

### **COMMUNITY CLUB**

#### What does empowerment look like?

At Shade, it looks like realizing the strengths of our community members and walking alongside them to discover how those strengths can be used.

Taking a strength-based approach means starting from a place of positivity: seeing each person's capabilities, resourcefulness, and resilience. Once this is established, we can further equip and empower each person to live out their potential.

When someone focuses on their strengths and what they can offer, they are no longer looking at their problems. Not only does this encourage a positive mindset, but it offers control to the person as they feel able to set goals and invest in their personal growth, rather than simply seeing their lack.

"The youth here are just staying on the streets and some are doing negative things. Introducing something like this as an organization is good. Thank you so much."

- Community Member

A new initiative, the Shade Community Club, was founded on these principles. Youth aged 12-20 meet twice weekly to be in fellowship and further develop in a variety of ways: spiritual growth, life skills, understanding albinism, positive thinking, confidence, decision-making, and practical skills such as gardening.

The Shade staff works with the Club to teach and mentor according to their areas of expertise. One key player has been our Head of Security, George, who is teaching farming principles as we begin a Community Garden. We have been blessed that vegetables have already begun to grow and be harvested.





# **DEVELOPMENT**

Ground was broken on the first of two classroom blocks planned this year on the Shade Campus!

Lines were drawn in the sand (literally!), materials delivered, and the beginnings of the foundation were laid. We celebrated as the construction crew began swinging picks and digging shovelfuls of earth to build another piece of our vision.

This building project is significant for a number of reasons. By adding classrooms, we will have ample space to welcome more students into our school. These new structures will also allow us to apply for primary school registration. And most importantly, lives will be transformed as God continues to work through Shade to love people with albinism and other vulnerable children in our community.

Thank you for your partnership in project Expansion 2021.

To learn more about this project and to give, visit <a href="www.shadetz.org/expansion-2021">www.shadetz.org/expansion-2021</a>.





#### **EDUCATION**

Year two of Shade School kicked off in January. This school year, we are welcoming three and four-year-old's from the community to come learn with us! We look forward to next year, when our additional classrooms are built and we have our official primary school registration, so that we can add more grade levels!

Our preschoolers have been excelling. They are learning to identify lowercase letters, count objects, write numbers, name the parts of the body, and tell about the importance of living and non-living things in the environment. And even though they have never heard or spoken English before, they can stand up to introduce themselves and their school, all in English!

Apart from the core subjects, Shade School students learn about Jesus, some for the very first time. There's no better sound than a chorus of little voices saying *Yesu ananipenda*, Jesus loves me.

We praise God that our students and staff have remained healthy and safe during the pandemic. Please continue to pray for their wellbeing and progress.

Other news: In January, our team visited the center for children with albinism and led a Christmas celebration. What joy it was to sing, dance, eat snacks, and provide school supplies for these precious, vulnerable children.

## Learn More & Get Involved

