

Make education inclusive

Suubi Community Schools in Mubende was named winner for inclusive education in the \$1 million Global Schools Prize 2026. Suubi was chosen from nearly 3,000 nominations across 113 countries.

It is also one of the top finalists for the overall Global Schools Prize. (See *Daily Monitor* of Tuesday May 12, 2026, "Ugandan school wins global prize for inclusive education.")

The Global Schools Prize is run by the Varkey Foundation. The founder, Sunny Varkey says the award is meant to spark a wider conversation on how schools reimagine education.

For this big win, Suubi takes home \$50,000 and a Global Schools Prize Badge for innovation, impact, and opening doors to learning for children often left behind. This also means that the school is now one of the world's most transformative schools.

Suubi serves 570 students aged 5 to 19 and is built on the belief that every child can learn, even in communities hit hard by Ebola and Covid-19 school closures.

Their model includes multi-sensory, adaptive teaching for children facing reading difficulties, attention challenges, language barriers, and trauma from disrupted schooling.

The issue:

Education

Our view:

This system is definitely one to emulate, especially if we are serious about achieving inclusiveness in our education system. No learner should be left behind, especially on account of their need for special education needs. However, this will remain a slogan and a politically correct line in speeches if deliberate steps are not taken to achieve inclusivity.

Students with special education needs take on leadership roles in STEM, arts and vocational projects. This boosts confidence and shifts attitudes towards disability.

Teachers undergo a four quarterly training cycle each year guided by Unicef and World Bank frameworks, to strengthen inclusive classroom skills. They have strong parent-teacher engagement and community dialogue-challenge stigma, focus on supporting girls who face extra barriers to education.

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What the management of Suubi Community schools is doing must be applauded and then used as a

bench mark for other education facilities.

Every effort however small matters, we shouldn't sit on our laurels and claim lack of funds and equipment as the reason learners are regrettably left behind.

Yes it is key for these initiatives to be adequately funded but where funds delay progress, creativity must be engaged to start the ball rolling.

Small steps and creativity on the part of school administrators and communities go a long way in creating desired change.

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