

Two completed projects ...!

Vocational training for underprivileged youth in Manyoni, Tanzania

The Overal Foundation in Nijmegen made €4,500 available to better equip the workshops, organise apprenticeships with local businesses, provide bicycles for students from surrounding villages so that they could attend classes, and supply graduates with a set of tools upon completing their training. Results exceeded expectations

Read more >> [Vocational Training in Manyoni](#)



Vocational training for disabled youth in Solwezi, Zambia

The Overal Foundation in Nijmegen provided €3,500 to purchase equipment and materials for tailoring and furniture making courses. Affordability and accessibility mean that the training centre can only charge limited tuition fees. Therefore, additional income has to be generated. With technical assistance from the Van Doorn Foundation, the organization developed a business plan, which better guarantees the centre's sustainability.

Read more >> [Vocational training in Solwezi](#)

Two new projects ...!

Life skills for young people with disabilities in Colombo—Sri Lanka

The Van Doorn Foundation supported the Daya Mina Centre in Colombo over the last 10 years with various skills-training, as a daytime activity and for some to find employment. To enhance the long-term sustainability of the Daya Mina Centre, it is developing a multi-year strategy to generate income and reduce dependence on donors. For now financial support of €3,800 and some technical assistance are needed.

Read more >> [Daya Mina Centre Colombo](#)



Vocational training by Retired Teachers in Njombe – Tanzania

The Njombe Retired Teachers Association from the Njombe district provides primary and secondary education in remote areas where the government is unable or barely able to provide education. They make education accessible in those hard-to-reach regions. For vocational education, the association has requested refurbished tools and machinery from Vraag en Aanbod Internationaal. The cost of refurbishing and shipping the necessary tools is €3,800.

Read more >> [Retired Teachers Njombe](#)



Scholarships

In May and June, scholarship applications for a diploma or a bachelor's degree vocational education were received, and 21 scholarships were awarded (4 in Uganda, 5 in Kenya, 5 in Tanzania, and 7 in Zambia).

Together with ongoing study funding, this amounts to 51 scholarships in 2025, of which 27 for boys and 24 for girls.

In October, 69 scholarship applications were received for certificate level vocational training, starting early 2026. Only 50% met the application criteria, and 35 students were invited to make a final application.

In November, we received 23 final applications, and in December new scholarships were awarded for certificate level vocational training (7 for boys and 7 for girls).

Awarded Scholarships



Graduated or still busy with their education!



Carlos Ihiro from Kenya

Carlos is studying to become a nurse at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at MOI University in Eldoret, Kenya. It's a four-year program. He completed his third year in July, and wrote us:

"Every day is a learning day as days go by. I have learned a lot physically, socially and mentally. I was initially the class representative. I am humbled to represent the issues of students that concern their welfare."

I am done with my third year of study. I have also received my third transcript. I have enriched my confidence now in clinical practice. The challenge at some point was the economic status which made life sometimes expensive in terms to achieving daily needs. However, I am glad that I was able to deal with it. I also thank God for this far."

We wish Carlos good luck with his last year!

Oder Joshua Ivan from Uganda

Joshua from Uganda is pursuing a three-year certificate in carpentry and joinery at the Skills for All Institute in Lira, Uganda. He completed the second year in December 2025 and wrote to us:

"The training has helped me acquire relevant skills and knowledge in my profession. [...] The study is going well at the institute since we have qualified staff dedicated to their work."

The study and training offered to me has changed my standards because of the skills acquired. This enables me to support our younger siblings in their lower educational levels. I can now sustain myself after being employed in carpentry workshops and construction sites during holidays. So, I am now skilled in recruiting jobs in carpentry and joinery."

We wish Joshua the best of luck with his final year of study!



Tim Evans Odhiambo from Kenya

Tim completed a four-year bachelor's degree at Kirinyaga University in Kenya. His dream was to become a nurse, and he succeeded. On November 18, 2025 he wrote to us:

"Hope this letter of appreciation finds you well. I as one of the Van Doorn Foundation beneficiaries, I'm pleased and overjoyed out of the study support that you granted me since the beginning of my studies in September, 2020...."

On 9th, October 2025 I did officially graduate as bachelor's degree in nursing and waiting for internship placement mid next year. I together with my family hereby pour our baskets full of thanksgiving to the foun-

ation who has been a great pillar during the whole 4 years through tuition fees full support.

Throughout the four years though there have been times of difficulties in survival modes and busy classwork and tight clinical rotations schedules I can attest that tuition fee problems were not one of my problems as the foundation did ensure the fees were paid on time as required by the institution which gave me a humble time to concentrate on my studies, and now that I did finally achieve my degree I give much credit to the foundation for such a kindness.

Congratulations Tim with this great result!

In its 2022–2026 policy plan, the Foundation set out its intention to transfer the scholarship programme to local partners and to offer vocational training institutions, in addition to financial support, technical assistance in the development of policy and business plans. The aim of this approach is to strengthen the management, quality, and sustainability of vocational education. To date, the Foundation has supported 30 vocational training institutions in developing such plans. Here are the latest developments.

Inclusive Vocational Education

The Van Doorn Foundation focuses on young people in vulnerable positions and helps them access vocational education, giving them a better chance of employment and income.

We pay special attention to young people with disabilities. Not with a one-off initiative, but by supporting educational institutions in offering inclusive vocational education sustainably, now and in the future.

“Inclusive vocational education not only teaches young people a trade, but also gives them control over their own future.”

The Foundation supports special vocational education for street children and young people with disabilities in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Sri Lanka.

A project-based approach provides a group of young people one-time access to special vocational education. An institutional approach, on the other hand, aims to strengthen the educational institution itself, so that inclusive education can be offered structurally and permanently and future generations of students can also benefit.

Sometimes a project-based approach is necessary, for example, when a school isn't yet ready to structurally embed inclusive education. In these cases, the project serves as a pilot: to learn, test, and gain experience.

For example: in 2024 and in 2025 Pacer Community Polytechnic in Uganda implemented two pilot programs for special vocational education for young people with disabilities (sponsored by the Wilde Ganzen Foundation). [See video-clip](#). Based on the experience gained, the school is now developing a strategy to sustainably provide permanent and accessible special education (sponsored by the Stichting Overal Foundation). This takes time, commitment, and perseverance, as the school principal emphasizes:

- *“Inclusive education doesn't start with buildings or equipment, but with the conviction that every young person has the right to participate. That's where change begins.”*
- *“We learned that young people with disabilities don't need a separate education, but access. When the door opens, their talent often turns out to be greater than expected.”*
- *“For us, inclusive vocational education means that no one is left behind. Not because it's easy, but because it's fair.”*

“Young people with disabilities do not need pity, but opportunities.”



Transition of the Scholarship Program

The scholarship program was the foundation's only activity when we began in 2001. Ten years later, we expanded our work to also support vocational education institutions in improving the quality of education.

We have learned that when a scholarship is used to pursue an education at a vocational school with limited capacity or low-quality standards, the purpose of the scholarship is not achieved: the student may not gain the skills needed to find work and secure an income. For this reason, since 2011 we have also supported vocational institutions.

“A scholarship is only meaningful when it leads to real skills, real work, and real income.”

After 25 years of running the scholarship program, the time has come to transfer its management to partner organizations in our focus countries. Over these years, we have developed ample experience in how to ensure that: the target group (disadvantaged youth) is reached; the risk of misuse of funds is minimized; scholarships are awarded for training programs that lead to real employment opportunities; and students attend institutions that offer quality vocational education.

In 2025, we started to hand over the scholarship program in Uganda to our partner organisation ELECU. In 2026, the Kenya program will transition to a local partner organization.

“Handing over is not stepping back. It is building forward, together.”

ELECU already has one year of experience implementing the scholarship program in Uganda. Seraphine, director of ELECU, shares her experience:

- *“The locally managed scholarship program supports the localization agenda by ensuring decisions are made with strong knowledge of the local context. Students have direct access to ELECU staff and can easily obtain guidance about their scholarships.”*
- *“ELECU stays up to date on market-oriented vocational courses and maintains regular contact with institutions and students to monitor progress and address any issues that may affect studies. By disbursing funds per semester or trimester after reviewing performance, the program ensures closer oversight and better student outcomes.”*
- *“Through locally managed scholarships, ELECU can demonstrate its ability to manage such a scholarship program and can encourage other donors to provide scholarships to Ugandan students through ELECU.”*



Van Doorn Foundation

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Contact:

e-mail info@vandoornstichting.nl
website www.vandoornfoundation.com
Facebook @VanDoornFoundation

KvK No. 09124064
RSIN 810411945

IBAN: NL 71 RABO 0157 8489 14



FAREWELL TO THE CHAIRPERSON

Our chairperson, Petra, is stepping down from the Van Doorn Foundation after 24 years. From the very beginning she served as our secretary, and in 2013 she was elected chairperson—a role she fulfilled with great dedication. Over these 24 years a great deal has happened and has been achieved, and for that we are deeply grateful to Petra. We will miss her.



A NEW BOARD

At the board meeting scheduled for January, a new chairperson will be elected. In addition, the Foundation will be strengthened by three new volunteers who will assume board responsibilities, support the board in carrying out its tasks, or provide advice on topics such as employment, vocational education, special education, and reintegration into the labour market.

25 YEARS THE VAN DOORN FOUNDATION

The Foundation is preparing for the future. Next year the Van Doorn Foundation will celebrate its 25th anniversary, and a workshop is planned to evaluate the experiences of the past 25 years and, together with our partners in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia, determine the strategy and policy for at least the next five years.

“We want to do even more to give disadvantaged young people the opportunity to pursue vocational education, improve their chances of finding employment, or help them start their own business so they can generate a sustainable income.”

Fundraising results

The Foundation aims for one third of its expenditures to be externally funded. In 2025, we were fortunate to receive € 16,600 from Stichting Overal in Nijmegen and € 5,000 from KWA Bedrijfsadviseurs in Amersfoort for various projects. In addition, we received € 1.600 in individual private donations.

This means the Foundation has achieved 116% of its fundraising target for 2025, for which we are very grateful to our donors and sponsors!

We thank our sponsors and donors for their contribution to a “learning opportunity for everybody” in 2025.

Learning Opportunity for Everybody

The mission of the Van Doorn Foundation is to contribute to the fight against poverty by funding education for vulnerable and financially less fortunate youths in developing nations, in order to increase their chances to find jobs, to provide for themselves and to support their families in the future.

Our target group are young people between 14 to 28 years of age, whose parents cannot or with great difficulty pay the school fees, and institutions (such as formal and informal vocational training centres, technical schools and special training centres for youth with disabilities) who need financial support to make education accessible and affordable for disadvantaged young people.



We wish every one a happy, peaceful and healthy 2026!