



ASA NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

ASA SLOGAN: WE LOOK AT THE ABILITY NOT THE DISABILITY

ASA has made an excellent start to 2022, a year for which we have many plans and ambitions to support even more children with disabilities and their communities. In this newsletter we will provide an update of our recent activities and the plans for 2022, and share our 2021 highlights with you.

The ASA Junior Premier league 2022

This is one of the best initiatives of 2022 introduced by ASA in February 15, 2022. The league aims at giving an inclusive sporting platform for competition in the region. It follows from the famous Kids League of 2006, which only focused on football for boys only. After sixteen years, we are excited to have introduced a more gender-sensitive league catering for four different games: football for boys and girls, Netball, and wheelchair Basketball. The league has registered 300 (180 Male, 120 Female) children with and without disabilities. ***We want to sustain this league and this cannot be done with your support and partnerships to support our children with; sports kits like uniforms, playing boots, training of girls in making reusable sanitary pads, training fees for league referees and officials and financial support to build a community basketball court.***



Team preparation for commonwealth games in UK

ASA, through local community support, raised \$310 to facilitate 6 athletes to go for qualification trials and classifications in Kampala, in preparation for the Commonwealth Para Games in Birmingham UK. One of the athletes, Ochira Richard, a wheelchair racer, was selected to go for a training camp in South Africa and later participate in the commonwealth games in Birmingham the UK. We are grateful to all our coaches and players for the great milestone achieved so far.

ASA continued with physical literacy engagement and adaptive sports in the 6 Primary Schools in Gulu



ASA works in 6 inclusive Primary Schools within Gulu City where we engage over 230 children with visual impairment, physical disability, intellectual disability, hearing impairment and autism children in different adaptive sports to enhance their capacity, build their confidence and promote their social wellbeing in schools.

Photo: Children with and without disabilities engaging in physical literacy every Monday and Wednesday from one partner school (Thumps up academy)

Plans for 2022

The year 2022 has started in a high note with all our goals and mission clearly stated, our volunteers more than ready to create social impact more than last year and that will be possible now that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, has reduced in Uganda. Below are some of the activities we plan to do.

- Organise Gulu Cooperate League in June to mobilise resources to sponsor 30 children with disabilities in school and provide scholastic materials.
- Weekly physical literacy for school going children with and without disabilities at primary schools.
- Expanding our training to train primary school teachers (last year we trained 40 but there are 400 teachers in the region!) in adaptive sports to include children with disabilities in school sports activities
- Donating hygiene kits to 100 girls with disabilities in 6 primary schools within Gulu
- Strengthen ASA through various activities including training and induction for volunteer staffs of ASA on disability sports, language and inclusion, and creating a 5-year strategic plan.
- Disability Day celebrations and a Christmas Party for the children and their parents.

To organize these activities, we need your support more than ever! Please support children and youth with disabilities, their families and communities this year by becoming a monthly donor, or supporting one of our campaigns.

You can donate to us directly using our Given Gain page

<https://www.givengain.com/cause/31544/>, or contact us (details on last page) to determine the best option for you.



Our achievements in 2021

Supporting children with disabilities and their families through the Covid-19 pandemic

The outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 was a big challenge for ASA as a young community-based organization we really struggled in the first five months of the pandemic. Being a sports organization all our activities were suspended due to the government preventive lockdown measures. In addition there was fear among our beneficiaries, businesses were closed, and life became difficult for ASA's passionate volunteers as well as the community at large. The future of the organization was at stake without funding opportunities which impacted on the organization bills such as rents, administrative cost and stipends for volunteers.

We would like to thank all our supporters, the great commitment of our volunteers and the Board of Directors of ASA, for supporting the ASA team and our campaigns throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Your contributions have been invaluable! With this support we were able to support the following activities.

- People with disabilities and vulnerable families were largely excluded from government support schemes, and without income, children suffered from malnutrition. Our **Big Heart for Humanity campaign** supported 40 children and 15 youth with disabilities and their families members through Covid-19 food relief packages.
- Through this campaign, ASA was also able to **complete a house** for a single mother of two children, one of which has cerebral palsy, who had become homeless during the Covid-19 pandemic.



- We **trained 40 teachers** from 20 Primary School in rural Districts of Amuru and Gulu on Adaptive Sports and Inclusive physical education.
- We organized the **2021 Deaf Challenge Cup**, in which 266 children took part, including 46 children with disabilities
- We organized a **Christmas part for 30 children with disabilities**, which included adaptive games, music and dance. On top of that school going children received **scholastic materials** and food packages for them and their families.



Ismail is the Game and Sports teachers at Pawel Angany Primary School in Amuru District in Northern Uganda, this is what he said, about the Adaptive Sports and Inclusive games training received:

“When it comes to Physical Education (PE) time children with disabilities usually take care of their colleague’s belongings. We thought this practice was normal to every child with disability but after the training we realized that we were not inclusive and we did not meet the needs of the children instead we contributed to exclusion of these children with disabilities. When we introduced adaptive games at our school we witnessed increased involvement of children with disabilities in different activities, they now don’t take care of colleague’s properties, instead we witnessed a number of them taking leadership roles to initiate activities. Due to the different games and equipment’s we have witnessed increased enrollment of children with disabilities in schools.”

- We created **new partnerships** with the Gulu Team initiative, the Rhino Athletic Club and Backup Uganda, which enables ASA to expand its impact on inclusion
- We are proud to have been selected as a **2021 .ORG Impact Awards finalists** in the category of Championing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We are recognized amongst a remarkable group of mission-driven organizations from around the world, devoted to meeting society’s most pressing needs.

Most importantly, the support provided changed the mindset of teachers as well as parents of children with disabilities in the community. There is a lot of social stigma associated with disability in the community, and through the ASA activities they are able to see the potential and skills of children with disabilities. Parents also feel supported knowing that there are others who are also keen to see a better future their children.



For the full stories, please see our Annual Report 201 on the ASA website

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