IRFF UK PROFILE: Meet the Slovo Study Group students

Edward Hartley April 22, 2025

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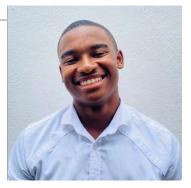
Meet S. Africa's empowered teenagers

IRFF UK recently spoke with five bright young students from the Slovo Study Group—an initiative that provides both moral and financial support to help young people in Joe Slovo township complete their education and pursue their dreams.

The students follow the South African CAPS curriculum through online schooling, offering them a chance to succeed despite difficult circumstances. **The opportunity has been life-changing.**

Ibanathi Buqa

Ibanathi is studying Business and History and aims to pursue Human Resource Management or Education.



"Many kids my age are involved with drugs or gangs, but this program helped me develop positive habits," Ibanathi says. Determined to set an example for his siblings, he remains focused: "There will be struggles — potholes in the road, hills to climb — but everything happens for the greater good." Committed to success, he vows, "I'll keep working hard, making sure your (IRFF UK's) investment in us turns into something

meaningful."



Thoko Madikane

Thoko is upgrading English HL, Business Studies, and History, with plans to study law.

Thoko's passion for justice stems from firsthand experiences. "There's a lot of crime where I live — that pushed me toward wanting to make a difference " she explains.

She hopes to help victims of gender-based violence, stating, "I want to serve justice for free, especially for children and women in South Africa." Determined to right the wrongs, Thoko says, "I want to help, support, and make a change."

Iphelele Baxana

Iphelele is passionate about helping others and hopes to study Physiotherapy or Applied Geology. He enjoys writing screenplays as a hobby.



Joining the study group gave Iphelele direction. "It kept me away from trouble and motivated me to read," he says. While soccer is a big part of his life, he sees physiotherapy as a way to stay involved in sports while making a meaningful impact. Before, Iphelele lacked direction, but: "Now I have a clearer picture of where I want to be in five years." Inspired by his hardworking

sister, he said he now values purpose over short-term thinking.



Ayabonga Mkuhlu

Ayabonga dreams of a career in Human Resource Management while developing his writing skills, exploring theatre, acting and scriptwriting.

"The Slovo Study Group has made a big difference in my life," Ayabonga says. "I saw it as an opportunity — something I'd never had before — so I took it with both hands and stayed grateful for it." Though societal pressure encourages conventional careers, he remains committed to his creative ambitions. "My parents wouldn't let me go to art school unless I studied graphics" for financial stability.

Ayabonga now sees teaching as a way to balance his passion with stability, quietly working on his writing while focusing on education.

Iminathi Kose



Iminathi is studying Business and History and has long aspired to be a teacher and contribute to the education system.

Frustrated with the poor level of teaching, Iminathi would often say to himself: "I could teach this better than my teachers." Growing up in the rough Joe Slovo township near Port Elizabeth, he found solace in the Slovo Study Group, calling its members his closest friends.

Iminathi hopes to become the kind of educator he once wished for: "I wouldn't say I can change the country — that's a huge task — but I can make a difference in my area."

Looks Like a Hopeful Road Ahead!

These students are determined and resilient. They are pursuing their education and planning careers with support from IRFF UK and the Slovo Study Group. Furthermore, they have the mindset to uplift their communities.

We are overjoyed to prove that, with perseverance and encouragement, success is possible — no matter the obstacles. If you would like to sponsor the youth, as always 100% of your donation will go directly to the cause.

Click to donate (Thank you!)

Support IRFF UK today by following us on <u>LinkedIn here</u> and receive even more news and updates!

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If you are in the UK, consider sending a bank transfer so every last penny goes to IRFF UK:

> International Relief Friendship Foundation Account number: 96497645 Sort Code: 60-05-29



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Charity Number: 281776

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<u>Click to Donate to Period</u> <u>Poverty</u>



Your donation helps children access quality education and build brighter futures.

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Help us build biodigester toilets for Destiny Junior School

Destiny Junior School in Kibiri, Uganda, urgently needs your support to build **biodigester toilets** for their young students. This project is critical to improving health and sanitation for 109 infants aged 3 to 6 years old.

<u>Click to Donate to Destiny Junior School's</u> <u>biodigester campaign</u>



Supporting African Communities from the UK UK Based Charity for Africa

Our Charity Is Focused on Period Poverty & Education Support In Africa





IDEF IIV is a LIV based charity for Africa

operating projects across Africa with a **dual** focus on education and addressing period poverty. We are breaking the cycle of poverty by ensuring access to education for all and preventing female dropouts through the provision of menstruation products and education. Through this communities and youth are empowered and Africans are given the best chance for a brighter future.



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Come See What We Do What Areas Does Our Charity Support In Africa?

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Period Poverty

Emergency Relief

Menstruation Should Not Be An Obstacle In Life

As a charity for Africa, IRFF UK holds a strong promise to help underprivileged African girls facing challenges, especially period poverty, which makes it hard for them to go to school. We are dedicated to breaking down these barriers by making sure these girls have what they need for their periods. By doing this, we empower these young minds, giving them the chance to stay in school, learn, and break free from the cycle of poverty.

What is Period Poverty? | Ending Period Poverty



A Small Glimpse At The Difference IRFF UK Has Made How IRFF UK has helped in Africa so far?

Destiny Junior School

Jigger Removal

Home For Children

Kampala, Uganda



IRFF UK built Destiny Junior School in 2009. The children in the local area have thrived ever since!

IRFF UK built Destiny Junior School in Kampala, Uganda in 2009, and has gone on to see more than 500 students graduates go into further education which otherwise wouldn't have happened. £115,000 has been invested in total, starting from £330 a month and now at £1,150 with 206 students in total

Why Choose IRFF UK? What makes our charity for Africa unique?

What sets IRFF UK apart is our commitment to more than just being intermediaries in fund transfers.

Our unique focus is on equipping people with the skills necessary for self-sustainability, fostering independence rather than dependence on Western donations.

We prioritise a comprehensive approach centred on education and empowerment to uplift individuals from poverty.

We believe in creating lasting change by empowering individuals to build a better future for themselves and their communities.

How Can You Get Involved? How Can You Support Our Charities Work In Africa?

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Spreading Awareness

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What Our Donors Are Saying

Your efforts in the areas of education, health and sustainability are vital in certain countries and truly appreciated.My family will continue to sponsor a child at Destiny Junior School in Uganda, and will endeavour to support other causes that IRFF UK informs us about.

Marshall de Souza Destiny School Sponsor

The Women's Federation for World Peace, South London, has been supporting Destiny Junior School through IRFF-UK for more than 12 years. Our ladies sincerely had been helping to provide a better place for the children of Destiny Junior School in Uganda. We believe Education and health are the most important things for the life of the child.

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