

2025 PAAV Gitombo Community School Annual Report

Enrollment and Academic Progress

God is faithful! Our school family continues to grow. We are making a difference in the community through the education of almost 300 children under the Hope Gitombo education programs. About 27 students have been educated through the sponsorship programs, other education institutions, and over 200 in our own school, as follows:

68 in pre-school (ECDE), 115 in primary school, 44 in Junior School. We expect more in 2026.



Students at the assembly ground



Grade 9 students after getting their exam results



Grade 9 top students

Academic Progress

All our 2024 Grade 9 students did well in the Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) exams and transitioned into Grade 7 in our Junior School.

Our Grade 9, the pioneer class of 16 students, sat for the Kenya Junior School Examination (KJSEA) exams that qualify them to go to Grade 10, Senior School. Following the results outcome, the children have been posted to different day schools but far from Gitombo. We do not have a senior school as yet! Moreover, our school does not meet the government's regulations for a senior school establishment in a separate compound from the primary school. This is a sensitive situation for these boys and girls, our school pioneers, whom we have educated since 2014! Even though they have passed the exams and been posted to other schools, most of them may drop out of school due to lack of school fees. Our best option is to continue appealing to temporarily hold the Grade 10 class in Sifa House, our newly constructed building meant for our upper primary students and a library.



Sifa House

We can continue to shape our children's future, if they continue in our school, but not on an individual basis in other schools. The spiritual and moral development of the children, the agents of change in the community, is of great consideration. We are closing the year with that desperate appeal and prayer for God to make a way for the first senior school to be established in the community for the 2026 class and the subsequent years!

Staffing

2025 was marked by significant staff turnovers. For one, Tr. Margaret, our first teacher, moved to another school after 11 years of service. We have had serious challenges in keeping good teachers at the Junior School as most are hired by the government. The government remains the best employer in terms of benefits, salary, and job security.

Despite these anticipated challenges, God has been faithful and we can trust Him to help us hire new teachers in the new year. We can also truly thank God for the commitment, cooperation, and teamwork demonstrated between the Primary and Junior School teachers' values that made the school run smoothly.

While most teachers come from other counties, almost all the non-teaching staff come from Gitombo. Most of them are also parents in the school. Having teachers from other counties allows PAAV-Gitombo to provide a multicultural environment. Rather than have Kikuyu, the local mother tongue language, as the predominant media, English and Swahili are mostly spoken at school, which is a benefit for our children!

Infrastructure and Land

We need more land at the school, as it continues to grow and expand. While the government regulations demand no less than four acres of land for a school, land remains a challenge in the area. We keep on praying for more land.

Water crisis remains a huge challenge in the area. We get most of our water at school by harvesting the rainwater to our concrete 50-liter storage tank. We have several 5,000-liter storage tanks made of UV-stabilized materials that are safe for drinking water. Our big concrete tank has had leaks. That has been a worrisome challenge!

Spiritual Life and Community Outreach

We are so thankful to God for our growing and thriving Sunday School attended by all the community children. The teachers take turns to teach on Sunday afternoons on grades basis. There are three teams: Pre-School and Lower Primary, Upper Primary with Junior School youth. The non-teaching staff provide the refreshments. This has been a good learning experience for both the staff and children. Some of our sponsored children have been coming to facilitate the Sunday School while on holiday.



The "Pillars" Bible Study continues Sunday afternoons, with a good attendance of both men and women from the community and staff members. The children studied the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of Mark, while the Pillars studied the books of Exodus and the Gospel of John.

The Church worship services in the area are conducted in Kikuyu, the predominant local tribal language, shutting out our staff members who come from different tribal

backgrounds. Subsequently, we started a weekly non-denominational chapel service for such staff members.

Service to the Elderly



Our Junior School students regularly visited the "Senior Pillars" (community members aged 75+) to pray, talk, and help with household chores. One of the sponsored graduating students championed the project as part of her university coursework, where she was pursuing a degree in community development.

Student Welfare and Extracurriculars

Health Initiatives: These are some of the extracurricular activities that generated unanticipated blessings. Students received vaccinations for measles, rubella, and typhoid through the Ministry of Health staff who visited the area and also left female hygiene pads.

The school hosted Lion's Hospital, a local **eye clinic** who provided a free eye-checkup. Some children were found to have eye challenges that needed further eye care.

Guidance: Teachers held counseling sessions to help Junior School learners navigate personal and academic challenges.



Trips: Our children enjoyed two educational trips: one to **Karura Forest**, an urban forest in Nairobi and the other one to the National Park in Nairobi.



Sports: Wanji received a generous donation of sports uniforms from Brad Kenney, Soccer Chaplains United in Denver. Our boys and girls have been so excited to use these sports clothes during our various school sports days. We had two interschool sports days with Comejuu Premier Academy. The children are good and were in competition in chess, Scrabble, football, netball, and handball.



Donated sports uniforms

Bible Camp: In August, we hosted our first residential camp at school the theme: **"Finding the Gem Inside Me."** The students participated in spiritual reflection and creative activities. They also had an evening bonfire where they talked and freely shared their personal life challenges.



Student Camp Experience

Sponsorship Program and Success Stories

About **14 students** across various levels of education, including junior school, high school, technical school, and college were assisted. Seven of them have completed their studies in 2025. This milestone reduces our active sponsorships to seven and marks a major victory for our mission to see these young people succeed.

The School Uniforms Department

The department makes the uniforms while also creating employment and skills development opportunities within the community. One of our sponsored student who graduated from the school in Fabric and Design development did an internship at the uniform's department to hopefully gain both the experience but also work on fulltime basis. Two ladies who were initially working in other school departments expressed interest in learning these skills. They too transitioned into the uniform department upon receiving practical training. This mix of experience and youth has helped the department grow while also creating opportunities for community members and former students.

Financially, the department operates with the goal of keeping uniforms affordable for students and their families. Parents are allowed to pay in instalments. Income is still generated mainly through the sale of uniforms and knitted sweaters, while major expenses include fabric, knitting materials, sewing supplies, equipment maintenance, and repairs are maintained. Below is a summary of the department's finances for 2025, excluding staff wages in Kenya shillings (Ksh)*:

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expense</u>		<u>Profit</u>	
UNIFORMS	Ksh	264,070	Ksh	105,145	Ksh	158,925

*1 Ksh = 0.0078 US dollars.

All income is used to support school operations.

Financial

Fundraising: We held two fundraising events. One did a school "nyama choma" (meat barbecue) event raised KES 205,000 and several pledges for building materials. The pledges have not been honored as promised, but we continue to remind the well-wishers to fulfill their commitments! We also did our first walk which raised KES 137,000.00.

School fees: About 50% of parents have cleared their school fees in 2025. This is a significant improvement from previous years. Unfortunately, most of the 2025 Grade 9, our pioneers, graduated from our school but most left behind huge school fees arrears.

Loan Repayments: The school has remained diligent in servicing its land loan, paying off **Ksh 700,000** since April, with a remaining balance of **about Ksh 4 million**.

Economic challenges: We faced challenges from rising food costs and increased statutory deductions, which now account for nearly a fifth of our monthly salary expenditure.

School Land

Dairy and Crops: The farm provides milk for the students' porridge and staff tea, and we harvested some maize and beans to help with school meals. We also relocated the cowshed from Tumaini 1 to Tumaini 3 to free the land for the future construction of a senior school.



There have been 5 calves born at Tumaini this year. Unfortunately, one of the cows, named Tumaini, died after accidentally ingesting a copper wire.

Legal and Administrative Milestones

We applied for the registration of **Gitombo Focus Company by Guarantee (CLG)**, which will work as a non-profit organization in Kenya. We have the certificate at hand but by the end of the year we had not yet succeeded in the non-profit status and are still in the process.

We renewed all annual business, health, and signage permits, ensuring the school remains in good standing with the Kiambu County Government. The same will be done in 2026.

1. Challenges

We faced a water crisis both at school and in the community. Our school's well became unstable due to the ongoing road construction. The community's water supply was cut off as the project was disconnected from electricity due to a large unpaid bill. The borehole that PAAV had done lacks a working pump, and any works to operationalize it would be expensive, estimated at KES 1.5 m. Many children and women have to fetch water from the nearby springs, which is exhausting and time-consuming.



Children getting water from the village spring



Road Construction

Road Construction: While the new road is beneficial, the ongoing work caused respiratory issues due to dust. The construction also created an accessibility challenge, as the road became muddy and impassable when it rained, and trenches dug for drainage blocked our main entrance with no culverts installed.



Road Construction Challenge



Conclusion

We truly thank God for his faithfulness in 2025, evident in both the academic and spiritual growth, and milestones achieved last year through our school and community events. To Him be the glory! We acknowledge the help of all the Board members, donors, staff, and all other stakeholders.

That they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. —Psalm 78: 7