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Uganda Update – Spring 2015

Partnering with the future of Others

Dear Friends,

It's not always easy to know how to write this newsletter. If we write only of the successes of the projects in Kabubbu, donors may think that QT no longer needs support. However if we write only of poverty or those in distress, some reading this may question what QT has been doing for the past 15 years! We believe this newsletter reflects some activities in the UK in support of the positive developments in Kabubbu. Together we are making a big difference - and your support continues to be vital. Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea dates are on the back of the newsletter. Bring friends – and there's lots of time for craft shoooooping!



Burgess Hill School for Girls organised a container for Trust High School. What's inside?



Not a lot when this was taken! But when it leaves the UK in April, it will be filled with cupboards, desks, school equipment and health items. Due in Kabubbu in July when the Burgess Hill team arrives.



QT, always looking for volunteers, exhibited in Eastbourne and received lots of enquiries. Why not volunteer with us? And Enoch visited the UK on a very busy Commonwealth Scholarship focussing on



business & development, mediation, leadership and public speaking. But he still had a little time out to meet and chat with many of you over tea or coffee or lunch in the Eastbourne area. We have another KDP member of staff coming to the UK later this year.

What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development is a popular concept we all agree with. A definition could be something like this: *"Sustainable developments can be defined as developments that address current needs, without compromising the ability for future generations to address and meet their needs"*

However, finding sustainable solutions to problems is not always easy. Conserving the beautiful landscape and trees has many present day and long term advantages but for many there are few alternative choices today. If the people in Kabubbu do not cut and use the wood for fuel how can they cook their food or boil their water? Without boiling the water they risk getting typhoid or other water borne problems. But how can they boil their water without gas, electricity or some finances to purchase paraffin?

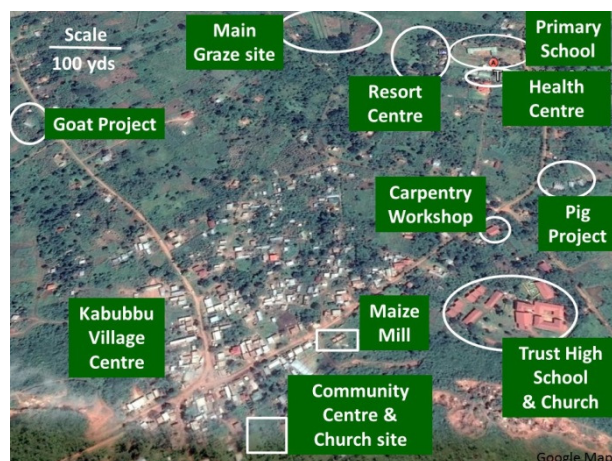
The Quicken Trust / Kabubbu Development Project partnership works to ensure sustainable developments. Sometimes this happens in unexpected ways. We have often wrestled with the question on how, in the future, we can encourage very poor families to pay for education of their children when they're often unable to put food on the table.

We were disappointed three years ago when a land owner, returning from overseas, sought to sell his 300 acres for housing. It was sad to see much of the land that had been utilised by local subsistence farmers for growing food now being built on. One part of our question on sustainability has been addressed with the funding from GRAZE. This training has enabled households to increase their food production.

Now a new picture is emerging as the Kabubbu schools and health centre become sought after attractions for some families moving into the village. The good news is that the families moving in can pay for their children's education and their healthcare. This will, in the long term, reduce Kabubbu's financial dependence on QT. The KDP projects are raising 6% of their annual budget. Only 94% to go and Kabubbu can sustain itself!

We now have £60,000 for the Community Centre/Church project. As student numbers increase in THS so the need for this dedicated church building increases.

Developments 'Out and About' in Kabubbu



Many volunteers who travel to Kabubbu sum up the developments like this:

"I've been reading your newsletters since you first began. I've sponsored a child since 2004, but I had no idea until I came here of the size and scale of the projects. You can't convey it in a newsletter!"

Hopefully, the map (courtesy of Google Earth) will give you a sense of scale and an idea of the scope of the project. Of course, this doesn't

show the 150 homes that have been built or go as far as the foster home or teachers' housing. Despite this we are sharing some stories on recent developments in the village and the impact they are having in a community that a few years ago had no hope.

Recently we visited Milly's family on behalf of her new sponsor. As we worked through the questions, we thought we had met her Mum Jessica before. Then we remembered we had met her two years ago in a tumble down home in the village centre. As we listened a bigger picture of development emerged. For many years Milly's father James has been the bicycle repairer in the village. 10 years ago he was mending 2 or 3 bikes a day and making £3 daily to feed his family. Then the KDP projects developed. Teachers and nurses moved in - and they needed a taxi service of bikes and boda bodas.



Today, James is busy repairing several bikes every day and from his increased income over the past 10 years he has saved enough to buy 1½ acres of land. Now Jessica has plenty of land to grow maize to feed her large family and space to rear pigs! The house they have built has four large rooms. Now it just has brick walls and a tin roof, but later they will render the bricks and paint it inside and out.

Developments in Welfare

Amazing! You have helped us build around 150 x 2 room houses in Kabubbu. About 40 of these are for staff on the project. It's more economical to build a house because transport is expensive for staff travelling daily to and from a rural village.

Sometimes supporters work together in a group to raise funds for a house. Manor Park Primary School, Uckfield raised over £5,000 for Akamada and his family. They sponsor Akamada's education. Pupils, parents and staff, together, raised funds in memory of friend and colleague Ruth Martin who died of a brain tumour. She was passionate about supporting Akamada. A house was drawn on a school wall and as each child raised £1 they bought a brick for the house. Then, Ruth Western, the school's business manager volunteered to visit Kabubbu and share the good news with Akamada and his family.



Developments in Health Care

When we chatted with mothers seven years ago about birth control they had no idea how it worked, and were against trying it! However, recently Nurse-in-Charge Susan, with midwife Harriet, has been holding workshops on family planning in a number of locations around Kabubbu parish. Groups of up to 30 women meet to freely discuss and ask questions. As many of the women have had little or no education they often lack the



Setting up for family planning teaching



most basic knowledge. A programme with lots of good information to improve the health of girls is being extended to the secondary school.

Having a baby when you're young can be risky and Faridah tells her story:

"I'm 19 years old and now a happy mother of a beautiful baby girl. I dropped out of school at 16 when my dad died. I went to live with my aunt and helped her on the farm. Later I got a boyfriend and became pregnant. I went to Kabubbu Health Centre for antenatal care and

learnt that I had HIV/AIDS. This was sad news and I broke down and thought of committing suicide. I was given counselling in the health centre and advised to take ARV medication to protect my baby from catching the virus.

"On Christmas day I started labour and went to the health centre for delivery. I had complications and my baby had foetal distress so I was referred to hospital.

"Because it was Christmas *there was no doctor in the government hospital* to perform a caesarean section. Harriet, a midwife from Kabubbu was with me, and she knew I was scared. She thought I might lose my baby or die. Harriet made a phone call to Susan the Nurse-in-Charge in Kabubbu. Susan said I was to be moved to a private hospital but I didn't know how I could pay the bill there. She reassured me that the bill would be covered.

"I went to Mengo hospital and I was wheeled into the theatre. I had a successful operation and delivered a baby girl. Thank the Lord that I and my baby came out of the theatre. Thank you to the nurses in Kabubbu Health Centre. I thought that my baby and I were going to die, but you gave me a chance and a reason to live again. Thank you and thank you."

Nurse Susan added: "I thank the Good Samaritan who donated money to help mothers who were helpless. The caesarean operation cost £300 and gave Faridah and her baby a chance to live and put a smile on her face."

We also thank donors who gave funds for ultrasound equipment and items for an operating theatre; soon we'll be performing simple surgery in Kabubbu.

Developments in the Church Family & Building Community

Building community is a part of development. Kabubbu is pulsating with life! Groups

work together on knitting machines and growing maize. Some meet to learn English, tell stories, rear pigs or discuss savings. Others come to worship, support victims of domestic violence, pray or share parenting skills. In December we had nine people who started a journey of faith with Jesus. As lives are changed the ripples extend around the community. On New Year's Eve the church family celebrated in Trust High School (the Church meets there). The group invited friends and 400 shared a meal from the donated produce from their gardens. Then they thanked God for 2014, welcomed the New Year in, and prayed for their village, the project and their nation. A sign of spiritual development can be looking beyond ourselves to meeting the needs of others.

Margaret began to attend church two years ago when she moved to Kabubbu. Her husband had died leaving her with six children and no support. She left four of her children with a relative of her husband and came to Kabubbu with two sons hoping to find a home with her Grandma. A few months later her Grandma also died, so her new church family stepped in. They sacrificially provided a meal each Sunday, and with this and some maize from her small garden they survived.



Later she confided in a friend that she had severe pain and problems with her uterus following the birth of her last child (a few years earlier). She attended the health centre and was advised to have a scan, but she had no money. So her church family paid the bill. The doctor advised her to have a hysterectomy because he feared she may have cancer, but her friends in church didn't have the £175 for the operation. Later a visitor to the church heard about her need and paid for her operation. Now she is slowly recovering.

Developments from YOUR Amazing Responses



REMEMBER THE PLAYGROUND APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS 2013? Well, at any single time there may be 200+ children having fun. Here are some on the main adventure platform. And it's all because of YOU that they are having so much fun. Thank you. You made this possible.



THEN THE CHRISTMAS 2014 MAIZE MILL APPEAL. You raised double the amount we needed – AMAIZING! The Maize Mill is almost completely built. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to it and to the LaSER Girl



Guides who started the foundations during their visit in July 2014. Electricity is being connected and then the milling machine and huller should be delivered and connected during April. It is planned to be milling maize by the end of April/early May. We don't hang around! And you are truly amazing!!

Developments in Primary Education

Kabubbu primary school had two students with a Grade 1 pass this year, and one was Henry. Back in 2002 his mother was unable to provide for Henry and his sister Fiona so she left them in Kabubbu with their elderly grandfather. She thought they would at least have a roof over their heads!



Fiona later started school when a sponsor was found. But in a few months she had stopped attending because it was too far for her to walk, so her granddad asked if she could be moved to the foster home to be near to school.

Three months later in 2003 we visited her granddad and met Henry, then aged 3. We were alarmed to find granddad drunk at 10 am and Henry cowering in the corner. Henry was sad because his sister wasn't with him. He asked to be with her. Moving Henry to the foster home was the right move. Within three months his granddad was found dead one morning from drinking heavily.

Henry began in the nursery school in 2006 and thrived. Now he has graduated from primary to secondary school

after gaining a Grade 1 pass in his exams.

The February 2015 report from the head teacher of the primary school highlights some challenges we still have with parents in the local community, many of whom have had little or no education themselves. "We noted that most children who reported back to school this term appeared to be not well cared for. As an example of this a good number of them appeared but had not bathed for so long and their uniforms were unwashed and their bodies were dusty."

Developments in Secondary Education

Trust High also became a sought after secondary school for a very different reason. In January the school ran some short TV adverts that later made an unexpected impact!

Some weeks after the advert a teenage girl in Kampala returned to the school she usually attended. She was frightened when she found some of her fellow students making animal sacrifices and teachers discussing human sacrifices. She was so horrified that she ran away without giving any indication where she was going and her parents searched in vain for her. Later they contacted the Pastor of the Church she attended and discovered he and his family had given her refuge. When they went to collect her she refused to go with them unless they allowed her to attend a Christian school she had seen on the TV.

The parents had never heard of Trust High School or visited rural Kabubbu. But after

visiting they discovered that the school and teachers were good and that exam results were in the top 15% in the country. As the fees were much less than the Kampala school they were delighted for their daughter to transfer there and paid all the fees in advance.

We continue to strive to improve on exam results. Development is a process and for students to graduate to secondary education is an achievement. Teachers often believe in 'work harder and do better'. And the result? Students start in Trust High School at 7.30am and work through to 4.45pm plus they usually study on Saturday mornings and during some of the 'holiday' periods.

'GCSE' equivalent level results:

2013: 13% pass with Grade 1 or 2

2014: 22% " " " "

2015: 20% " " " "

'A' Level results:

52% pass with enough points for university

62.5% " " " " " "

78 % " " " " " "

Our 2015 figures include 4 out of 6 sponsored students who could now go to university if their sponsors are able to support them.

Trust High School position in Uganda based on 'A' Level results:

2013: 341 out of 1570 schools = in top 22%

2014: 235 " " " " = in top 15%

2015: 205 " " 1750 " = in top 12%

Celebrating Development

Volunteers visiting Kabubbu in the autumn often get a special celebration when we have our annual Award Ceremony, and in 2014 we continued this tradition.

The afternoon got off to a good start with some singing from a children's choir in the primary school followed by a colourful display of dancing from Trust High School students.

Then the usual speeches followed by a special visitor. The British High Commissioner Alison Blackburne was invited, as guest of honour, to make the awards to a variety of people in the community. Some had achieved success as the most supportive parent, or the most successful maize gardener. Some received awards for team sports. Alison presented the teams with their winners' cups, but was taken by surprise when a goat was brought in for the celebration meal later that day. This is a wonderful treat for those who only get meat 2 or 3 times a year!



The recipients of awards and the guests are treated to an 'English Tea' in the Resort restaurant with sandwiches and cakes cooked and prepared by the UK volunteers.

And now for News from the QT office

We have just heard that Ben Misindye, Head Teacher of Trust High School, has been granted a Commonwealth Fellowship to undertake some studies in the UK. He will be here from mid-May to mid-June. We are planning an *evening* gathering for you to meet him somewhere in the Eastbourne area on Friday 5th June. Venue and time to be confirmed. Confirmation will be available on our website: www.quickentrust.com, by an email send-out and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/QuickenTrust. Also you could phone our office: 01323 832361 anytime from immediately after Easter. Numbers will be limited only by the size of the venue we can book and so, to be sure of your place, we will be issuing tickets as you request them. Sign up to our Facebook address for latest information.



Other dates for your diary

Contact caroline@quickentrust.com for information on 2015 travel planning meetings and an introduction to volunteering on
Sunday 10 May & 13 September from 3.00pm - 6.00pm in East Sussex

Coffee Morning dates in 2015 are on Thursdays from 10.30am – 12.00pm:
28 May; 25 June; 8 October; 5 November; 10 December



Afternoon Tea dates in 2015 are on Wednesdays from 3.00pm – 4.30pm:
29 April and 9 September



Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea reminders are also sent by email

Last dates for gift envelopes for children/elderly in 2015 are 30 June and 8 October

Other support is always welcome including:

- Fully functioning and cleansed laptop computers always needed
- Donate an unwanted and unused gift for a QT raffle prize
- Buy a gift or item for yourself or a friend from the QT on-line shop
- Think about running a Chari-Tea Party in the Spring or Summer
- Borrow QT display stands, literature and 'Shop-in-a-Box' to exhibit at an event
- Request a list of items for Kabubbu and start searching charity shops and e-Bay
- Introduce a friend to QT or bring a friend or group to a QT Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea
- Become a monthly donor or sponsor an orphan, granny, nurse or teacher
- Run a fund-raising event or a marathon for QT
- Volunteer an hour a week to clean QT offices or longer for simple office administration
- Investors are needed to continue developing the community
- Search charity shops, spring clean at home and collect good board games or DVDs
- Introduce a QT speaker to a Rotary Club, school, church or community group
- We welcome new sponsors for an orphan, granny, nurse or teacher

Finally, a **HUGE THANK YOU** for all you do,
Geoff, Geraldine & the Team