

A young child with a shaved head, wearing a green and white striped t-shirt and grey shorts, sits on a wooden bench. The child is holding a bright green plastic cup with both hands and looking off to the side with a neutral expression. In the background, other children in blue school uniforms are visible, though they are out of focus. A semi-transparent dark grey horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

**FEEDING THE
FUTURE, ONE
CHILD AT A TIME** **IMPACT REPORT 2017**

Who we are

Bridging A Gap Community Initiative (BAGCI) was set up in 2005, but started to operate in 2006. The organisation is registered as a community-based organisation in Kajjansi, Uganda. Kajjansi is an urban centre on the Kampala–Entebbe Road, about 26.5km from Entebbe International Airport and 18.3km from Kampala, Uganda’s capital city.

What we do

BAGCI works to improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of the community through supporting children with school fees, clothing and scholastic materials. The core activity of the organisation is providing breakfast to school-going children during the school term. Having a healthy breakfast – a cup of nutritious porridge – has enabled many children, not only to go to school but to stay in school.

The community centre where breakfast is served, is situated in an impoverished area of Kajjansi called ‘The Line’. Most of the children and young people live in this area and can easily drop by the centre before they go to their various schools.

How we do it

BAGCI was started by community members living and socialising in

Kajjansi and surrounding areas. The community members worked with local leaders and identified the need to provide breakfast to children, some of whom were malnourished and unable to go to school.

The community members who started BAGCI are referred to as members. BAGCI members meet every Tuesday to pledge and raise money (from their own pockets) to feed the children and young people who attend the centre. Members have been meeting every week, since the organisation started and the children have been able to have breakfast every single day of every term, without fail. BAGCI’s sole employee is the Coordinator, Mr Raymond Galiwango. He buys the porridge ingredients, supervises breakfast and ensures the centre is clean. He also attends the Tuesday meetings and reports on the children and other activities to members.

Water is critical to the preparation of the nutritious porridge. Each day, a select group of young people are responsible for making sure that there is enough water for cooking and washing up. Volunteer parents/guardians get up at 4.00am to cook the porridge and start serving it by 6:00am. Everybody involved in the organisation, from the members to the beneficiaries, has a role to play – it is a real community effort.

Front cover photo: Eric Yiga has his hot breakfast on the way to school.



The children have been able to have breakfast every single day of every term, without fail.

Liz Nakaayi, Annabel Nakayiza and Pauline Prautira Nakubulwa finish their nutritious breakfast before going to school.

Where we are now

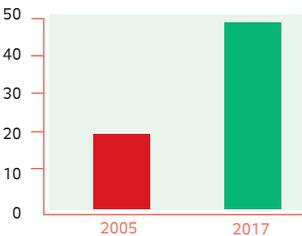
2006

44 children accessed breakfast every morning



2017

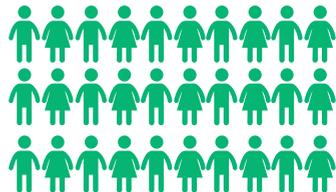
About 150 children and young people attend the centre every morning



Membership

At inception, BAGCI rented a small room in 'The Line' for the children and young people to have breakfast. As the numbers of children increased, it was clear, a bigger space was needed. In 2012, the organisation bought land nearby and started building a community centre. The ground floor was completed in 2015, which is where breakfast activities are held every morning. The completion of the entire community centre will depend on how quickly funds can be mobilised.

In March 2017, BAGCI established an early childhood development (ECD) playgroup. There are 30 children from 3-5 years of age, 15 boys and 15 girls.



Everybody involved in the organisation, from the members to the beneficiaries, has a role to play – it is a real community effort.

Gloria Ddemere shows her school work to BAGCI Coordinator, Raymond Galiwango.



RUN BY, FOR AND IN THE COMMUNITY

When BAGCI first set up in 'The Line', some of the residents wondered how long the organisation would last before it closed. That was their previous experience. Organisations came and went. Some people said that BAGCI would last six months at the most, others gave us three months. They didn't realise how different we were in terms of the way the organisation was set up, how it engaged the residents and where the core funding of the organisation comes from. Previous organisations were funded by international organisations or governments and barely consulted

residents or had a base in the community.

BAGCI consulted with the area's community leaders and held a large community meeting before setting up. BAGCI members wanted to engage the residents and to get their buy-in into the breakfast centre. It was also important to set up the centre within the area so that the children and young people would not have to go far to access the centre. It was crucial to involve the parents and guardians of the children registered with BAGCI from the very beginning and to make sure they remained involved. Residents were told that the money to start and to run the project was to come from residents of Kajjansi and surrounding

“Let us pick up books and pens. There are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.”

MALALA YOUSAFZAI, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

villages or towns. The combination of all these factors made a difference.

More than a decade on, BAGCI continues to run as it started and has become part of the fabric of 'The Line'. In 2009, a big community meeting was held next door in the grounds of the Uganda Clays factory to inform residents on BAGCI's progress and future plans. Since then, community meetings are held at the beginning of every school term, so that all involved know what is going on.

BAGCI remains unique in the transparent way it operates, involving beneficiaries and residents of 'The Line' as partners. Members continue to contribute the core funds, which sustain the organisation on a day to day basis. The core funds mean that about 150 children are provided with breakfast before they go to school.

The children and young people who attend the BAGCI centre go to 17 nursery and primary schools as well as four secondary schools in the Kajjansi area. A handful of children are sponsored by BAGCI and various BAGCI members to go to boarding school.

My name is Antony Amegovu Guma



I am 11 years old and I go to school at St. Gyaviira Primary School.

I am in Primary 6. I started going to the BAGCI centre when I was 5 years old and still in Baby Class. I really enjoy having a hot breakfast in the morning and being with my friends while having my breakfast.

I have met a lot of people during my time at BAGCI. I have especially enjoyed meeting people from Europe who visit us at the centre sometimes and sit and talk to us. They also bring us toys, sweets and pens sometimes.

BAGCI helps us with our education and those who do well can be supported to go for further education. My parents were unable to afford school fees for my sister when she finished her primary school. But because she did well, BAGCI are now paying her school fees and she will be doing her O Levels next year. She is doing well in school and I am very proud of her.

Every year BAGCI has a Christmas party for us and we get gifts. My sister and I always go because we have so much fun. I am grateful to BAGCI for what they have done for us.”



John Kidega, Charity Anena, Flavia Atimong and Aisha Nassaazi in their school classroom.

BAGCI changes the lives of children by supporting them to stay in school.

BAGCI IS MORE THAN BREAKFAST

The organisation has changed the lives of many children, households, members and the town of Kajjansi. But, it has been difficult to formally measure this. Residents of 'The Line', for instance, are a highly transient group. However, doing an impact assessment is something the organisation is hoping to invest in going forward.

On a basic level, many children in 'The Line' have been able to go to school having had breakfast. Provision of breakfast on a daily basis for at least 150 children over a period of ten years or so, is no small task. Everyone connected to BAGCI

has played their part to make sure that registered children do not go to school hungry.

Accessing the BAGCI centre for breakfast is more than providing a cup of porridge. When the centre was first set up, children would turn up in torn uniforms, some had not washed, many didn't have shoes and there was little respect for those cooking the breakfast. Over the years, with the help of BAGCI's National Coordinator, every child now turns up in a clean uniform, all the children wear shoes and they say good morning, as well as thank you to the volunteer cooks. The children keep the centre clean by throwing rubbish in bins and not on the floor. These are soft impacts but really important to highlight.

“Everyone wins when children – especially girls – have access to education.”

ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO, SINGER-SONGWRITER

- The organisation has collected and bought clothes for the children it supports. Scholastic materials have been provided for some and, more importantly, school fees have been raised for a handful going to private schools.
- A number of children, who would otherwise have had no form of education, have been supported to complete secondary and vocational schools.
- The children have built friendships over the years, and have learnt manners and team work – skills that will be useful throughout their lives.
- The parents and guardians who cook have enjoyed having something to do and helping out at the centre. The members who meet every week to fundraise are happy to have found a vehicle through which they can give back to their communities.
- BAGCI organises a Christmas party every year for the children, where food and gifts are provided. BAGCI members have also become good friends and mobilise to hold other social events with the group. There is a fulfilling community spirit all round.

My name is Joyce Nnanyondo



Many people believe, ‘Life is what one makes it be’. To me, what

makes life is love, obedience and hard work – God’s grace. I am now in Standard 6 and getting ready to do my A Levels at the end of 2017. Through my education so far, I have experienced a lot more than wisdom from my teachers. I have learnt to appreciate the support I get in and out of the class.

I was born in 1999 and lost my father when I was 2 years old and my mother also passed away two years later. I became an orphan and became my maternal grandmother’s responsibility. My four elder siblings (3 brothers and one sister) jointly brought me up. Our elder brother dropped out of school to care for us, as our grandmother would not afford the burden alone.

BAGCI started when I was 6 years old and in Primary 1. My grandmother enlisted me. I am proud of her because she realised that BAGCI would be good for me. I started having breakfast at the BAGCI centre every morning before school. Then other benefits came along – clothes, scholastic materials, friendships developed, Christmas parties and sometimes medical treatment. I even made friends with young

people who came to visit us from overseas.

Breakfast at BAGCI was a very welcome relief. When I was at nursery school I used to go to school on an empty stomach. BAGCI also exposed me to my community – I enjoy the company of children from my own village, children I didn't know – I experienced new foods, went to Nabinoonya Beach on the shores of Lake Victoria for the first BAGCI Christmas party. Even though the beach is not very far, none of the children had ever been there before. We had so much fun we did not want to leave.

The BAGCI intervention – the breakfast, the scholastic materials, friends, all gave me hope and encouragement to focus on my education. I began to see BAGCI as a guardian angel. People were

discouraging my brother that he should stop paying school fees for me because as a girl I was going to get pregnant and his money would then have been wasted. It hasn't happened and I am determined it not to get pregnant until I finish school. BAGCI has saved many of my colleagues in the same way.

When I was about to do my O Levels, I was taken to an outing by BAGCI and I did some public speaking with another young boy at a conference. I had never spoken publicly before. This shaped my public speaking and prompted me to stand for Head Prefect of my school. I became the first girl to stand and be elected.

I am proud to be part of BAGCI. I wish every child had a connection to something similar in their community.



Ibrahim Katende,
Headmaster, Rogers
Nsereko and Head
Prefect, Joyce
Nannyondo.

CHAIR'S REPORT

BAGCI has made big strides since its inception. Members have continued to pull resources together for the breakfast programme and the school grades of most of the BAGCI children continue to improve.

As an organisation, we have put a lot of effort in the construction of our community centre. With the help of donors, the completion is in sight.

There has been much excitement this year as an Early Childhood Development playgroup started. There is a lot of interest by the community in this new programme, but we had to start with a small group of children until we can get everything that we need in place.

BAGCI is run by an Executive Committee that steers the organisation through its planned annual activities. The commitment of the committee is unwavering, they have helped the organisation to stay focussed as well as grow. A clear succession plan is in place for when the time comes for the current committee to stand down. The hope is that the new executive will steer BAGCI to even greater heights.

Challenges

The major challenge is financial sustainability to maintain activities and enable the organisation to grow. As an organisation dependent

on donations from members, individuals and corporate donors, BAGCI feels the pinch when financial times are hard.

Retaining and recruiting members has also not been easy and BAGCI's core funding is dependent on donations from these members.

The organisation would like to absorb all the children who want to be part of BAGCI and to support the parents/guardians with the skills needed to break the poverty cycle, but there are two major limitations – capacity and financial restraints.

The future

BAGCI's continued success lies with the commitment of the members and the community to support all the planned activities. The organisation continues to amaze the membership and its beneficiaries – it is an unexpected gift that keeps on giving. BAGCI has been built on a strong foundation and its full potential is yet to be fulfilled. BAGCI is in the process of reviewing its constitution and formalising other processes to help to strengthen it and attract more funding. The completion of the BAGCI centre is bound to revolutionise the image of BAGCI, catapulting the organisation to a whole new level. The best of BAGCI is yet to come. Watch this space.

Jonah K. Kyeyune, Chair

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

As the first employee of BAGCI, I have a few responsibilities. I purchase the ingredients for breakfast; it is a bit of a process. I start by sampling prices, then compile the list of requirements into a requisition and present to members at the regular Tuesday meeting for approval. Then I take the requisition to the Chair and Treasurer for approval. Finally, I withdraw money from the bank, buy the items before delivering them to the venue. Then I supervise the remixing of the maize meal, soya and sugar before re-bagging it.

I also supervise the provision of breakfast every morning, making sure that each and every child who turns up in the morning has breakfast and they are registered. I help some of the children with their homework, make sure they are all clean, wearing their uniforms and well enough to go to school. As breakfast winds up, I make sure that the ECD room is set up and I hand over to the ECD group facilitator.

Other duties include interacting with guests who come to visit the project. We have had many guests over the

years including a film crew from a national newspaper. I also pay school fees and check on the children sponsored by BAGCI members. I attend any school meetings that come up and I am always the contact person in case of any issues. I also collect exam results from families to compile a performance data pool.

I take minutes during the regular Tuesday meetings, prepare the necessary ground work for the BAGCI stakeholders meetings, organise the annual children's Christmas party and run all sort of other errands as and when needed.

As the organisation grows, my responsibilities also continue to grow. I enjoy my work especially working with the children and the young people. There has been a remarkable change in behaviour of the children. From little discipline to children greeting people in the community as they go about their business. Many of the children have learnt to work together and now have a sense of this larger family they have. Parents and guardians have also learnt to appreciate what BAGCI does, as well as how they communicate with each other.

Raymond Galiwango, Coordinator

“The future belongs to young people with an education and imagination to create.”

BARACK OBAMA, FORMER US PRESIDENT



Precious Mirembe and Eva Nakawooya have breakfast at the centre before going to primary school.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT

One of the most exciting things that BAGCI is involved in is the construction of a community centre. In July 2012, after much discussion about moving from a temporary rented breakfast space to a permanent home, the purchase of a piece of land within 'The Line' was approved by members. Funds for the land was mainly raised from foreign donors and local funding drives, outside of BAGCI meetings.

The land that BAGCI purchased came with an old burnt out building. This was demolished and construction of a two storey centre began at the end of 2012. Prudently, BAGCI members agreed that the first phase would include the foundations and the completion of the ground floor. This allowed the organisation to use the ground floor for breakfasts and save money on rental fees. In early 2015, the ground floor was completed and the new BAGCI breakfast centre was unveiled and started to operate.

The purchase of land cost UGX13,000,000* (US \$4,850) and the first phase (foundations plus ground floor) cost UGX 55,000,000 (US \$20,400). The second phase, which involved construction of the first floor and its support columns cost UGX 16,300,000(US \$4,600). It is difficult to estimate the date of

completion as this will depend on the availability of funds – estimated at UGX 100,000,000(US \$27,700).

Planning and supervision has been excellent. The Executive Committee ensures that construction of a given phase or sub-phase does not start until all the required funds are available on the BAGCI account. Secondly, almost all construction materials (cement, iron bars, timber, bricks) are bought from local businesses owned by BAGCI members. This not only ensures competitive prices, but also guarantees that optimum quantities are actually requisitioned by the construction service provider.

The biggest challenge has been the uncertainty of funding and access to the site. The access roads are narrow and stop half way to the site. Construction materials have to be off-loaded and carried to the site on wheelbarrows, incurring additional costs. However, there is a renewed determination by the BAGCI membership to raise the necessary funding to complete the centre in the very near future.

The BAGCI community centre was designed in keeping with the long-term objectives of improving the living standards of people living in 'Kajjansi Line' through educational facilitation and improved health awareness.

* Uganda shillings. Currency conversions made in 2015.

The ground floor will continue to be the porridge feeding area. Outside of breakfast time, the same floor is used for the ECD playgroup. It is also hoped that this floor will also be to be used to sensitise and support unemployed parents/guardians to improve their household incomes through skills' development for income-generating activities.

The first floor is expected to be used as a library, an internet café and a conducive place for children to revise for exams or do their homework in the evenings and weekends.

The second floor is expected to be used as a dispensary and counselling centre. This aims to encourage parents and children to seek proper medical treatment for basic ailments such as malaria, as well as counselling for issues like HIV that need long-term care.

Engineer Samuel Ssenkungu, Head of Construction

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAYGROUP REPORT

The ECD playgroup started in March 2017 with two objectives – to give toddlers a chance to learn as they interact with others, as well as to give their parents a chance to do a

few chores or run some errands for a few hours, while their children are being looked after in a safe environment.

The group started off with 18 children (8 boys, 10 girls) between the ages of 2-4 years old. The play group takes place four times a week from 7.30am to 11.30am. The parents contribute UGX 500 a term (the equivalent of less than one US cent) so that the children can be provided with something to eat during their stay at the playgroup.

The number of children who attend regularly fluctuates as the children are often sick with malaria or are coughing a lot and have to be stopped from attending because health issues cannot be addressed on the premises. The children also speak various languages at home and are encountering English or Luganda at the BAGCI centre for the first time. It continues to be a steep learning curve for all involved – both the children and the volunteers who look after them.

The ECD group still lacks basic items like toys, story books and other learning gadgets. It is hoped that as the playgroup develops and progresses all the necessary items for the children to use will be available. So far so good.

Irene Namakoye, ECD playgroup Facilitator (former BAGCI beneficiary)

TREASURER'S REPORT

BAGCI's finances have always been unpredictable – they are largely dependent on what members are able to contribute during the regular Tuesday meetings. But, even income from donors, organisations and individuals has been sporadic. It makes it hard to project the annual income. Some years have been good in terms of income and other years have been abysmal.

Annual member contributions total UGX 4.8 million (US \$1,334)* compared to the annual recurrent expenditure budget of about UGX 8 million (US \$2,223). The organisation's income will remain uncertain unless more effort is made to come up with a tangible income-generating project.

Income

Member contributions: On average UGX100,000 (US \$28)* is collected weekly – total UGX 4.8 million (US \$1,334) annually.

Expenditure

Breakfast: UGX1.5 million (US \$417) per term – total UGX 4.5 million (US \$1,250) annually.

Coordinator salary: UGX75,000 (US \$21) per month – total UGX900,000 (US \$250) a year.

Christmas party: Approximately UGX 1.5 million (US \$417).

Other: School fees for children, stationary, money spent on gifts for children and support when there is a loss in families. Approximately UGX1.1 million (US \$306) during the course of a year.

* Currency conversions made in late August 2017.

BAGCI continues to grow from strength to strength in terms of activities and membership. The organisation will need to become more strategic about fundraising in the future, to make sure that activities are well funded and that the organisation is not spending more than it receives in core funds. Currently, BAGCI needs to operate at a budget of approximately UGX 10 million (US \$2,778) to operate comfortably and have reserves. It is important to advertise the good work BAGCI is doing beyond the community it serves. Local leaders and businesses at district level should get to know what BAGCI does and get involved. The BAGCI core base needs to continue to grow and hopefully the financial status of the organisation will also keep improving.

Robert Zziwa, Treasurer



Membership

In order to become a member of BAGCI one has to be recommended by a current member. Members pay an annual subscription fee and meet every week to get an update about what is going on with the organisation and to advise and plan activities for the organisation. Crucially, they fundraise the core funds of BAGCI.

The organisation has approximately 50 members (15 women, 35 men).



Governance

BAGCI is governed by an executive committee that meets about four times a year and is reviewed every three years. There is also an overseas coordinator who is responsible for communicating what BAGCI is about and fundraising.

The only person in the organisation that is paid a small stipend, is the National Coordinator. They supervise the cooking and serving of breakfast as well as liaise with the schools about the performance of the children sponsored by BAGCI and BAGCI members.



Executive Committee

Chairman

Mr Jonah Kayanja Kyeyune

Vice Chairman

Mr M.B. Kaweesi

Treasurer

Mr Robert Zziwa

Secretaries

Mrs Gertrude Ssanyu Kaweesi and Mrs Viola Lwanga Ssekawojja

Construction

Mr Samuel Ssenkungu and Ssalongo Michael Ssegawa

Procurement

Mr Andrew Kisekka

Committee members

Mr Emmanuel Ssekatawa and Mr Angel Lugya

Overseas Coordinator

Ms Winnie Ssanyu Sseruma

National Coordinator

Mr Raymond Galiwango

Thanks

Thank you to BAGCI members, friends, well-wishers and individuals who have contributed to BAGCI over the years through financial donations, volunteering services, time and practical items.

We would also like to thank in a special way, the following for the various types of support we have received from them: FOCUS (Friends of Children of Uganda Scotland); AIDS Orphan UK; The Marrs Foundation; The Marps Group; Jason Ashwood; Charlotte Stanton; Jose Hendo Designs; Phuong Thu; Elvira Sacchetti and Khadija Defi (Elvira's mum).

Photos © Jason Ashwood

Design: Jane Shepherd



Donate!

BAGCI welcomes donations of practical items and financial support. If you wish to help in any way, please contact the following people:

- **Jonah Kayanja Kyeyune (Chair):** jkkyeyune@yahoo.com (+256) 772 674855
- **Raymond Galiwango (Coordinator):** galiwaray@yahoo.com (+256) 772 609191
- **Winnie Ssanyu Sseruma (Co-founder):** ssanyu.sseruma184@gmail.com (+44) 7881 603 053

Bridging A Gap Community Initiative (BAGCI) is a registered in Kajjansi, Busiro as a community-based organisation (CBO). Registration number: WCBO/297/06.

www.bagcikids.com

 [@bagcikajjansi](https://www.facebook.com/bagcikajjansi)