



### **UGANDA**



Restore Leadership Academy's school year began in February, and is off to a great start. Our debate team students are the champions of Northern Uganda! We are so proud and continue to be blown away by their intelligence and teamwork. In other impressive academic news, the results are in from last year's test scores, and our senior classes did really well. Senior 4 students were in the top 4%, and Senior 6 in the top 16% of all ranked schools in Uganda. Not only is this an achievement worth celebrating, but it resulted in our highest enrollment ever for this 2019 year. We cannot wait to see what this full campus of bright students has in store!

Our primary school is now complete with seven class levels, which is an exciting time for us as we have been adding one class level at a time since 2013. The campus is brimming with energetic, kind and intelligent kids. Thanks to your support, this school not only provides an excellent education, but is a safe and fun space for these kids to be together. They all love spending their free time in the library and are so excited to have their new football pitch to play on!

Another exciting update is that we started a Love Does school for the women's prison! The goal of this program is to support educational growth for the women in hopes that it will be a valuable tool for integration back into the community upon their release. We are teaching Functional Adult Literacy classes, a program to teach basic reading, writing and math skills. In addition we hope to expand into other vocational classes for practical business skills. We are so encouraged by the excitement and impact it has made already!



# **NEPAL**



We got back to Nepal this spring and it was incredible to visit the Love Does home and our after school program. All the kids are growing up so fast, we can't believe it each time we see them!

We are very excited to announce that our girls home has a new member, a tiny baby pug named Oskar! The girls all adore him and take turns caring, feeding and playing with him! It is wonderful to see the care and love that they all so generously give to each other - and now to their new puppy!

Kiran and Nisha are the amazing couple that live with and take care of the girls. They love each of the girls like their own, and their baby son is doted on by all of the sisters as well. We are looking to purchase a car for the home to help with the transportation to school, soccer practice and church. We are endlessly grateful for the devotion and care of Kiran and Nisha!

Check out our blog to see some great new photos of our time in Nepal!



#### **AFGHANISTAN**



Exciting news from Afghanistan: we recently purchased a plot of land to build our very own school on! We are currently renting our school building, and it has been a great place to start out, but we are now ready to dream up our own! This new school building will be custom fit for our needs and designed to allow for growth over the next few years as we add a class level each year. We currently have 60 primary school students and hope to grow to 200 or more in the next five years. Each time we visit we are blown away by the gentle and genuine character in these students. They are joyful and grateful, and come to school each day ready and excited to learn!

In addition to purchasing the land, we finalized our official school registration with the Ministry of Education. It was a long and time consuming process, but we are glad to have it all taken care of! Our teachers and administrators have incredible plans and goals for their classes and this school, and we are so grateful for their leadership and dedication.

This spring, we put on a one day workshop for 45 university level students in Kabul. It was a fantastic day spent working through what it looks like for them to dream big about their own potential and the potential of their country. We talked about how to take the next steps to realize their own dreams, and about the part they can each play in peace building and progress. While Afghanistan continues to face enormous challenges with stability and peace in the region, we are so encouraged seeing the dedication of local leaders to grow and improve their country.



## SOMALIA



This spring we were able to visit Somalia and check on our baby home, safe house, and hold a launch ceremony for our newest project, the Love Does Girls Academy!

The babies are doing well and have grown so much since our last visit! We now have eight babies in our care, each one very energetic and beginning to form their own little personality. As you can imagine, eight little ones to feed, nap, and play with is a lot to manage! We are so grateful for the amazing women who care for the babies each day, and are looking to move to a slightly larger center soon so that we can continue to add more caregivers and babies.

The women and girls in our safe house are also doing well. Most of the girls and women in the home have been victims of gender based violence or abuse - some are child brides, some were trafficked or badly abused. Their stories are difficult to hear, so much heartbreak in each one, but they are also stories of resilience and hope. We are grateful to get to provide a safe, healing place for these girls and help them build their futures again.

We are so grateful to get to be part of this community and help little by little, one girl, baby and community at a time. We couldn't do this without each of you!



### LOVE DOES GIRLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Somalia has one of the world's lowest enrollment rates for primary school. Due to many schools being private, and adding in child marriage, gender based violence, and cultural expectations, 88% of Somali girls do not attend school. Our dream in building this school is to give girls the safety and opportunity they deserve, and to get them back in the classroom where they belong!

Thanks to so many of you, Love Does, in partnership with the Elman Peace Centre opened a leadership academy for girls in Mogadishu! This academy will open its doors this summer to 200 girls between the ages of 12-18. In addition to traditional educational programs, the school will have a special focus on

peace building and entrepreneurship. We will create programs for our students to run small businesses - these could be restaurants and cafes, salons, or electronic repair shops to name a few ideas. Each of these businesses will serve a need in the community, empower young women, and bring in funding for our school operations. We aim to grow this model until our school is financially self-sustainable!

Our hope is that this academy will help develop confident young women and give them opportunities to learn, grow and be empowered to lead their communities. We are so thrilled to get to work with incredible local partners to make this all happen!