

Final Report: Construction of a 3-Classroom Block at PEAS Aspire Secondary School



- a) **Donor name:** Fondation Eagle
- b) **Name of Charity and Project:** PEAS (Promoting Equality in African Schools), Construction of a 3-classroom block at PEAS Aspire Secondary School
- c) **Foundation Eagle reference number, i.e. FF number:** FF-717
- d) **Date of grant accepted:** 12th June 2024
- e) **Amount:** £45,154
- f) **Name and exact location of the project:** Construction of a 3-classroom block at PEAS Aspire Secondary School, Ibanda District, Western Uganda
- g) **Period of Project and number of beneficiaries:** 6 months, 873 beneficiaries (842 students and 31 teachers).
- h) **Conversion rate, date & amount in local currency:** We apply monthly average conversion rates for expenditure throughout the project implementation process, enabling us to monitor FX gains attained over the course of the project and ensures transparency for our funders. All conversions from Ugandan Shillings (UGX) to Sterling (GBP) have been conducted using the monthly average ask rate sourced from [Oanda](#) for the respective month in which each payment was made.
- i) **Detailed budgets and actual expenditure comparison:** The budget and actual expenditure is summarised in the table below:



Activity	Budget (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Variance (£)	Explanation for variance
Construction of a 3-Classroom Block: Providing an additional 180 learning spaces for students.	25,884	24,201	+1,683	<i>We made modest savings on the construction of the classroom block due to a slight decrease in prices for materials and services at the time of contracting, compared to when the original budget was prepared. This reduction in costs enabled us to stay within budget while successfully delivering the full scope of the project.</i>
Furniture for 3-classroom block: 90 two-seater desks (30 per classroom); 3 classroom tables and chairs (1 for each classroom).	4,372	6,187	-1,815	<i>We spent slightly more on furniture than initially budgeted due to a modest increase in the cost of materials. This adjustment ensured that the classroom block was adequately equipped to comfortably accommodate students and teachers, aligning with PEAS' commitment to providing a high-quality learning environment.</i>
Solar Connection for 3-classroom block: installation of solar lighting to ensure a safer learning and living environment. Solar lighting is a sustainable and resource efficient method of providing lighting.	3,279	3,769	-490	
Rainwater Harvesting Tank: the tanks are installed as part of a rainwater harvesting system, which includes gutters, downspouts, and filters to direct rainwater into the tank and remove debris.	2,404	1,797	+607	
Earthworks: due to the topographic layout of the worksite, earthworks to level the ground were conducted prior to construction.	2,186	984	+1,202	<i>We spent less on earthworks than initially budgeted because the layout of the worksite required only minimal levelling. The land's natural suitability for construction significantly reduced the scope and associated costs of earthworks. This efficiency enabled us to allocate resources more effectively while maintaining the highest construction standards.</i>



Preliminaries: Preliminaries include costs for mobilization and demobilization, including transportation of workers and machines to and from site, construction of a temporary storage space on site, feeding of workers for the project duration, and payment of water and electric bills while on site.	546	0	+546	No funds were spent on preliminaries as the contractor was already on-site, eliminating the need for mobilisation or associated preliminary expenses. This allowed us to redirect resources directly toward the construction work, ensuring maximum efficiency and value for the project.
Clerk of Works: A Clerk of Works will be stationed on the site daily to ensure quality control and project delivery on time, they also share reports to PEAS on a weekly basis. The Clerk of Works holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and is paid a monthly salary for the project duration.	1,967	1,298	+669	
10% Programme Contribution: Set in all PEAS’ partnerships, which PEAS includes as standard across all our construction projects. This fee contributes to the ongoing sustainability of the building and the quality of the education offered within it, by contributing to the support services provided by PEAS to the school (e.g., school inspections, teacher training, community education and financial oversight).	4,516	4,516	0	
TOTAL FONDATION EAGLE CONTRIBUTION	45,154	42,752	+2,402	

j) Over/underspend:

Through careful monitoring of gains from exchange rate fluctuations and a slight variance between budgeted and actual contracted rates, we’ve identified an underspend of **£2,402** against the original project budget. PEAS would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with Fondation Eagle how this underspend might be best utilised.

One proposed use of these unspent funds is to reinforce drainage channels around the new 3-classroom block. This would help protect the building from the heavy rains experienced during the wet season in western Uganda. While the current hand-dug trenches provide some relief, reinforcing these channels would increase the sustainability and longevity of the structure.

Details of progress of the project, achievements, challenges, differences, results, impact etc, including photographs.

The Project

In April 2024, PEAS approached Fondation Eagle urgently seeking support for one of our schools in western Uganda – PEAS Aspire. Located in the underserved community of Kashangura, Ibanda District,

PEAS Aspire was built by PEAS in 2016. Since opening, the school has seen overwhelming demand from the local community to provide quality education for their children. In just two years, enrolment at PEAS Aspire surged by 85%, growing from 455 students in 2022 to 842 by 2024, the point at which we sought support from Fondation Eagle.

At that time, the school had already exceeded its 2024 enrolment target by 11%. To sustain this growth and meet the needs of its expanding student body in 2025 and beyond, PEAS Aspire urgently required a new 3-classroom block. This addition would not only accommodate the growing number of students but also help reinforce the school's role as a beacon of hope and educational excellence in the community.

In June 2024, Fondation Eagle generously committed £45,154 to fund the construction of the new classroom block. This support has enabled the creation of 180 additional classroom spaces, providing more young people the opportunity to receive quality education they might otherwise have missed. PEAS is incredibly grateful for Fondation Eagle's partnership, which continues to make a lasting impact on the future of young people across Uganda.

The construction of the 3-classroom block at PEAS Aspire began in August 2024 and was successfully completed ahead of schedule in October 2024. This expansion has greatly improved the school's capacity and learning environment, directly benefiting 842 students and 31 teachers. Moreover, it positions the school to accommodate even greater enrolment in 2025, ensuring its continued role as a cornerstone of quality education in the community.

Impact

- 1. Increased enrolment capacity:** The 3-classroom block increased the school's overall capacity to 1,080 students, with 180 additional learning spaces provided by the new block. Having this additional classroom space has afforded the school the opportunity to continue its growth trajectory to accommodate the increasing demand from the community for enrolling and educating their children. With the additional space, enrolment is now expected to exceed 1,000 students in 2025, which will make PEAS Aspire one of the most populous schools in the PEAS Uganda network.
- 2. Advancing equity in education:** This project directly supports PEAS' mission to provide equitable access to quality education for underserved communities. Located in Kashangura, a rural area where most families depend on subsistence farming, PEAS Aspire now offers more opportunities for marginalised students, particularly girls, to pursue education. By expanding its infrastructure, the school is breaking down barriers that prevent students from accessing transformative learning opportunities, empowering them to shape brighter futures and break cycles of poverty.
- 3. Improved learning environment:** The additional classrooms have reduced overcrowding, ensuring a more focused and student-centred learning environment. With fewer disruptions and more space to engage effectively, students can now thrive in a setting conducive to their academic and personal development. This improved environment is expected to positively impact retention, student outcomes, and overall performance. PEAS is committed to sharing updates on these outcomes with Fondation Eagle in 2025 as we monitor the ongoing benefits.

- 4. Enhanced financial sustainability:** The increased enrolment capacity has also strengthened the school's financial sustainability. By accommodating more students, the school can generate additional income from low fees that contribute to operational costs. Furthermore, the enhanced capacity allows for the enrolment of a substantial Senior One class in Term 1 of 2025 – a critical factor in the school's long-term growth and stability.

This project exemplifies PEAS' commitment to delivering impactful, sustainable, and equitable education solutions, and we remain deeply grateful for Fondation Eagle's partnership in this mission.

Implementation and Challenges

After a robust tendering process, PEAS Uganda contracted Rim-Njee Builders to deliver the construction of a 3-classroom block at PEAS Aspire Secondary School. Construction commenced on 1st August 2024, and we are delighted to report that the project progressed without any major challenges. This smooth implementation was a testament to the strong partnership between the contractors, the PEAS Uganda team, and the local community, as well as the meticulous planning and oversight that guided the process.

The 3-classroom block was completed in late October 2024, with finishing touches, including the installation of a rainwater harvesting tank, finalised in late November. The new block is now fully equipped and ready to support the school's operations for Term 1, starting in February 2025. The additional classrooms will be ready to welcome a new cohort of students, significantly enhancing the school's ability to provide a high-quality learning environment. As the term begins, we will monitor the impact of this infrastructure on enrolment, retention, and student outcomes and look forward to sharing these insights with Fondation Eagle.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact lucy.shearer@peas.org.uk.

Photos – Construction of the 3-classroom block at PEAS Aspire

