



## Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School, Uganda

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Project title: Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School

Project location: Tororo District, Uganda



*Students happily showing off their toothbrushes, received through RMF thanks to Direct Relief's in-kind donation*

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## **Background**

Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School is an orphanage and a boarding school that provides education and care for orphans in eastern Uganda. The boarding school caters to both orphans and some local paying students and is located just a few kilometers outside of the town of Tororo in eastern Uganda, about 200 kilometers from the capital, Kampala.

The school was opened by the Little Sisters of St. Francis in 2006 with international financial support, and with the goal of providing both secondary education and vocational training. RMF began supporting the school in 2009, and in 2012, the World Children's Fund joined us to provide generous funding for operational expenses, support for orphans, and academic quality. Our main objective in supporting the Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School is to enable less privileged children to acquire a high-quality education and pursue holistic human development.

The student population is mostly from northern Uganda, where many children have been affected by ongoing wars, floods, and HIV/AIDS. Many of the students' parents were killed by rebels or AIDS, which left the children as orphans. Some boys had also been forced to be child soldiers. Students range in age from 11 to 24, and attend secondary grades 1 to secondary 4. Since RMF started supporting Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School, the total enrollment has increased from 120 to 400+ students. In addition, the health and academic performance of the children has improved.

## **Direct Relief Donation**

In the first quarter of 2019, RMF received a consignment of toothbrushes for Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School from Direct Relief. The toothbrushes arrived through the Mombasa seaport in Kenya and were transported to the school premises in Tororo, Uganda. They were received by RMF Uganda Country Director Naku Charles Lwanga and handed over to the school administration for distribution among the students.

These supplies were crucial in our efforts to provide personal hygiene materials to support students' health. Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School is a boarding school, and therefore the students are required to have such materials. However, orphans and students from underprivileged families often arrive without personal hygiene products, and it can be challenging for the school to continually provide these to the students.

The school administration was pleased with this gesture, and they continue to be grateful to RMF and our donors, Direct Relief and World Children's Fund, for our tireless efforts to support the school. We are proud to empower the neediest children in the region through a quality education that was only a dream to many of them, as well as supporting the children's health with essential supplies such as toothbrushes.

The students were also happy to receive the toothbrushes. Many of the children are orphans or come from very needy families, whose parents continue to overlook certain requirements for basic hygiene and consider this as a luxury that they can do without.

Understanding that not all students would know how to use a toothbrush, every class was taught how to use a toothbrush. Each student was given a toothbrush and instructed to follow what the teacher was demonstrating and explaining. It was a great and joyful moment for students receiving a toothbrush and lesson on how to use it, as you can see in the photos. The distribution of the toothbrushes was launched by RMF Country Director Naku Charles Lwanga, who traveled to the school from Kampala especially for the occasion.



*The head teacher of Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School receiving the consignment, together with a group of student leaders*



*RMF Uganda Country Director Naku Charles Lwanga (right) handing over the consignment to the head teacher in the presence of the deputy head teacher and student leaders*



*Students confirming the receipt of the donation. Curious, some opened a box to see what was inside, while others lifted the boxes to weigh them.*



*Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School teachers and students are happy to be a part of RMF's journey in Uganda and are grateful for the kind support that is continuously extended to them.*



*The donation was stored in one of the school's laboratory rooms for safe custody until distribution.*





*Distribution is ongoing in the different classes, as teachers schedule lessons on how to use a toothbrush.*



*Students anxiously waiting their turn to receive toothbrushes*



*Students looking at their gifts in admiration and appreciation. They are very grateful to our donors for always considering their needs.*



*Students showing off their gifts. We are happy to always spread the RMF Smile.*



*The happiness that we continue to spread through RMF to our beneficiaries is fulfilling!*



*The teachers were at the forefront of distributing the toothbrushes to the students.*

In conclusion, Direct Relief's assistance rendered to RMF Uganda is very relevant, and our team is pleased with the support we have been able to provide to beneficiaries of our different programs, including students at the Mama Kevina Comprehensive Secondary School. RMF continues to pursue our goal of Liberating Human Potential and identifying relevant beneficiaries. Thank you, Direct Relief!