

The Recreation Project

Quarter Two Report

April 1st - June 30th, 2021



letter from our managing director

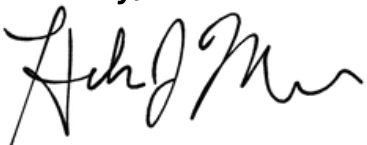
Dear Friend,

In April we shared our first quarterly report, brimming with admiration for the momentum we had achieved in the beginning part of 2021. If the theme of our first quarter was momentum, the theme of our second quarter has been flexibility.

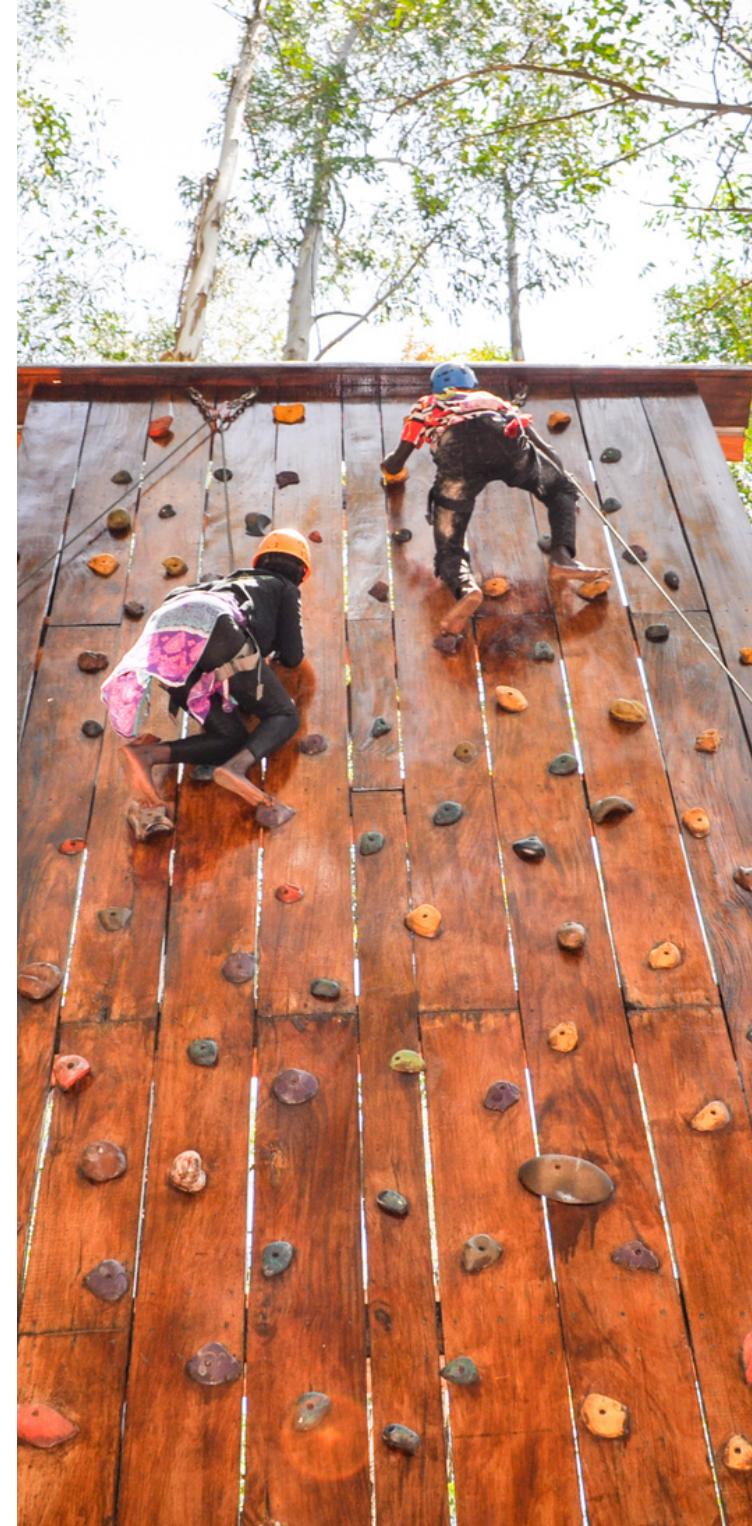
After we graduated 208 youth and their families from our programs in May, Uganda, like most of the global South, entered a devastating third wave of the pandemic. On June 18th, Uganda enacted a second full lockdown, forcing us to once again close our gate. But, in the spirit of resilience and flexibility, our team developed a plan to safely reach out-of-school learners. During this 42-day lockdown, each of our facilitators has mobilized and will graduate 10-15 school-age children from within their own neighborhoods from our life skills program.

In a year that is full of uncertainty, we set a big scary audacious goal to graduate 600 youth from our program. The mechanics of reaching that goal have become more complicated, but the need has never been greater. Resilience skills are no longer a mere valuable addition to core education curriculum, they are essential for young people to thrive in an ever changing world.

Warmly,



Hannah McCandless
Managing Director, TRP



story from the field

Anena Simple, Climbing Club Participant

Anena Simple graduated from Climbing Club in May. When we shifted our focus for Climbing Club to out-of-school and at-risk youth, we adapted some parts of our program, specifically our 'family days,' to make sure that they are meaningful for parents and for spouses of participants who were already married, like Simple. Simple is married to Richard, and they have two boys. The best part of Anena's experience in Climbing Club was getting to share it with her husband, Richard.

"I feel that family days are a very important thing for TRP. Family day helps a lot in linking the family members together and in making each and every one realized their roles in the family. Family day is helping our parents, our husbands, and our wives learn what we've been learning and open their minds," says Simple.

"House Parts was my favorite activity of the day. We chose which part of the house we represent in our family. I was the wall and I realized that being the wall is what you will need to protect whatever is in the house. Throughout Climbing Club, I've realized that sharing is good, in case you have any problem in your household, it is very important to share it with your partner. I also learned about love, I learned that a household without love is like a vessel without a compass direction—it doesn't know where it's heading and there can be no unity." Simple's enthusiasm for Climbing Club was contagious. So much so that when we started hiring for new facilitators, Richard was first in line. Richard is now fully trained and one of our newest facilitators to join our team! We're so excited to have Simple and Richard as part of The Recreation Project family.



story from the field

Chris Bongomin, Climbing Club Participant

I have 5 friends that did Climbing Club with me. We used to be vulgar and chaotic, violent, and drinking was our thing but during the training everyone's life began to change and we got love and trust back from the community. There are various things keeping all of our Climbing Club team together after the training. We started an association called "Team Right People" where we monitor each other, we do things as a team, we made sure we are keeping communication through sharing ideas or giving help to the ones in need.

The parent sessions, which my mom attended, helped me fix my relationship with my parents. Now I feel like my mom respects me and she includes me in family meetings where everyone respect everyone's opinions, it has made me feel valued.

In Climbing Club, I learned to trust people, I started believing in myself and making good decisions. I have been evaluating myself and realized that I am not the same as before. I am now a great problem solver, I learnt how to speak to people which has made my relationship with the people in my community become stronger. Goal setting has become easy for me. In fact, right now I have set a goal of planting more beans this season. I believe beans and sweet potatoes will help me increase my income a little bit though some are for home consumption. All the energy I have been exercising during the training has made me become a hardworking person.



our model



Play Based Resilience Education

Youth are mobilized in groups of 15-20 and two local youth mentors deliver 10 'Resilience Education' modules designed with Ugandan youth using Human Centered Design.



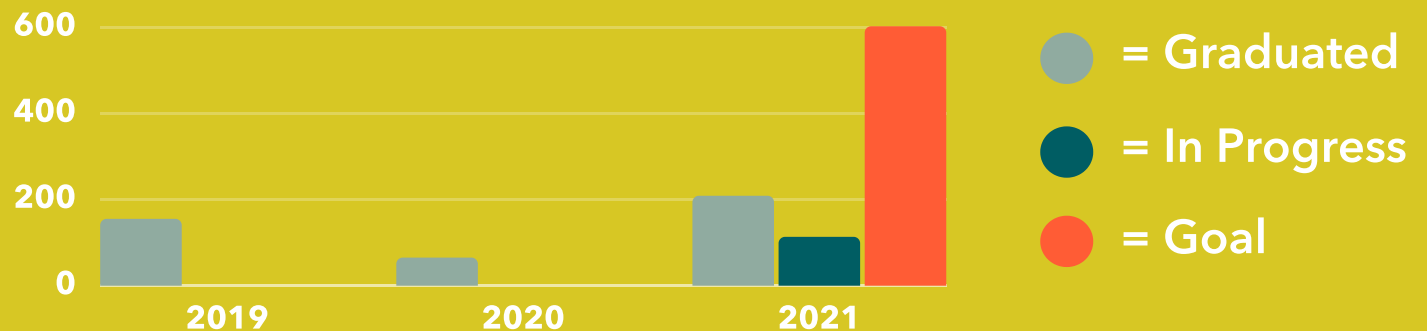
208

youth graduated

113

currently enrolled

Youth Participants 2017-2021



our results

In early 2021, we rolled out our first Monitoring and Evaluation system. These results are based on self-report surveys conducted with youth and their adult caregivers examining 'resilience assets.' Resilience is split into 'internal resilience assets', which include important intrapersonal skills like having a sense of purpose and strong problem solving skills and 'external resilience assets' which evaluate social support in an individual's home, community, and peer group.

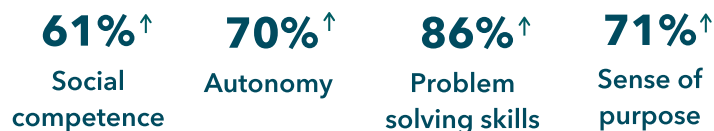
*Due to privacy concerns while we negotiate our agreement with the Gulu Remand Home, we are not able to collect and share results from our Children in Conflict with the Law Program.

Overall Term 1 Graduate Results

48% increase in resilience

63%

increase in internal resilience

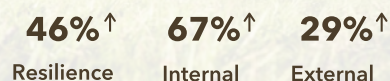


35%

increase in external resilience



Climbing Club



Street Connected Youth



Primary School



What We're Learning

We were interested to see that there was generally a larger increase in internal resilience than in external resilience. In turn, we are thinking critically about how to build additional relationship building experiences into our program and how to deepen connections with adult caregivers and community leaders.

our program updates



In 2021, TRP is working with 600 youth in northern Uganda. In Term 2, we enrolled 113 youth in our program bringing us 54% of the way to our goal.



Primary School Program

82 Students Graduated

Highlight: We broke a TRP record with 56 parents attending our final Family Dialogue Day at Gulu Public Primary School.

Street-Connected Youth

29 Students Graduated

Highlight: Students planned a successful community service day during which they completed multiple projects at Elephante Commons, where our partner, Hashtag Gulu, is housed. Students completed garden work, washed chairs, and cleaned common areas.

Remand Home Program

68 Students Graduated

Highlight: Hosted all children currently housed at the Remand Home for a field trip to The Recreation Project for the first time in several years.

Climbing Club Program

37 Students Graduated

Highlight: Successful weekend climbing excursion attended by almost all students, including 3 child-mothers who were able to attend and participate fully as we provided babysitters for their children on site.



COVID-19 Lockdown Program Launch

As Uganda entered a six-week lockdown on June 18th, we were forced to put our regular programming on hold. Our team, impassioned by the fact that most students have spent less than three months in school since March of 2020, quickly adapted our program to be safely delivered to out of school youth. 8 of our facilitators have identified 10-15 out of school students within their neighborhoods and are delivering our program three days a week over the course of lockdown. We are proud to be providing vital life skills and purpose to out of school students during lockdown.

our highlights



New partnership with the Vista Hermosa Foundation

In May, we were honored to become a grantee partner of the Vista Hermosa Foundation. Vista Hermosa's mission is to "serve, encourage, and educate children and the underserved in their spiritual, community, and human Development." The foundation is part of Broetje Family Trust, based in Washington. In partnership with the Vista Hermosa Foundation, we will be expanding our Primary School program and graduating 360 primary school students and their adult caregivers from our program by June of 2022. Additionally, we will also train 11 teachers at local government schools to deliver our program independently.

Growing our Team

Throughout quarter 2 we are thrilled to have added 10 new facilitators to our team. Over the past few months, our programs team recruited and trained the 10 newest members of our team. We're excited that all 10 can now facilitate all of our high ropes elements and will be independently delivering our life skills modules during our COVID-19 Lockdown Program. A growing and well-trained team of facilitators means we are equipped to effectively expand our reach throughout the remainder of 2021. Welcome to the team Flavia, Jovian, Grace, Richard, Herbert, Joan, Geoffrey, Kevin, Irene, and Mercy!

organization updates

How You Can Help

Mid-Year Monthly Donor Campaign

Monthly donations are the lifeblood of small organization like us. Monthly donations allow us to set ambitious goals and plan to meet them. In the second half of 2021, our goal is to increase our monthly donations by \$1000 per month. You can help us by signing up to be a monthly donor or increasing your monthly donation! To become a monthly donor go to www.therecreationproject.org/donate

Here is what happens when you invest as a monthly donor:

- **\$25:** The family of a child awaiting trial to attends "TRP Family Day" for an afternoon of healing play
- **\$50:** A class of primary school students can visit The Recreation Project for a field trip
- **\$100:** One child and their caregiver graduate from the TRP Program
- **\$150:** A youth facilitator is hired to be a catalyst of change in the lives of young people
- **\$200:** 30 TRP program graduates attend a 3-day youth camp at the end of the year to celebrate their sustained progress

Sponsor a COVID-19 Small Group

A one-time gift of 150 USD will support one of our facilitators to mobilize and graduate 10 school-age children from our life skills program during lockdown. To support a COVID-19 Small Group, follow this [link](#).

Fundraising Update

In 2021, TRP has raised \$83,442 out of our \$100,000 goal, leaving us with \$16,557 to raise.



Left to go

Raised

FY 2021

Financials Update

Fundraising
8%

Admin
17%

Programs: \$38,205
Admin: \$8,739
Fundraising: \$3,929

Programs
75%



**Together, we can
create a world in which
all children fulfill their
limitless potential.**

Our Team:

- Hannah McCandless, Managing Director
- Deogracious Rachkara, School Programs Coordinator
- Denish Acellam, Community Programs Coordinator
- Michael Paito, Finance and Administration Manager
- Janet Alimocan, Day Programs Coordinator
- Rubangakene Godfrey, Day Programs Coordinator
- Janeth Ayaa Alaroker, School Facilitator
- Jackie Anena, Community Facilitator
- Dickens Akena, Communications Support
- Agatha Isidi Francesca, Facilitator
- Josephine Ogaba, Monitoring and Evaluation Support
- Stephen Otto, Maintenance Assistant