools."*

Grace encouraged the children to take ownership of the trees, saying, "As you plant these trees, please give them your names. This will not only make it easier to manage them but also give you a sense of ownership and responsibility towards their care and sustainability."

She also expressed her appreciation for the PLANE Director, saying, *"I thank the PLANE Director Mr.Waddell Stepehn for his passion for humanity and nature. His dedication to our mission is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for his leadership."*

Madam Kasabiiti Grace –PLANE Board Chairperson.

Children of Kahuna Primary, Kijura Town Council receive their trees ready to start planting

The Girl Child Empowered with Environmental Conservation Messages

We're Empowered to be Champions of Change

Girls of Kaboyo Primary Excited to be empowered in tree planting and conserving nature

We're Champions of Environmental Conservation

Girls of Kaboyo Primary Excited to be empowered in tree planting and conserving nature

Greening Uganda Schools: A Million Trees for a Sustainable Future

The **"Greening Uganda Schools:** A Million Trees for a Sustainable Future" initiative, led by the PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE), is a comprehensive project aimed at integrating environmental education and sustainability into Uganda's educational system. This initiative involves planting one million trees across 260 schools and surrounding communities, with the objectives of reforestation, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and fostering environmental stewardship among students and communities

Through hands-on tree planting activities, educational programs, and community engagement, the project addresses critical environmental challenges such as deforestation, climate change, and the lack of environmental awareness.

The initiative has successfully involved thousands of students and community members, enhancing environmental consciousness and sustainable practices. PLANE's efforts have garnered significant support, though continued partnership expansion, community training, and diversified funding are recommended to ensure long-term impact and sustainability. This project serves as a model for integrating environmental education into school curricula, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future for Uganda.

Madam Katusabe the Head teacher Kaboyo primary thanked PLANE for considering their school in tree planting. We've benefited twice and our trees are doing well.

Madam Jane Katusabe the headteacher Kaboyo planting a tree with her pupil

Boys carrying hoes going to dig holes for tree planting

PLANE staff being taken over the tree garden at Kaboyo. This was the first batch of trees planted by PLANE and we're happy to see the trees have grown and doing well

PLANE team and Teachers fulfilling the mission of environmental conservation

PLANE team sorting out trees from the nursery bed for planting

Mwesige Julius, Environment Teacher at Kaboyo Primary School in Mugusu Town Council said they are creating a canopy of trees in Kaboyo, expressing gratitude to PLANE and Natural Resource Defence Initiative (NRDI) for distributing tree seedlings. This vision aligns with PLANE's goal of instilling a sense of responsibility and respect for nature among young minds.

SUMMARY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

The **"Greening Uganda Schools"** initiative, led by the **PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE)**, is an ambitious project aiming to plant one million trees across 260 schools and their surrounding communities in Uganda by 2030. This effort seeks to combat deforestation, mitigate climate change, and promote environmental awareness among students and the broader community.

By involving students in tree planting and offering environmental education, the project teaches young people about the importance of trees for clean air, biodiversity, and climate resilience. Additionally, the initiative encourages community participation, ensuring the long-term care and sustainability of the trees planted.

Despite its successes, including significant tree planting and widespread educational outreach, the project still requires substantial funding to meet its goals. The long-term benefits are expected to be far-reaching, contributing to Uganda's reforestation efforts, enhancing local biodiversity, and fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens. The project exemplifies how collective action can lead to a greener and more sustainable future for Uganda.

Headteacher Nyamisingiri primary planting trees with his children

Children of New Valley Junior School picking trees from the truck

PLANE and children of Nyamisingiri primary pose in a photo after a tree planting exercise

Girl planting her tree names it her name Jane

Mr.Isiko Ronald Headteacher Kraft Great Angels commended PLANE for using children as champion of environmental conservation .He demanded for more trees

We enjoy planting trees in our school

We're excited to participate in tree planting exercise and thanks to the donors

Children of Kraft Great Angels School embrace tree planting

INTRODUCTION

The ***"Greening Uganda Schools"*** initiative, spearheaded by PLATFORM for the NEEDY, represents a vital step towards integrating environmental education and sustainability into the core of Uganda's educational system. This initiative underscores the multifaceted benefits of trees, not only as critical components of our ecosystem but also as powerful tools for enhancing educational outcomes and fostering environmental stewardship among students.

School tree planting projects provide an immersive learning experience, connecting students directly to the benefits of trees, such as moderating temperatures, muffling noise, and improving air quality by absorbing harmful airborne compounds and emitting oxygen. These projects offer a tangible way for students to understand the importance of environmental conservation. Moreover, spending time around trees and in nature has been scientifically proven to enhance students' health and academic performance, aiding in concentration, task completion, and following directions. Increased exposure to nature has also been linked to improved self-discipline, particularly in girls.

The Green Schools Project (GSP) within this initiative aims to stimulate student interest in their local environment and help them achieve academic goals through tree planting. By actively

participating in these projects, students not only learn about the structure, needs, and growth of trees but also develop a deeper understanding of their role in environmental protection. This hands-on involvement fosters a sense of responsibility and empowers students to make informed decisions regarding the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The ***"Greening Uganda Schools***" initiative thus serves as a model for how environmental education can be seamlessly integrated into school curricula, providing lasting benefits to students, schools, and the broader community. Through this initiative, PLATFORM for the NEEDY is nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious individuals committed to sustainable development and the preservation of Uganda's natural heritage

Children of Kahuna primary embrace the tree planting exercise

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

The primary objectives of the ***"Support Greening Uganda Schools 1,000,000 Trees"*** project are:

1. **Reforestation:** Plant one million trees in 260 school compounds and surrounding communities in Uganda.
2. **Environmental Education:** Educate children about the importance of trees and forests, fostering a love for nature and sustainable management practices.
3. **Climate Change Mitigation:** Reduce the adverse effects of climate change by increasing tree cover, which will help in carbon sequestration.
4. **Biodiversity Conservation:** Enhance biodiversity by providing habitats for wildlife through increased tree cover.
5. **Community Engagement**: Raise awareness among school children and communities about environmental conservation and sustainability.

Teacher in charge of environment at Rusekere secondary school planting a tree as the headteacher and PLANE staff Look on

Off-loading tree seedlings at Rusekee secondar school. The staff and administration embraced the campaign

Kamara Immaculate the headteacher Rusekere Secondary school commended PLANE for considering and giving them trees. She said they're grateful and would maintain and keep care of the trees

Teacher Johnson says he likes planting trees at home but he lacks money to buy the seedlings. He said teaching children to plant trees while still young will help them grow respecting nature.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

Uganda faces significant environmental challenges, including:

- **Deforestation:** Uganda loses approximately 90,000 hectares of forest annually, leading to environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity.
- **Climate Change:** Increased frequency and severity of weather events such as floods and droughts, attributed to climate change.
- **Environmental Education Deficit**: Lack of awareness and education about the importance of environmental conservation among children and communities.

Environmental Education in Schools, creating more impact.

Mr. Asaba Selevano a teacher said he's empowered and pledged to be a champion of environment

SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED

To address these challenges, PLANE implemented the following solutions:

- **Tree Planting Activities:** Engaged students and communities in planting one million trees. We have so planted 4850 trees in 26 primary and secondary schools.
- **Educational Programs:** Conducted workshops and seminars in schools to educate children about the benefits of trees and forests. We have printed out some posters with good climate change action messages for the children to learn the importance of tree planting and respecting nature.
- **Community Involvement:** Encouraged community participation in tree planting and maintenance activities. We've used the radio talkshows on Voice of Toro 101 FM to educate the public about tree planting and climate change issues.
- **Partnerships and Fundraising:** Collaborated with local and international partners to raise funds and resources for the project. We've been allowed to host our campaigns on GlobalGiving platform. This global platform has enabled us to gain visibility and attract donors. PLANE received a donor who donated to us $2000 for the Greening Uganda Project implementation. This money has facilitated PLANE to reach out 15 schools .

Kyaitamba primary school staff and PLANE sharing experience on the value of tree planting in schools

Mr. Mugabe Robert the headteacher Kyaitamba primary appreciated PLANE her partners for the tree donation that will help in not only beautifying the school but also providing shed, acting as windbreakers and for income

"We're glad to have been considered to benefit from tree planting exercise. We shall care and protect these trees but we request for more because we have a lot of space", Kyaitamba staff told PLANE.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Tree Planting

As of the latest update, PLANE has made significant strides in tree planting efforts. The project has successfully planted trees in various school compounds and surrounding communities. This initiative not only contributes to reforestation but also enhances the aesthetic appeal of school environments.

Our Impact:

Trees Planted:	**4,850**
Schools Covered:	**26**
Children Reached:	**16,250**
Teachers Reached:	**286**
Environmental Clubs Formed:	**15**

Global Giving Making Difference in Uganda Schools

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

PLANE has conducted numerous educational sessions in schools, reaching thousands of pupils and students. These sessions have focused on:

- The importance of trees and forests.
- The role of trees in mitigating climate change.
- Sustainable management practices for natural resources.
- Formed Environmental Clubs in schools

Community Engagement

The project has actively involved communities in tree planting activities. By fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility, PLANE has ensured the sustainability of the planted trees. Community members have been trained in tree maintenance and protection, further contributing to the project's long-term success. The children plant trees and give them their names to ensure ownership, easy management and sustainability.

Partnerships and Fundraising

PLANE has successfully raised funds and garnered support from various partners. The total goal for the project is Euros 150,156, with Euros130,102 remaining to be raised. The involvement of donors, fundraisers and supporters has been crucial in advancing the project's objectives.
Media and Outreach

PLANE has leveraged various media platforms, including social media and YouTube, to raise awareness about the project. These platforms have been instrumental in reaching a broader audience and garnering support from individuals worldwide.

PLANE Creating awareness about environmental conservation and climate change issues

PLANE Staff intensifying the campaign to raise awareness on climate change and reproductive health issues in Uganda conducting radio talk shows.

PLANE Staff intensifying the campaign to raise awareness on climate change and reproductive health issues in Uganda conducting radio talk shows.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Environmental Benefits

The long-term impact of the ***"Support Greening Uganda Schools 1,000,000 Trees"*** project is multifaceted:

- **Reforestation:** The planting of one million trees will significantly contribute to Uganda's reforestation efforts, enhancing tree cover and biodiversity.
- **Climate Change Mitigation**: Increased tree cover will aid in carbon sequestration, helping to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** The project will create habitats for various wildlife species, promoting biodiversity.

Educational Benefits

The project's educational initiatives will have a lasting impact on future generations:

- **Awareness and Knowledge:** Students and pupils will have a deeper understanding of environmental issues and the importance of conservation.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Educating children about sustainable practices will foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

Grooming Children to be Environmental Worriers

Peter chose to sustain the trees for tomorrow's generation

Christopher is happy to green schools for the future to be green

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The involvement of communities in the project will lead to:

- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Active participation in tree planting will strengthen community bonds and collective responsibility.
- **Sustainable Development:** The project will promote sustainable development practices within communities, contributing to a greener and more sustainable environment.

CONCLUSION

The ***"Support Greening Uganda Schools 1,000,000 Trees"*** project by the Platform for the Needy has made remarkable progress in addressing the challenges of deforestation, climate change, and environmental education in Uganda. Through tree planting, educational programs, and community engagement, PLANE has laid a strong foundation for a sustainable and environmentally conscious future. The long-term benefits of the project will contribute significantly to Uganda's reforestation efforts, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure the continued success and sustainability of the project, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Expand Partnerships:** Strengthen partnerships with local and international organizations to secure additional funding and resources.
2. **Enhance Community Training:** Provide ongoing training for community members in tree maintenance and protection.
3. **Monitor and Evaluate**: Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and impact of the project.
4. **Increase Awareness Campaigns:**

Utilize various media platforms to raise further awareness and support for the project.

5. Diversify Funding Sources: Explore diverse funding sources, including corporate sponsorships and grants, to ensure financial stability.

The PLATFORM for the NEEDY's "Support Greening Uganda Schools 1,000,000 Trees" project stands as a testament to the power of collective action in addressing environmental challenges. By continuing to build on this foundation, PLANE can create a greener, more sustainable future for Uganda and its communities.

OUR APPRECIATION

On behalf of PLANE Uganda, I would like to extend our gratitude to our partner schools , Natural Resources Defence Initiatives (NRDI), GlobalGiving supporters and Global Giving in particular for offering us the opportunity to host our campaign. We thank those who donate anonymously, your donation is making a difference in Ugandan children. We pay for the continued partnership and relationship to enable us reach more people and schools in Uganda. We promise to continue focusing on environmental protection and community-based conservation efforts in schools and communities. Without your generosity our work would not be visible and the community would not feel our impact!!!

Resources

1. https://platformfortheneedy.org/
2.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faf2QPiynF4&t=55s
3.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAvYG8Mzqc4&t=2s
4.https://platformfortheneedy.org/
5.https://www.instagram.com/platformfortheneedy/
6.https://www.globalgiving.org/pfil/63950/projdoc.pdf

Poems On Planting Trees

In Uganda's schools, a green dream unfolds,
PLATFORM for the NEEDY (PLANE) Uganda takes hold.
With children leading, trees take root,
A greener future, a brighter pursuit.

PLANE's mission, to nurture and grow,
School children planting, as they learn and know.
The value of trees, the power of green,
A sustainable future, Uganda's dream to be seen.

In classrooms shaded, by leaves so bright,
Children learn, with hearts full of light.
Their small hands, planting seeds with care,
A greener tomorrow, they'll soon declare.

PLANE's impact, a ripple so wide,
Empowering youth, for Uganda's pride.
Together growing, a forest so grand,
A greener Uganda, at PLANE's command.

Learning Roots

Young minds gather, eager to know,
About climate change, and trees that grow.
Benefits unfold, as they learn and share,
The power of trees, in combating climate care.

Growing Resilience

Roots of knowledge, spread far and wide,
Children plant trees, with a purpose inside.
Shading homes, absorbing carbon too,
A greener future, for me and you.

Harvesting Change

Fruits of labor, a community strong,
Climate-resilient, where children belong.
Empowered by trees, they lead the way,
A sustainable future, for a brighter day.

Roots of knowledge, leaves of might,
Empowering youth, for a brighter night.
Greening compounds, a treasure so rare,
A sustainable future, children declare.

With every tree, a story's told,
Of hope and care, for young and old.
Let's nurture trees, and children's dreams,
A greener tomorrow, with shining beams.

Poem Tree Planting

PLANE Uganda's wings take flight,
Nurturing dreams, in morning light.
School children gather, hands so bright,
Planting trees, with love and delight.
With every seed, a future's sown,
Children learn, as trees grow strong.
PLANE's guidance, a gentle hand,
Empowering youth, in Uganda's land.

Through tree-planting, lessons unfold,
Environmental care, a story to be told.
Children thrive, as trees take root,
A greener Uganda, a future to fruit.

PLANE's mission, a beacon so bold,
Nurturing young minds, young hearts to mold.
Together growing, trees and dreams entwined,
A brighter future, for Uganda's children aligned.

"Saplings of Hope"

Young hands plant, saplings take root,
Greening schools, a future to fruit.
Compounds bloom, with vibrant hue,
Climate resilience, for me and you.

With every tree, a lesson's learned,
Care for nature, a future earned.
Shading classrooms, cooling the air,
A haven for learning, beyond compare.

Children tend, with love and might,
Trees grow strong, a symbol in sight.
Of hope and care, for the earth below,
A greener tomorrow, our dreams to grow.

Through tree-planting, we take a stand,
Against climate change, hand in hand.
Empowered youth, with a vision grand,
A sustainable future, at our command.

Let's celebrate, the young hearts bright,
Greening schools, shining with delight!

"Greening Young Hearts"

Little hands, planting with care,
Trees growing tall, with love to share.
In compounds green, a future bright,
Children's efforts, a beacon in sight.

Shading homes, and cooling air,
Trees bring joy, beyond compare.
Children learn, as they plant and grow,
The value of trees, for all to know.

Poem On Tree Planting

Planting Hope
Little hands dig, seeds take root,
Greening Uganda's schools, a climate pursuit.
Children plant trees, with smiles so bright,
A greener future, a beacon in sight.

Growing Resilience

Trees grow tall, shade and shelter provide,
Children learn, climate change to abide.
Roots of knowledge, leaves of might,
Empowering youth, for a sustainable fight.

Harvesting Change

Fruits of labor, a greener land,
Children thrive, climate champions stand.
Uganda's schools, a model to share,
Greening the future, with love and care.

"Little hands, green thumbs so bright,
Planting trees, a future in sight.
In Uganda's schools, a greener way,
Children growing trees, for a brighter day.

Roots of hope, leaves of cheer,
Greening schools, year by year.
Learning grows, with every tree,
A greener Uganda, for you and me."

PHOTO GALLERY

PHOTO GALLERY

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Twitter: https://twitter.com/platformneedy?t=C_nS_EGhmmDawE68uf77Gg&s=08 • **TickTok:** platformfortheneedy

Video links: https://youtube/EFpPPgaaxTg, https://youtube/OT0n-c96ORI, https://youtube/8KN5-4KvjCw