

Uganda Update - Autumn 2020



Registered Charity: 1102474 Registered Company: 5047081



www.quickentrust.com



[/QuickenTrust](https://www.facebook.com/QuickenTrust)



[@QuickenTrust](https://twitter.com/QuickenTrust)



[Quicken Trust](https://www.youtube.com/QuickenTrust)

Thank you for proving that they matter

Desmond Tutu, the retired Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town once said, *'Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.'*

In the UK, through the pandemic, we found we all faced huge challenges in social distancing, redundancy, isolation etc. Our TVs and radios kept us informed and alleviated some anxiety and we came 'to realise our need of one another' as we shopped online, or a neighbour dropped by with essential supplies.

But in rural Uganda, with limited access to health education, radio, or newspapers, many didn't understand what was happening. The strict lockdown brought drastic transport restrictions. It prevented distribution of essentials bringing food shortages, hunger, and fear.

Update on COVID-19 in Kabubbu

During the pandemic, because of some QT Facebook postings, we received donations for soap, water, maize flour and for two more acres of land. One Mum was overwhelmed with her gift of soap as she had a tiny new-born baby but no soap to bathe him with or wash his clothes. Women were frightened as many of their partners abandoned them.

Some ladies who had graduated from 'Farming God's Way' (FGW) are given a KDP allotment for a very small rental. 49 ladies had a KDP allotment - now 16 more ladies have one!

But why do so many need a KDP allotment? Until 2012, 300 acres of privately owned land in Kabubbu was used by 'squatters' for gardens (with some rights for this). Then the wealthy landowner, whose father fled to the USA during the reign of Idi Amin, returned home to claim his inheritance. He sold his land for house building. Many lost the garden they used, and now wealthy households live alongside the poor.

"I visited Kabubbu and was impressed to see the incredible achievements of a small charity, the high quality of every aspect of the project, and the strength, dedication and quality of the local staff."

Paige Ivermee (CEO of a grant making trust)



Delivering the donated maize flour

We have reviewed the FGW project and we estimate in future KDP will need more land at £24,500 an acre for allotments and to feed all the children and staff in the schools. Alternatively, KDP will need to identify a business opportunity that guarantees success, employs women, and enables them to generate an income to buy food for their children. But this would also need investment. Phew! It's so hard to bring self-sustainability.

The KDP Director writes: 'Can the land families were left with produce food to feed their families all year? Truly, No. What they grow on a 6mtr x 6mtr plot is supplemented with what they buy with any little money they get.

Can we ever completely have people in our community who can feed themselves from food they grow from their gardens?

The people with KDP plots on which to grow food can't feed their families if they entirely depend on what the plots produce. Let's assume, for example, Sarah produced 200kg of maize this season. She sells 100kg and gets £15.55. She uses the money for the needs of her kids that are not sponsored, and some for home requirements. She takes the 100kg left over to the maize mill and gets 60kg of flour. She uses 4kg a day, i.e 2kg per meal to feed a family of 6, so it will last for 15 days. If she harvests in July, she will harvest again next January.

Can she feed her family all year? Of course not. Can she support her children in school from the income from this plot, even if she has only one child? Their food and cash requirements greatly supersede what they earn from their plot. However, the plots are vital for the wellbeing of a family that has one. Without a plot the family will be worse off!



A garden with beans

Thank you for creating Joseph's Food Bank

Some mums were desperate for food and not on a list to receive donations from UK partners in May or July. They, and also some elderly people, became so desperate they slept outside the home of our welfare manager, Resty, to ensure they could beg her for food when she woke up. Another mum took all her children to the police station to abandon them as she couldn't feed them.

With maize flour from the 'Joseph's Food Bank' we set up with KDP from donations QT received as the pandemic arrived, we were able to provide some of these people with maize flour. Although many in the UK also found living difficult, it's easy to forget that a pandemic is hardest on the poorest people.

Street Business School

Some women without an allotment trained in the Street Business School. This has also been severely hit by COVID-19. Women selling snacks to children or teachers in the schools found their businesses collapsed. Some couldn't travel to town to buy the materials they needed to continue their work.

Others couldn't travel outside Kabubbu to sell the items they had made so 70% of their income dropped in the first three months. Many women who were just getting on their business feet were demoralised and need encouragement to begin again.

But 5% of the women who sold food items or clothes to customers with disposable incomes or savings, who had recently moved to the big new houses in Kabubbu, thrived!



Yudaya Nakakawa is a granny and a widow aged 76. She has nine dependants at home that she takes care of, so she works in a garden on a farm in Kabubbu. She thought an angel had visited her when she found she had been given a sack of maize as she really struggles to feed her kids. They just have 1 meal a day which is usually supper.

She said "I can't believe it! Imagine, even the government promised to give us posho but in vain. Thank you KDP. I will now have porridge at lunch."

Education

Teachers were unable to work as schools ended abruptly as the virus threatened. Sponsored students in P7 and 'O' and 'A' Level exam years met in small groups of 8 for tuition with their teachers. They will take exams in November. QT donors continued their support, so the teachers had wages. They were so grateful to you for saving them from hunger. Thank you!

All do need to learn how to grow food in the future. So, we're asking partners to help us extend the training for 20 groups x 3 children on 1 acre. Details are on the Christmas flyer at the back of this newsletter

All education in Uganda remains closed through to September and the date to re-open is uncertain. The academic year ends in December and reopens every February. But on February 18th, 2021 President Museveni will stand in elections for a fifth term in office. He has strong opposition, so protests may prevent schools from opening until March!

KDP Review

A review on how the KDP operates was made by a USA funder in March. It highlighted some admin processes, policies, procedures, and procurements that needed strengthening. So KDP held International Board meetings (across 4 countries) by Zoom. Staff consultations in lockdown gave opportunity for KDP admin staff (who worked full time) to make changes.

Students learning how to grow food crops



Your donations in action!



Berenta Nazziwa, a granny who is now too old to do gardening, receiving a cash gift



Bosco Katete signs for funds to buy his motorcycle to earn an income



Joseph Lubowa's mum receives cash for special nutrition for health needs



A cash gift for Sarah Nazziwa, a young person with special needs, and her family.



Welfare staff hand out posho and soap to community mothers



Violet Nakitende's sister receives cash for special food for her sickle cell



Majid Nadduli's mum collects funds for Majid and his brother's medicines



Eric Mbalaga with a cash gift for use at university



Jowan Nablwafu receiving a food storage bucket



Boda boda taxi drivers receive soap so they can clean their hands during the pandemic



Winnie Nakalemmba with parents received garden tools



Sam Ssepuuya receives a cash gift



Rachael Nakalembe's granny received posho, rice, beans, and cooking oil



Janat Balayi received bunk beds, 2 mattresses and 2 blankets



Philip's wife collecting his cash gift. In the Spring 2020 'Uganda Update' we reported on Philip, now bedridden. He had been denied the government pension he was entitled to.



Junior Kanakulya with cash gift to buy a local goat



Ibrahim Mutasa with a cash gift for school needs

As a result of this feature one donor gave £1,000 to repair his leaking roof and 2 donors now contribute to his pension of £80 a month, thank you for caring!

Many others have said thank you for your support to them. We can't include all the photos, but we include just some of many you were able to help. Their faces speak a thousand words.

Blessings in disguise

Many who moved into Kabubbu since 2012 and work in Kampala had never visited the Kabubbu Health Centre. They didn't believe there was a well-equipped health centre with qualified staff and a well-stocked pharmacy in the village. But COVID-19 restrictions on private and public transport meant they couldn't access a health centre in Kampala. So, if they needed medical care, they had no alternative. They were amazed at the quality of service and compassion they received.

Some good statistics reflect how patient numbers and income in health services increased.

	Lab tests	Vaccinations	Caesareans	Maternity care	Births	Income
April	1,488	862	7	61	52	£3,849
May	1,718	628	9	55	45	£4,652
June	1,679	667	13	62	57	£5,011
July	1,805	794	13	95	88	£5,194
Totals	5,350	2,599	42	273	242	£18,706

Recently QT has provided funds for the health centre to buy a large generator (for power failures) and a fridge for a blood bank. Thank you for helping save lives!

Update on the quads

In the Summer 2020 newsletter to sponsors and donors we wrote about the quads born during the pandemic.

Vanessa weighed in at 1.3kg, she's now 4.1kgs.

Valensia was 1.2kg, she's now 3.5kgs.

Frank was 1.2 kg, he's now 4.3kgs.

Valeria was 1.2kg, she's now 4.2kgs.

Against all odds and living in one small room they've all survived and thrived. So far, their mum has spent £386 on baby milk powder.



Thank you!

Moving offices

Quicken Trust office will be moving to Hailsham from 1st December 2020.

Our new street address will be **Sherriff Place, Market Square, Hailsham, BN27 1AG**. The office is located adjacent to Southerden Books and the Link Coffee Shop at the end of Hailsham High Street, by the traffic lights turning into George Street. There are good car parks within 100 yards at Asda, Waitrose, Hailsham Leisure Centre, Tesco and behind the Police Station.

The postal address: PO Box 113, Hailsham, BN27 4US and phone number: 01232 832361 will remain.

Considering a future Director

Geoff & Geraldine have worked full time, unpaid for the Quicken Trust, in obedience to God's calling for the past 21 years. We are so grateful to them for putting their retirement on hold to do this so that others might have a hope and a future.

QT is prayerfully considering employing a full time Director to continue the work into the future as Geoff and Geraldine seek to reduce their responsibilities. This role will need to be salaried and including what are known as 'on-costs' (National Insurance, employer pension etc), will cost around £50,000 pa. QT is also prayerfully seeking paid staff and volunteers in administration roles to ensure costs are kept low. Our 'core costs' including running the office and paying salaries are currently met only through a small number of monthly donations restricted for such a purpose and the Gift Aid we can claim back from HMRC on other donations where appropriate, from tax the donor has already paid, so at no additional cost to a donor.

In future, QT may need to consider taking a small admin fee (a percentage) from every donation or seek regular donations solely for the work undertaken in the UK to enable the developments in Kabubbu to continue to progress. We would value your prayers for this as well. There are still many children seeking sponsors (which in turn will assist in covering our running costs) but our mission is to express God's love in action and to see this wonderful miracle continue. Thank you.

Simon Barnett.

Chair of the board of Quicken Trust.

"We have, for 20 years, supported Quicken Trust. Wonderful times of answered prayer and changed lives. It amazes us that the people of Kabubbu, with so little, regularly challenge us."

Andrew & Sharon Saunders (faithful partners)

Future of parcels and donations

Future of parcels and donations

Because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, two groups due to travel in 2020 have been postponed until 2021. A few letters, accumulated from UK partners in the QT office, have not yet been delivered.

Some partners asked if they could donate money for the child/family they support, and these funds are transferred to KDP bi-monthly. Any 'thank you' letters we receive from children and grannies by email will be sent on to you by email. Please ensure we have your email address. If you don't have an email address and you need them posted on, please contact the QT office: **contactus@quickentrust.com**

Some QT sponsors are in touch with their Kabubbu child by Facebook, email or they transfer funds directly. This is **not advised for students in education** because of international child protection policies. When problems arise either sponsors or students call on QT to sort it out. The issues are usually detailed and complex and can take hours of office time and communications with Kabubbu staff.

To keep QT admin costs low, it now has only 31 weekly paid staff hours compared with 65 paid hours two years ago. **Please don't make direct contact with 'your' child if they are in education either by phone, Facebook, email or social media.** QT will not be able to sort out any problems that arise from such contact. Thank you.

QT can follow up, assist with, or provide the following:

- 1 school photo (June) + 1 school report (December) with newsletters, but not in 2020
- QT can usually enable a letter exchange 3 times a year (in 2020, if emailed)
- 1 Home Visit report
- If a child needs extra support for medical costs or other needs, we will contact you
Maybe a relative or friend can help you to fundraise or support any extra cost

As partners or supporters:

- If a child gives you genuine cause for concern about KDP staff, guardians, abuse, neglect, extreme poverty, or medical needs please ask QT to check it out. Both QT and KDP are registered charities with accountable, professional Board members
- Please don't ask a child to be disrespectful or to mistrust a teacher, a parent or carer

Similar policies operate in other children's charities working cross-culturally.

Regular partners of a child or granny receive 4 Newsletters annually. Others receive 2 Newsletters (so as not to overwhelm you).

Christmas in Kabubbu

It's no surprise that this new year, as they do annually, thousands will meet in small or large buildings across Uganda from 7pm on 31st December to 7am on 1st January to celebrate.



They won't exchange gifts, only a few will have a special meal, and no one has money for fireworks. At Christmas they will meet to worship the living Christ as a family. But on New Year's Eve they meet to thank God as a community for the gift of life he's entrusted to them, and for their safe end to the year. They give their loving God their fears for a fragile future and receive peace and strength for the year ahead.

That looks like a very good idea! We guess we should all do that! But, however you plan to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, we trust you will have good health to enjoy some different opportunities that bring you great joy.

"I have been the accountant with Quicken Trust for 20 years. I have seen how a small mustard seed of a project has developed into a wonderful complex and example of God's sovereignty, and the sacrificial giving of time and moneys."

John Caladine (QT Accountant)



Grow their Future!

This Christmas Quicken Trust is going back to basics to ensure Kabubbu Kids have the survival skills they need for their future.

We want to raise £30,000

This will pay for:

- 1 acre of land for primary school children to learn 'Farming God's Way'. They will learn to prepare soil, plant seed and care for crops through the Graze School of Farming
- Farming equipment! We need seeds, hoes, manure, jerry cans, sacks & wheelbarrows for 60 children
- An outdoor camp for 120 teenagers. They will learn in small groups with role play, short films

Four ways to donate:

1. Facebook - click **Donate Now** button on our **Facebook** page
2. Website - click '**Grow their Future**' button on www.quickentrust.com
3. BACS - Sort code: **405240** Account: **00088771** Reference: **GTF20**
4. Cheque: please make cheques payable to Quicken Trust and return with the slip at the bottom of our 'Grow their Future!' flyer (enclosed with this newsletter)

100% of your **Grow their Future!** donation will be allocated to the Community Development Fund

Quicken Trust

quickentrust.com

01323 832361

Quicken Trust, PO Box 113, Hailsham, BN27 4US

Registered Charity: 1102474 Registered Company: 5047081

contactus@quickentrust.com



/QuickenTrust



@QuickenTrust



Quicken Trust