

teaching local materials

FACT FILE

- 1996: Sat PLE at Opia Primary School
- 2000: Did UACE at Vurra Secondary School
- 2003: Graduated as grade III teacher from Arua Core PTC
- 2003: Started teaching at Arua Hill Primary School
- 2004: Teacher at Onzivu Primary School
- 2009 to date: Teacher at Arua Public Primary School
- 2010: Graduated as grade IV teacher at Muni National Teachers' College
- 2020: Graduated with a bachelor's degree in early childhood Development from Busitema University.

municipality.

In the same year, the Uganda National Teachers Union rewarded her with a certificate of excellence after their assessment showed that her teaching methods enabled Primary One learners to read and write easily, which is not common in many public schools.

Also, in 2013, Driciru received a certificate from President Yoweri Museveni for her service during the Teachers' Day celebrations at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala.

Since 2015, Driciru has been working with the National Curriculum Development Centre to develop and edit local languages' teaching materials. This, she adds, has resulted in her being recognised as an early grade reading champion.

In 2018, she says she participated in a contest designed for teachers to showcase their teaching innovations during the national conference for stakeholders in education at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala. She beat over 50 teachers to be the overall winner.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

When schools were closed in March 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19, Driciru was selected by the Arua City education department to lead teachers who taught the children during the pandemic on local FM radio stations. Under the programme, which was sponsored by Save the Children, an international NGO, and the education ministry's Strengthening Education System for Improved Learning (SESIL) intervention, Driciru was hosted on Arua One, Voice of Life and Radio Pacis.

"I still appear on radios to engage parents on education," he says.

Driciru worked with other teachers and personalities to set up seven community-based learning centres in Abirici, Alengo, Oyoze, Ombaci, Anzu and Ariloko and Ajono-yivu cell in Arua during the lockdown under a component of the SESIL programme called Grassroots Nest for Innovations and Change.

Over 500 learners without access to radio and learning materials were taught at the centres during

the lockdown. Driciru says the community learning centres now open over the weekends for learning.

"Since these centres are equipped with computers, they offer an opportunity for learners to acquire ICT skills," she adds.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Driciru, who heads the education department in Arua Youth Development Initiative, a local organisation, says she used her position to mobilise children

through radios to return to school when the lockdown was lifted.

Driciru also attended the Parents-Teachers Association meetings at various schools, such as Ombaci Primary School, urging parents to ensure that their children return to school. She also facilitated sessions during workshops designed to help teachers readjust to the school environment and teaching.

"I started my lessons with words of counsel to learners, urging them to remain in school," she says.

Driciru at school. She teaches learners to read and write by helping them understand the sound each letter represents

