

Creating "Aid Free" generation through Education

Annual Budget?
About £37K..!

1. Daily Porridge at Mihabura at £0.09/Child: n=1,008
2. Daily Meals at Mihabura at £0.40/Child: n=76
3. Total Secondary School Sponsorships 2007 to 2015: n=86
4. University Sponsorships in 2015: n=10
5. The JMP & Cultural Landscape Heritage Program
6. HIV Awareness yearly Trip: n=86

RSVP is a Scottish Charity dedicated to **enabling Bugarama children to change their lives through education**. In this edition, we report on the success of secondary school sponsorship programme and dilemma about university funding after A Level equivalent.

As Secondary Sponsorships rise from 3 in 2007 to 110 in 2017 (10th anniversary), University Bursary requests also climb



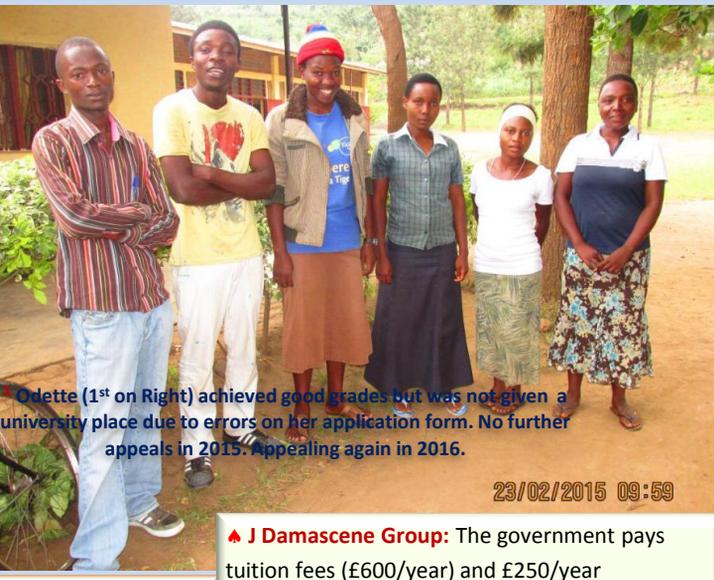
Anacleat (left) and J Damascene (right) are now in 2nd year University

Since a half a decade ago, completing secondary school (A Level equivalent) **does no longer** automatically lead to a job. Jobs such as nursing and primary school teaching, which are traditionally A level professions, are increasingly hiring university graduates.

Therefore RSVP's "Education Today for Zero Aid Tomorrow" must begin to adapt to such evolving market realities. If at the end of 6 years of A Level costing £1,080 (1.080.000 RFW) a sponsored student has no job, **he/she would surely be bound to remain locked in the poverty trap**.

So, **Anacleat** and **J Damascene**, 2 of the first 3 sponsored children, are now in 2nd year University reading **Business Information & Technology** and **Animal Sciences and veterinary**, respectively. Both degrees last 4 years.

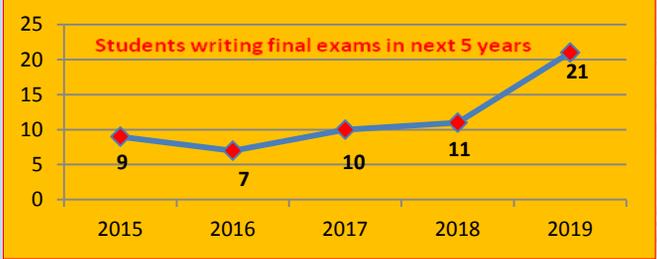
Of the second generation of sponsored students (n=6) who sat their finals In October 2014, five¹ scored high enough grades to secure a place in the public university. Their degrees start Sep/Oct 2015: **Dennis** (Law), **Moses** (Animal Sciences & Veterinary), **Francine** (Civil Engineering) and **Christine** (Education).



Odette (1st on Right) achieved good grades but was not given a university place due to errors on her application form. No further appeals in 2015. Appealing again in 2016.

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As shown below, university funding requests will but continue to rise in future, hence **RSVP's current University Funding impasse!**



How much would it cost to sponsor a University Student?

Whereas sponsoring a student in boarding school **only costs £15/month**, university funding requires slightly more. And this is **definitely not** to enable the recipient to have the "lifestyle" of students on Western campuses! Surely and definitely not.

On the contrary, with £700/year maintenance grant, Anacleat does for example share the same bed with another colleague in the small room they rent in Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

University cost depends on 3 things: S6 exam grades, poverty stratification (means testing) called UBUDEHE and labour demands for certain degrees. It's a very FAIR system!
Students are then grouped 3 categories:

▲ **J Damascene Group:** The government pays tuition fees (£600/year) and £250/year maintenance grant, both as loans.

Fact 1: Sponsorship costs £35/month.

▲ **Anacleat Group:** No government help for tuition fees or maintenance grant.

Fact 2: Sponsorship pays £108/month.

▲ **Olivier/Godelive Group:** No help from the government and not eligible for a place at a public university (can only go to private universities).

Fact 3: NO sponsorship through RSVP.

Sponsorships expected to reach 110 by 2017

Our reliable evidence proves improving children's school attendance results in better P6 national test grades which in turn determine who goes to secondary school.

Those with highest grades attend boarding secondary schools: they leave their poor homes to live at school where they have electricity, 3 meals a day and better accommodation.

Unfortunately, even though this costs on average only **£15/month**, it's well beyond the reach of some parents.

So RSVP, through open, democratic and transparent selection processes, **provides sponsorship** for pupils ranked poorest by teachers, pupils and parents.

Fact 4 – Child Sponsorship: £15/month provides 3 meals a day, accommodation, tuition fee and health insurance at boarding school. It also provides £20 Starter Pack. Child sponsorship lasts 6 years.

Initially, only Mihabura pupils were sponsored (2007 to 2010). But from 2011, sponsorship was expanded to other 4 village schools.

RSVP has committed to **supporting 11 Bugarama children each year**. The growth is phenomenal: rising from 3 in 2007 to about 110 by the 10th anniversary.

It's this unparalleled boarding school expansion that's fuelling rising university funding needs. The latter are so far absorbed by the same sponsors but this is neither fair nor sustainable. **Hence the need for a dedicated fund!**



Mrs J Main, Trustee, visiting and speaking to sponsored children attending Gishoma - 9 May 2014



Mrs J Main visiting next calf recipient family – J Damascene

Daisy calved a bull on 9 May 2014, and another bull on 10 April 2015.

Buttercup initially lost her gestation and then calved a bull on 15 June 2015

In addition to secondary and university sponsorships, there are 2 main reasons why it's imperative to support these students' families:

Firstly, for most, if not all, our sponsored children, **boarding school is real paradise**.

At boarding school, children have a bed each, sleep on a mattress and clean bed sheets, and have right to 3 meals each day. They do not have overhead showers but at least buckets are placed on cemented floor. That's in contrast to home circumstances, so much so students simply dread school holidays.

Secondly, dedicated support to families helps sponsored students in the long term. This is because, according to Rwanda traditions, parents and key extended family members "expect" to be helped first once the sponsored students starts to earn a wage. Unlike in the West where parents help their children, it's quite the opposite for us (including myself): what a burden...!

So, the NMP which aims to provide a calf to each family (3 families currently have cows and 2 more are due calves soon) and other help to families such as 24 goats donated to 12 families between 2013 and 2015 are to be commended. The true aid though is to help sponsored students get a job and earn a wage!

Fact 5: Cows and goats to families are wonderful. But true aid is to help sponsored student earn a wage. This nowadays requires a university degree

