

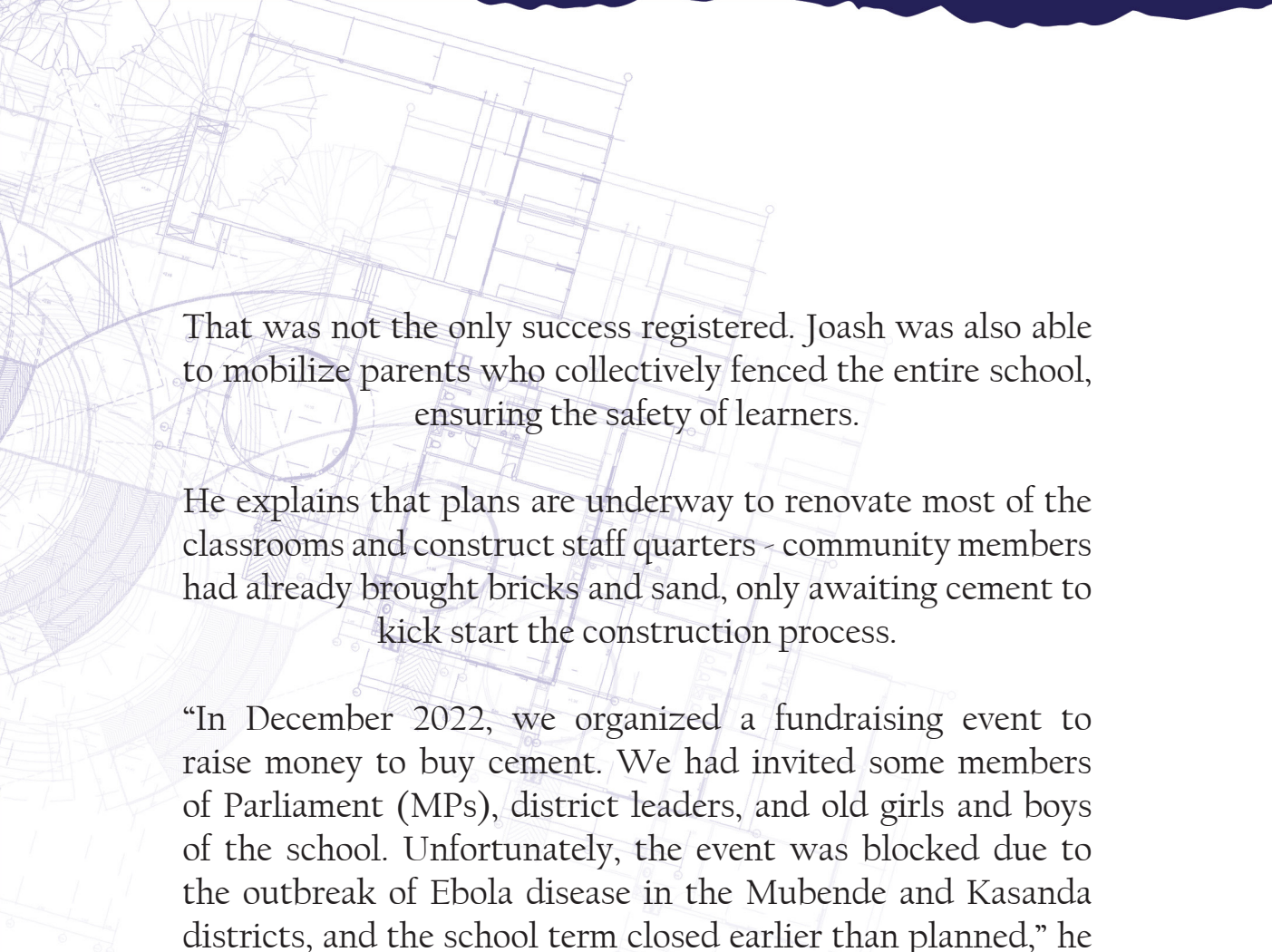
BOOSTING EDUCATION: COMMUNITY GIVING HELPS PUPILS GO BACK TO SCHOOL IN KAKUMIRO

Joash Nkuuna, is the acting Head Teacher of Kijwenge Primary School, Narweyo sub-county, Kakumiro district, Bunyoro region. When he was posted to the school in 2019, the school was nearly collapsing with only 70 learners. Reasons; the classrooms were in a dilapidated state, no textbooks for learners to use during classes, and most children couldn't handle studying on empty stomachs, as neither were the school or parents providing lunch, so many decided to abandon school.

Joash said he used the mobilization skills acquired during UNNGOF's training, and started mobilizing community members, including parents, engaged them in meetings, and urged them to support him to mobilize resources and put the school back into operation.

“The community members accepted, contributed some monies, we bought books and pens and gave them to learners. In our meetings, we also agreed that parents would pay some money for lunch, or bring food stuffs like maize, and beans to feed their children. Many parents accepted, and now, the school has 450 pupils and I believe more will enroll as the new term opens,” said Joash.





That was not the only success registered. Joash was also able to mobilize parents who collectively fenced the entire school, ensuring the safety of learners.

He explains that plans are underway to renovate most of the classrooms and construct staff quarters - community members had already brought bricks and sand, only awaiting cement to kick start the construction process.

“In December 2022, we organized a fundraising event to raise money to buy cement. We had invited some members of Parliament (MPs), district leaders, and old girls and boys of the school. Unfortunately, the event was blocked due to the outbreak of Ebola disease in the Mubende and Kasanda districts, and the school term closed earlier than planned,” he points out Joash says, instead of waiting for the government to solve their problems, the community have embraced the idea of doing things for themselves.

“I am impressed that our communities’ attitude of waiting for the government to do things for them is changing. When we identify challenges in our communities, many come on board to find solutions. They are willing to better their lives,”
Joash concluded.

