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When Joseph Oyugi was a young boy attending Nyandiwa Primary School, he never dreamed that one day he would be in the United States where he would earn his PhD and go on to teach at a university. He also never imagined he would one day help to provide desks for the students and teachers at his former school.



A Nyandiwa classroom without enough desks.

Nyandiwa Primary School was established in 1956 on eight acres of land. It is located in West Kamagak Location in Nyanza Province, Kenya. Since its establishment, the community has strived to build the school through fundraising and limited resources, starting with simple semi permanent structures in earlier years and more recently constructing a permanent building with eight classrooms. This transition to a permanent structure took a long time, as the people living within this community are generally poor.

However, even with the new building, challenges still exist.

The current student enrollment in Nyandiwa Primary School is 536 pupils (258 girls and 278 boys), taught by 15 teachers. With this large student population, only 64 desks were available for student use. Most students sat on the floor while others crowded on the few available desks during classes. This greatly affected the learning environment, with some kids dropping out of school or irregularly attending classes. Eventually the school began to perform very poorly in the national examinations. Teachers were not spared either, having no tables or chairs to use in classrooms and staffrooms; they had to stand for hours working with students. Teaching motivation was very low!



Students with new desks provided by Sango.

Joseph presented this issue to Sango Association and proposed the organization assist with the need. With enough grants from Sango, the school was able to employ a local carpenter who constructed enough desks for all the children in the school. Now there are two students per desk throughout each classroom. The success of this project has been evident by the increased student enrollment, especially in the lower classes. The students feel much more comfortable in the classroom and are ready to learn. Teachers too are now

better able to carry out their responsibilities.

Joseph was able to return to Nyandiwa Primary School for the official dedication of the new desks. The dedication was attended by the local chief and other community leaders, who were very thankful for the support given by Sango Association.

Sango Association looks forward to partnering with Nyandiwa Primary School on future projects.



Joseph Oyugi presenting the new desks.