

// Come True project



2020 BECOME ANNUAL REPORT

Become is a non-profit organisation registered in Israel, working in KENYA, UGANDA and SOUTH SUDAN.

BECOME R.A. 58-0507879

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D O N A T E





Come True project

Our flagship project, bringing South Sudanese children deported from Israel back into a school system



If you'd like to discuss opportunities or working together please contact us directly.

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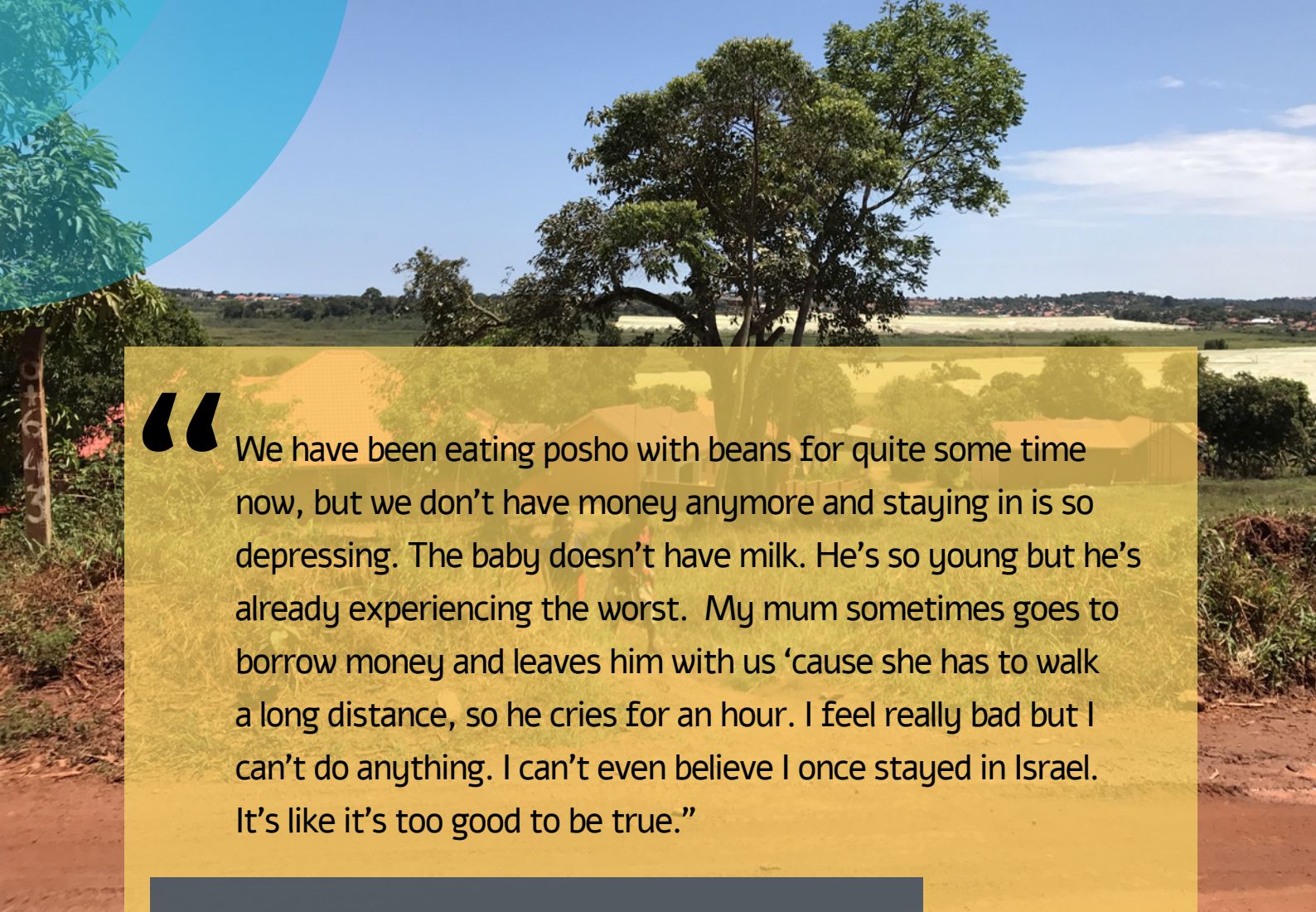
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COME TRUE PROJECT 2020 ACTIVITY REPORT

PHOTOGRAPHY : RAMI GUDOVITCH



“ We have been eating posho with beans for quite some time now, but we don't have money anymore and staying in is so depressing. The baby doesn't have milk. He's so young but he's already experiencing the worst. My mum sometimes goes to borrow money and leaves him with us 'cause she has to walk a long distance, so he cries for an hour. I feel really bad but I can't do anything. I can't even believe I once stayed in Israel. It's like it's too good to be true.”



A LETTER FROM A COME TRUE STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN SENT HOME TO SOUTH SUDAN FOLLOWING COVID-19 CRISIS.



As we write these lines, the 213 pupils of the Come True project, like millions of other children around the world, are away from school. For the Come True kids, the crisis has brought a rare opportunity to spend time with their families, after spending the years since their deportation from Israel in boarding schools. As the crisis continues, however, with no sign of the schools in Uganda reopening in the near future, many families fear their kids will never make it back to school.

The announcement of the closure of the education system in Uganda caught us by surprise. We had less than two days to send all the kids back to their families. With the full cooperation of the community representatives, the families, our local partners, and most significantly, our program director Mr. Jacob Berry, all kids were safely home with their loved ones or with relatives or friends in less than 48 hours.

Sadly, for many, the situation at home is not easy. While the effect of the crisis on the economy and society is felt all around the world, the crisis is worst felt in developing countries such as Uganda and South Sudan. For some of our students the situation has become desperate.

In an attempt to offer some temporary relief to the families during the crisis we have initiated a crowd-funding campaign. Thanks to the heart-warming response of our supporters, by the end of the campaign we reached 115% of our goal. With this support we were able to offer the families basic nutrition, medical help when needed, internet connection for the students who need to do their online classwork and support for other emergencies. As the crisis continues, however, we are running out of these emergency funds.



COME TRUE PROJECT DATA

- > The Come True project currently supports the education and needs of 213 students, mainly from South Sudan. Most of our students study in Uganda, and several are in Kenya and in Israel.
- > In the 2020 school year we added to the project a group of children from Darfur, whose education was supported in the previous year through a project headed by the Come True Uganda program director, **Jacob Berry**. The integration of the Darfur group into Come True helps strengthen the ties among the project team members, and will hopefully allow us to gain the support and involvement of the Darfuri diaspora community.
- > 2019 saw the graduation of 6 of our students in Uganda – Our fashion design students, **David Laverk** and **Viola Phillip**, graduated from Nemulande Academy for Art and Design. Our students **Ramkel Gambew**, **Nyabouy Duboul**, **Adit Amos** and **Atoch Amos** graduated from Hillside international school in Uganda.
- > In 2020 we had 6 students graduating from international schools in Israel – **Wayi Thok** and **Tumbush Ruei** graduated from EMIS – Eastern Mediterranean International School at Hakfar Hayarok, while **Christina Phillip**, **Diana Baba**, **DengKio Machar** and **Fogi Galuak** graduated from Givat Haviva International School. Having completed their high-school studies, our graduates are now enrolling in colleges and universities where they will continue their journey towards a hopefully bright and successful future.



COME TRUE
SPECIAL UPDATE



Donate
to our
educational
activities

Remote Learning Due to Covid-19 Crisis

As the closure of schools continues, the danger of dropping out of school, especially for children from low socio-economic backgrounds, becomes more and more imminent. UNESCO has recently warned of the danger of [24 million students dropping out of school](#) due to the Covid-19 crisis. This danger is hovering over the heads of our Come True students.

Remote online learning, which in developed countries was implemented with minimal effort, raises many challenges in Uganda. Internet access is limited and its cost is beyond the reach for many, and some of the Come True families are located in remote areas and refugee camps with limited internet reception. In light of these challenges, schools developed innovative solutions including an emphasis on interactive learning using phone counseling, recorded lessons, as well as video and telephone consultation with teachers. Study materials and by engaging professional teachers for tutoring small groups of students from time to time.

The scholarships donated by our generous donors are serving their purpose this year by allowing us to partake in all remote study programs offered by our partner schools, and making our own efforts to strengthen our students' capacity to participate, by helping them purchase internet bundles, printing out and distributing study materials and by engaging professional teachers for tutoring small groups of students from time to time.

According to the president's announcement from September 20th, schools will reopen for candidates only – grades P7, S4 and S6 on October 15th. This will enable these students to take the government exams later this year.



COME TRUE RESEARCH

During the summer of 2019, **Prof. Vered Slonim-Nevo** from the Social Work Department at Ben Gurion University, joined Dr. Rami Gudovitch for a visit at the project in Kampala, and together they carried out the first of a series of research studies aiming to learn about the integration of refugee kids studying into the Ugandan schools. Our goal is to add to the growing body of knowledge on the integration of kids into a new environment, a subject that is at the center of focus to educators, activists and policy makers in many parts of the world. The research was made possible partly by a research award Rami received from the Tamar Golan Africa Center, at Ben Gurion University.

In our first study we used qualitative methods to explore the perceptions and experiences of six Ugandan teachers who have been teaching the project's kids since their deportation from Israel. This study is unique in addressing the integration of refugee children who have migrated from a Global North country to a developing country in the Global South, one with more conservative social norms and an authoritarian, teacher-centered education philosophy.

The partnership with Prof. Vered Slonim-Nevo from Ben Gurion University opened the door to other promising partnerships with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the SWSA Social Work Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the Makerere University, Kampala.





COME TRUE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Rami and Lea's meetings with the community

Although the kids have already been living and studying in Uganda for some years, their upbringing in Israel greatly influenced their perception, and adjusting to the Ugandan education system is still our main challenge. Addressing the tensions between the various stakeholders, with their diverse values and social norms, is the focus of the One World Education platform that Rami is leading in his visits to Uganda in recent years. The activities of the One World platform have now been extended to cover also the Janan schools, where more and more Come True students now study.

Lea's meeting with the community, In January 2020, focused on expressing empathy for the children's harsh life circumstances, and at the same time encouraging them to see how successful Come True is and realize that they, themselves, are part of this success.

During her visit, Lea conducted a one-day workshop with the Come True high school students, aiming to allow them a safe space to plan for their future – a place that allows for dreams which require resources, yet are still realistic and achievable. The workshop also stressed Uganda's uniqueness as a country with a high development rate, which could be a good ground for entrepreneurship. The students were encouraged to write down their dreams, to make a list of the strengths and abilities which will enable them to achieve it, and to discuss their dreams with their peers. This workshop is the first in a planned series of workshops designed to facilitate the children's transition from fully supported by Become to a fully independent life.





Parental involvement

One of the main challenges of the Come True project is keeping a regular contact between the kids and their parents, many of them live in distant countries, as work in Uganda is scarce. To address this challenge, Jacob opened several means of communications on social media platforms, involving nearly all the project's parents across the globe. Now, the kids can speak to their parents on a regular basis. This network also allows for a direct and active involvement of parents in the daily challenges of their kids' lives.

Another major development in the project is the introduction of a democratically elected parents' committee active in all aspects of the kids' lives in school and during the holidays. The parents' committee takes part in emotional and spiritual support, disciplinary challenges and all other aspects pertaining to the kids' lives.

Cooperation with Hamachanot HaOlim

Our ongoing cooperation with the Israeli youth movement Hamachanot HaOlim continues to bear fruit. The organization sends an annual delegation of educators to stay with the Come True children during their summer holiday, offering numerous extra-curricular activities.

In January 2018, Hamachanot HaOlim delegation conducted special training for the Come True high school students, training this group to become counselors for the younger children during the school holidays. Consequently, since the beginning of 2018 all holiday camps for the Come True children are organized by the community, without the involvement of Israeli volunteers. This has proven to be a strong tool for empowerment for both the older kids acting as counselors and the younger children enjoying the activities, while watching their older peers take charge.



after all when troubles

Music workshop and documentary film

In January 2019 producer **Amir Sade** and filmmaker **Tamar Goren** returned to Uganda following their successful visit in 2017. Amir and Tamar produced several music clips with the Come True students, while Tamar completed the shooting of a documentary film about this artistic cooperation and special friendship.



HOMEBOYS -Young Dicey | See they talk

Lyrics by - Isaac Victor (Young Dicey)

Music by - Isaac Victor, Amir Sade

Produced By - Amir Sade



HOMEBOYS - Sami khaled | Love

Lyrics by - Sami Khaled

Music by - Sami Khaled

Drawings by - Sami Khaled

Produced By - Amir Sade



HOMEBOYS -Ronnie tune | I promise

Lyrics by - Ronaldo Luka

Music by - Ronaldo Luka

Produced By - Amir Sade

HOMEBOYS



Updates from our graduates

Very recently, a group of young women from among the Come True graduates and high school students, got together to form **Young Women for Development** – a women’s empowerment movement, with a clear feminist voice. **Atoch Amos**, one of the founders of this group, explains:

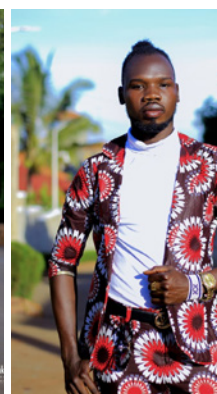
We are a group of girls who want to make a great change in our communities and with the education we got, we can move thousands of people in South Sudan. In our country, mostly men are in the lead, especially in the governance, and women’s voices are scarcely heard. We believe that in order to make a great change, we need to be within the people of our communities, looking out for ways on how to make things better, and by educating women, we’ll have done a lot, because educating women means educating the nation right? which our country ignores, they believe men are the head of families and need to be powerful.

Our goal is to be a symbol of unity that teams up to empower other women and break tribalism. We want to give women the basic education that everyone needs to shape the way of their thinking and to see the world differently. We’ll educate women about hygiene and diseases (how they occur and their prevention), entrepreneurship and basic business skills, raise awareness to girls and families about the dangers of early/forced marriages, educate girls about the dangers of early pregnancy, sex and the menstrual cycle. Among other things we’ll be serving our communities by cleaning water areas, collecting rubbish on the streets and a lot more. Each member will be paying 10,000 Ugandan Shillings monthly so we can buy things like pads for girls and other basic stuff. We will connect to the South Sudanese local communities to be able to get access to the camps and make our outreaches in other places with a permission.

Please join us by following this wonderful young initiative on [Facebook](#)

Come True graduate **Naka Kerba**, pursuing her BA degree in Political Science and Government at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, had the honor of joining, as CRC ambassador, the Leon Charney Diplomacy Program which trains students in world affairs, conflict resolution and debate, at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), and compete at (NMUN) National Model United Nation in Washington DC, US. During her journey, Naka learned the importance of preparing the younger generation for future leadership. Naka was able to make great academic strides and realize the value of taking steps towards self-betterment. She also used this opportunity to make new friends and reunite with her long-lost family.

Come True graduate **David Laverk** had the opportunity to model his own special designs in an arts and fashion magazine published in Juba, South Sudan.



8000 PAPERCLIPS

8000 מחדקי נייר

Ongoing News

- All of the Come True students and the parents living in Uganda had their eyesight professionally checked by optometrists **Arza Fruchter** and **Vered Ninio**. Upon their return to Israel, Arza and Vered had prescription glasses made for all students and parents who were found to need those. The glasses were delivered to Uganda and distributed to their recipients.
- We had the honor of receiving a visit of the Israeli Ambassador to South Sudan, **H.E. Hanan Goder** and his team, who met with the Come True students in Uganda in April 2018.
- The Come True team, and particularly **Jacob**, took part in a complex and sensitive operation resulting in bringing to Israel two family members of Ethiopian Jews who were left behind when the Ethiopian Jewry were airlifted to Israel in the **Solomon Operation**, and ended up in South Sudan.



Fundraising Events

- Towards the end of 2018 we started a fundraising campaign to enable us to complete that school year. For this end we launched a fundraising video produced and edited by **Nitsan Tal**. The fundraising goal was achieved in full.
- We were especially moved by a donation by the **Kibbutz Yotvata** youth group, who chose to donate to Come True the money that they made collecting refundable bottles.
- In June 2019 Become held an event at **Hanasich Bar** in Tel Aviv, which included two musical performances by **Afro-Po** and **AlberTales** bands. Our thanks go to the bands, the bar and to Tom, Gony and Joy, the volunteers who produced this event.
- We have recently successfully completed a fundraising campaign designed to support the Come True students and their families, suffering under lockdown due to Covid-19, with food, hygiene kits and internet bundles for online studies. The campaign surpassed its original goal by 15%.



COME TRUE IN THE MEDIA



- Fly thousands of miles to bring glasses to children in Uganda – a personal column by optometrist **Arza Fruchter** on [Ynet](#) (Hebrew)



- Uzi Dann's article in [Haaretz English edition](#) about the Come True project.



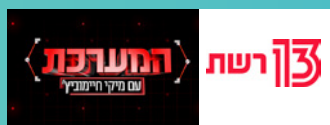
- Article in [Haaretz](#), a follow-up on some of the children rescued by Come True. (Hebrew)



- An opinion column at [Haaretz](#) newspaper by Come True student, **Christina Batista**. (Hebrew)



- Tzefi Saar's column about girls' voice [against deportation](#). (Hebrew)



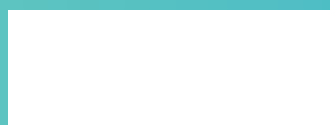
- The personal story of **Uri** and **Wayi** on [Hamaarechet](#). (Hebrew)



- Koby Meidan talks to **Dr. Rami Gudovitch** on [Cross Israel](#). (Hebrew)



- An Article in [Yedioth Ahronot](#) about Come True's student **Wayi Thok**. (Hebrew)



- [The Observer](#) – why do these South Sudanese kids Living in Uganda speak Hebrew



- A [Vice](#) piece about Come True



- [Ynet](#)'s story of the rescue operation of Ethiopian Jews' descendants from South Sudan, in which the Come True team had taken a part. (Hebrew)



- [Israel Hayom](#)'s article on the rescue of the Jewish family from South Sudan. (Hebrew)



- **Merav Betito**'s article in [Yedioth Ahronot](#) describing her visit with the Come True children in Uganda. (Hebrew)



TOGETHER WE'LL KEEP ON CHANGING THE WORLD IN 2021 STAY WITH US!

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Thank you to:
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Dalia Draï and Nava Miller.**



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