

# Fontes Foundation



## About Fontes Foundation

Fontes Foundation is a small and innovative non-profit NGO providing piped water systems and youth empowerment projects in Uganda. We strive to become an increasingly more specialised organisation, producing appropriate solutions applying the latest technologies to supply the demands of peripheral communities and disadvantaged youth in Uganda. With a long-term perspective, Fontes emphasises project implementation in an adequate manner where the community is involved from day one and where each community is addressed based on their unique characteristics. Therefore, much of our work is made on the basis of extensive research and continuous learning. Stakeholder empowerment and skills development allows for self-management and generates a feeling of ownership of the projects, which in turn translates into sustainability. We conduct our activities based on rules of transparency and accountability, not only to honor the support from our donors, but also to be an example to our beneficiaries.

We can refer to ten years of activity in Uganda to support our approach. Through these years, Fontes has established a strong network and a respected reputation as a professional NGO.

## Our Water Projects



*People of one of the local community are fetching water at one of the public tap station installed by Fontes Foundation*

Safe drinking water is not easily accessible for many Ugandans with several negative consequences for the local populations. Not only is the unprepared water bad for peoples' health; for many Ugandans, getting water requires hours of work as the nearest water source may be up to 8 kilometres away. The water projects are intended not only to provide drinking water but also to contribute to the communities in other ways. For example, a lot of effort is put into transforming the local water committees into well functioning democratically elected Community Based Organisations as inspiration for the rest of the community. In our experience, safe water is an important basis for the overall development of our project villages. Effective maintenance of the operational standard and initial infrastructural investments are addressed by annually cross-communal conferences for exchange of ideas and confrontation of issues.

## Our Nursery and Primary School Projects

Education is key to development. Despite the awareness of this, not everyone is able to pay the expenses of education. For the population in Queen Elizabeth Na-



*Children of Mama Barbara Nursery School during a celebration.*

tional Park, many people struggle to produce the money to send their children to school because the national park authorities have put in place restrictions to several activities, which means that the communities are poorer than the average communities in Uganda. In order to support an improved learning environment, Fontes Foundation, in cooperation with Oslo Montessori

School and other donors, have since 2005 supported the Katunguru Primary School and its about 100 students.

Pre-primary education is not provided for by the government in Uganda and subsequently the necessary facilities are often highly provisional. Fontes Foundation is supporting three kindergartens in Kanungu District, Southwest Uganda, with over 300 children between 2 and 5 years with classroom buildings, uniforms, teaching materials and latrines.

## Our Scholarship Projects

Education is a privilege of advantaged families in Uganda and most students in the peripheries drop out of school after finishing their primary education due to lack of funding. In the Queen Elizabeth National Park, where people rely on fishing for an income, the majority of the families cannot support their children's school fees. Since 2006, Fontes Foundation has supported students from Queen Elisabeth National Park. With help from donors, the students' school fees, study materials, transport and other necessities are covered. In addition, a local coordinator follows up the students academically and morally, and the students are also involved in Fontes' other activities in the villages, like the water projects.



*Some of the scholarship students supported by Fontes Foundation are relaxing in a park.*

## Our Youth Project

According to the African Development Bank, youth unemployment in Uganda is estimated to be 83%, the highest in Africa. Part of the reason has to do with Uganda's "youth bulge": 78% of the population is under 30 and more than 50% is below 15 years. Failure to access the labour market and finding a place in society results in many youths being absorbed into crime, drugs, violence and prostitution.

Fontes Foundation's Potentiam Youth Centre in Kampala is designed to address the issue of urban youth



*The first round of scholarship students received their certificates*

unemployment. Focusing on three main areas, namely conditional skills (English and technology and communications skills), practical skills (business and entrepreneurship skills) and personal development, the goal is to create entrepreneurs or good employees, enhance the self-confidence and attitudes demanded by employers and the labour market, such as creativity, good work ethics, team work, leadership and responsibility. To help the students get to this point, each student is also given a personal mentor helping them through the course (6 months) and 18 months post graduation and into the professional life.

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