

FROM WAITING FOR HELP TO LEADING LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Philanthropy for Development (P4D)



Figure 1: Parents and teachers participating in a GRiD fireplace conversation on transparency, school accountability, and community participation

Context

Many communities across Eastern Uganda face challenges that directly affect children's education and wellbeing, including unsafe school environments, broken water sources, and limited school feeding arrangements. While these challenges are often visible to everyone, communities frequently feel constrained by limited resources and the expectation that solutions must come from external actors.



Figure 2: GRiD founder facilitating a community dialogue on challenges affecting vulnerable households, adolescent girls, and community wellbeing

Intervention

Through the Philanthropy for Development (P4D) initiative, GRiD facilitated Fireplace Conversations that brought together parents, teachers, local leaders, and community members to discuss local challenges and identify practical solutions using locally available resources. These structured dialogues strengthened accountability, encouraged collective action, and helped communities recognize their own capacity to drive development. Local chairpersons, school management committees, and community leaders played an important role in mobilising participation and community contributions.



Figure 3: On-going School fence construction at Mpongi Primary School as a community contribution

Result

The results demonstrated the power of organized local giving. At Mpongi Primary School, parents contributed UGX 1,807,000 to begin fencing the school compound, improving safety and reducing trespassing. In Sunni Village, households contributed UGX 1,000 each to repair a broken borehole, restoring access to clean water for more than 1,034 pupils. Community members also strengthened a school feeding initiative by managing fruit gardens and expanding local food production. These actions not only addressed immediate challenges but also strengthened community ownership, accountability, and confidence in locally led development.

Impact Highlight

Community dialogue and local contributions enabled schools and communities to address practical challenges, improving school safety, restoring water access for 1,034 pupils, and strengthening local ownership of development solutions.

Supporting Indicators

- UGX 1,807,000 mobilised locally for school fencing
- 1,034 pupils regained access to clean water
- 44 community dialogue sessions facilitated
- 80 communities engaged
- 4 districts reached



Community Voice

“We no longer wait. We begin with what we have.”

— Parent participant during a Fireplace Conversation