NEWSLETTER

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Hello friends, partners and champions of practical science

Warm greetings from the River Flow team! These past two months have been full of hands-on learning, new partnerships, and real, measurable impact in classrooms across Uganda. Below is a clear roundup of what we did, who we reached, and how you can join us as we scale practical science for every child.

Thanks to our partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports, The Ministry distributed 619 science kits to the hands of teachers and pupils across 31 districts in Uganda spanning Central, Western, Eastern, Northern and West Nile regions. This large-scale roll-out means practical science is no longer confined to a few classrooms: whole schools can now run repeatable, hands-on lessons that bring curriculum objectives to life.

Each kit is designed for classroom-tested activities in human models electrical circuits, simple machines, measurement and observation. Instead of memorising formulas or reading about processes, pupils now build, test and record their own experiments turning abstract concepts into tangible discoveries they can repeat at home with everyday materials. The kits encourage curiosity-led learning: questions become investigations, and mistakes become the stepping stones to understanding.

Early feedback from teachers is overwhelmingly positive. Educators report higher pupil engagement, improved conceptual understanding and more confident classroom participation after lessons using the kits. These are small classroom moments with big implications — children who once feared science are now leading experiments, asking deeper questions and imagining futures where they can design, tinker and solve real problems.

VOICES OF THE HEAD-TEACHERS,DEO,AND LEARNERS

I will take the 20 science kits to the selected schools in the single school as per the criteria are given and I will make sure that all the key stakeholders are involved in having the game center where they deliver the school and eventually we shall make sure that we encourage them as per the guidelines and hope the schools will benefit and those schools which will be which will receive them will act as trainer of others so that equipment skills are enhanced in school. Thank you very much.

Nkubba Godfrey, DEO Isingiro

My name is Nasanga Shanita from Primary 7. I want to talk about how River Flow has helped us in science. Before we had the science kit, we used to learn to understand some things. I used to hate science really. Teachers where they got confused, they used to also confuse us because by that time we didn't have the things to see on but now the teacher comes in class. Let me say that it has came to teach about the skeleton. You see the real skeleton.

I am Margaret Muyisya, a teacher at Mbugong'o Primary School located in Kyegera Town Council, Kachwanya District. First of all, I would like to appreciate the President of the Republic of Uganda for the initiative that science be taught in all secondary schools and giving it a priority. Because we know very well that when it is prioritized, the government will put funds to let it move as science is practical, is not based on theories, is not based on assumptions. I also take this opportunity to appreciate the Minister of Education and Sports for selecting the school where I work to be one of the first beneficiaries. And I also appreciate River Flow for the initiative. Really, it has worked.

Teacher Training Boosts Practical Science

In October, River Flow International continued its mission of transforming science teaching by empowering educators through practical training sessions. Our team conducted hands-on capacity-building workshops for science teachers from Buddo Junior School, Buloba Parents, Mutundwe Blessed Primary School, and Mukono Municipal Council, alongside education leaders from Wakiso District. These sessions brought together teachers, headteachers, District Education Officers, and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) to strengthen their ability to deliver engaging, experiment-based science lessons using the distributed science kits.

The workshops went beyond theory every participant handled the science kit materials, assembled experiments, and practiced demonstrations aligned with the primary science curriculum. The goal was simple but powerful: to help teachers shift from abstract instruction to hands-on learning experiences that pupils can see, touch, and understand. Teachers explored low-cost experiments using everyday materials, proving that effective science learning doesn't require expensive laboratories but creativity and the right guidance.

A key part of the training focused on classroom safety and proper maintenance of the science kits to ensure their long-term use in schools. Trainers emphasized care, storage, and sustainable practices so that materials could serve multiple classes and inspire future learners. Teachers also learned how to adapt the kits to their local contexts, integrating locally available resources to make science more relatable to pupils' daily lives.

The sessions sparked a renewed sense of confidence and excitement among educators. Many expressed that, for the first time, they felt fully equipped to make science practical and enjoyable for their pupils. The participation of education officers and CAOs reinforced local government commitment to supporting innovative teaching methods. As one teacher from Buloba Parents noted, "This training has opened my eyes to how simple materials can turn my classroom into a real science lab." These workshops mark another milestone in River Flow International's journey to build a generation of teachers capable of inspiring scientific curiosity across Uganda.

SCIENCE KIT EXHIBITION AT KIBIRIGE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

At Kibirige Memorial Primary School in Kitenda Village, a quiet revolution in learning is taking place. Once a classroom where pupils relied heavily on memorization, it has now become a space alive with curiosity and discovery. Thanks to the introduction of the science kit, lessons that were once limited to textbook explanations have turned into moments of exploration and excitement. Pupils are now designing and conducting their own experiments observing, testing, and asking "why" with growing confidence.

One inspiring example is Damba Wilberforce, a 13-year-old pupil in Primary Seven. Just months ago, Damba was shy and uncertain about participating in science lessons. Today, he confidently demonstrates experiments to his classmates, explaining each step and encouraging others to take part. His transformation reflects the essence of practical learning empowering pupils not just to understand science, but to experience it. His enthusiasm has inspired his peers, turning group work into lively teamwork and shared learning.

The ripple effect of this transformation goes beyond one classroom. Teachers report that pupils are more engaged, attentive, and eager to learn. Science lessons now foster collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving essential skills for the future. What began with one kit and a few training sessions has grown into a culture of practical learning that is reshaping how science is taught and understood at Kibirige Memorial Primary School.

Communications & visibility wins

We coordinated with media houses for publicity around our Practical Teaching events and published a series of stories and multi-media posts that increased visibility for our mission. This amplified partner recognition and helped attract additional local support.

Over the past two months, River Flow International achieved significant communications and visibility milestones that expanded the reach of our work and strengthened partner recognition. We successfully coordinated with media houses including print, television, radio, and digital platforms to provide coverage of our Practical Teaching events. This strong media presence ensured that the story of transforming science learning through practical teaching reached a wider national audience.

Beyond traditional media, our communications team produced and published a series of engaging multimedia stories and social media posts across Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, and Instagram. These posts featured real classroom moments, teacher testimonials, and pupil success stories that brought our impact to life. As a result, our online engagement grew steadily, attracting educators, parents, and partners eager to learn more about the science kit initiative and our teacher training programs.

This increased visibility has not only amplified partner recognition but also drawn new local interest and support from schools and community leaders. The public awareness generated by these efforts continues to open doors for collaboration, media invitations, and sponsorship opportunities. Every story shared is a step closer to ensuring that hands-on science learning becomes a standard practice in classrooms across Uganda.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Scale additional teacher trainings and follow-up support to schools that received kits.

Launch community science demo days to engage parents and local leaders.

Strengthen monitoring and evaluation to capture learning gains from kit usage.

Partner spotlights

We're grateful to:

- Ministry of Education and Sports – for enabling the large-scale distribution of kits.
- Science Teaching & Innovations Africa (STIA) – for collaboration on teacher training and curriculum support.
- We're grateful to Finn Church Aid, Save the Children, World Vision, River Flow partners and local schools – for ongoing program and advocacy support.

(We value every local leader, headteacher and parent who opens a door to practical learning.)