

Uganda Update - Autumn 2021



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Making dreams come true this Christmas

Dear Friends,

Together, we are achieving much despite some setbacks. We have so many good, positive stories to tell and it's a pleasure to choose just a few to encourage, inspire and inform you as we launch our *Christmas Dreams Appeal 2021*.

In the Bible, we read a report from Matthew about Joseph who had a dream. In the dream God urged him to marry a pregnant girl, but he wasn't the father of the Incarnated baby, so he had hesitated. Later, after the baby's birth, Joseph had another dream. This time God urged him to flee with baby Jesus and his mum, Mary, to Egypt because King Herod planned to kill all boys under the age of two in Bethlehem with the intention that this would include Jesus.

Dreams and visions aren't uncommon in scripture, but today we often don't recognise how God speaks or directs us. Martin Luther King Jr, a civil rights leader, had a different dream. He imagined a future in which his four children were judged not "by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character", a dream that cost him his life.

The dream many in Kabubbu had in 2000 was to see their children being educated. Until 2019, students in secondary schools worked hard from 7am to 10pm daily to achieve those dreams, but then COVID-19 severely disrupted their lives. So, now we need to start again.



I have a dream

Thank you for your generous support

Your generous gifts of over £25,000 averted a crisis in Kabubbu. The Ministry of Health couldn't provide PPE for health centre staff, and in one week in June patient numbers rose to 453. Because you responded quickly to our Facebook post, the Live Stream broadcast and the Quicken Trust newsletter, PPE was bought and helped save lives. Only about 1.5% of the Ugandan population have received a vaccine (noted as 47,512,390 on 28 August by worldometers.info/world-population/uganda-population). The World Health Organisation report of 23 August 2021 states 1,163,451 doses have been administered (covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/ug).



Kabubbu Health Centre staff

In the UK, we read of many children suffering from mental health issues after COVID-19. In Uganda, the lockdown deeply affected many, many children. This comes on top of their relentless daily struggles and challenges.

During our Live Stream in July (now available on 'You Tube') the Health Centre 'In Charge' Mahad and his Deputy, Hasifah, were interviewed. She's a qualified, confident and compassionate nurse who spoke about two long periods while studying for her 'A' levels when she was admitted to Butabika, the national mental health referral hospital.

Earlier in her life, she and her four siblings lived with daily insecurities. Their mum was close to dying from AIDS, the family was in debt, they risked eviction, often hungry and schooling intermittent. Hasifah, as the oldest child, often felt she was responsible for the family. Despite all her struggles, she has succeeded! What helped her to succeed?

Dreams become true in Kabubbu

Diana, Hasifah's sister, had a UK sponsor who visited Kabubbu. While there, she also met Hasifah. She later asked if she could sponsor Hasifah's education. This one 'chance' meeting and the support for Hasifah changed both Hasifah and her family's lives.



Hasifah

At this time, their mum was very sick and there was no AIDS centre in Kabubbu. Without ARV drugs or UK support, 'in faith' Quicken Trust decided to fund mum's tablets at £4 a day, £28 a week, £112 a month, £1,344 a year.

We didn't know how long we could sustain this support but were aware that, without the tablets, five more orphans would need long term support. Two years later the tablets were funded by the Bill Gates Foundation.

Encouraging developments in the Health Centre this year included funding from our long term partners Beattitudes for a block of six new houses for the nurses. They have now relocated. Their old homes, located alongside the Health Centre, are undergoing renovation as private patient rooms with en-suite facilities. However, why are we providing for private patients?

During lockdown, some new well-paid residents living in an eight-mile radius of Kabubbu discovered the Health Centre. Public transport was restricted and prevented many from accessing private medical care in Kampala. We believe this new facility will now provide some extra income to subsidise many who can't afford their medical care.

Thank you for changing the lives of Patience and her family. Your gifts built the walls and put a roof on their home after their father had suddenly died, leaving them both bereaved and destitute.



Thank you from Patience's family

COVID-19 Recovery Programme

After focussing on the COVID-19 health threats in the community, we started to breathe a sigh of relief as lockdown began to reduce the spread of the virus. Then the long term effects of COVID-19 started to emerge as, by December 2021, millions of children in Uganda will have been out of school for two academic years. Some have scavenged, some lost interest and a few teenage girls became pregnant. Only students in exam years could meet to study.

This Christmas your donations will be used to escalate the COVID-19 Recovery Programme for children to learn while out of school. Without access to TV, radios, social media or other ways of learning, the children lost their daily routine and their drive to study. We now urgently need to make up some lost time and restore the community dream of a better future.

Small children, who usually start school aged seven, will now be aged nine IF they can start at the beginning of the new academic year in February '22. So, their future is under threat.



Children in Nursery



Children in Kabubbu
Primary School



Students in
Trust High School

The COVID-19 Recovery Programme will include organising children into groups of six for outdoor learning. A teacher usually has 60 children in a class, but outdoors children are taught in groups of 6. With a limited teacher/child ratio each child will only be taught one day in 10. Teachers will, therefore, need assistants to support them and this costs extra money.

Tech to support school children

Recently the Kabubbu Development Project (KDP) had a small sum of money remaining in their account and we discussed the possibility of them using some funds to begin the recovery programme for children not in school. Funds were used to buy some extra textbooks and 'EduTabs' with built-in lessons for some children in the primary school. It's a 7" android based mini-touchscreen educational tablet. Some students in Trust High School received a smartphone to download lessons. All learning aids in Uganda are expensive. They cost £33 -£88 each and the schools need many more.

Despite lockdown and loss of freedom, 56 children in their last year of primary school sat exams in April. This was just before the second wave of the pandemic hit them. 54 children passed but only two achieved a Grade 1 Pass. Many of our younger children were badly frightened by the earlier lockdown. However, students studying for 'O' and 'A' Level exams at Trust High School revelled in being taught in small attentive groups. They achieved good grades. At 'A' Level, all six of our sponsored students achieved 14 or 15 points out of a possible 21. Therefore, with grades well above 10 points, they all qualify for university.

Throughout the crisis your donations have sustained the community. Without any government support, all the KDP staff have been paid, food has been provided in the community and medicine supplied to all in need. Thank you for your gifts.



A group of community members receiving sacks of maize flour

Sponsored children succeed, and later support themselves

Margaret lost her father when she was in primary school. She was the fifth of six children under the loving care of their mother, Robinah.

Later, while in primary school, Margret visited the UK. She was a member of the Kabubbu Children's Choir performing at Eastbourne's Congress Theatre and she met her sponsors.

Because Margaret had a regular committed sponsor through primary and secondary school up to her 'O' Levels, she could qualify to study for two years on a Nursing & Midwifery course in Mengo School of Nursing. After graduating, she volunteered in the Kabubbu Primary School.

Last year she almost achieved her dream of becoming a nurse in Kabubbu Health Centre, but she delivered her first baby around the interview date and was unable to attend. She works in a pharmacy near home earning £35 a month, while patiently waiting to apply again.



Margaret



Phiona doing a pedicure

Phiona is now 24. She also had an opportunity to visit the UK with the children's choir. As a six year-old orphan she was the first child to be cared for in the KDP foster home when her grandfather was no longer able to support her. He died a few months later.

After primary school and 'O' Levels in Trust High School, Phiona chose to study beauty and hairdressing. Immediately on completing her two-year course, she was offered employment in a salon in Kampala. Now, four years later, she specialises in beauty, manicure and pedicure, earning £65 a month to support herself and her two-year-old child.

Alternative ways of measuring poverty

Over the past 20 years, Quicken Trust has raised over £10,000,000 for the KDP to construct the facilities needed for education and health and to develop many other vital programmes.

While focusing on this huge task, other problems have developed ... POVERTY!

We knew many in Kabubbu were in poverty. We funded and created some income-generating activities, also distributing food from time to time. Only now do we know the scale of the poverty, usually defined as those 'living on less than a dollar a day' (72 pence). However, a problem with this definition arises when a researcher asks a family a question about their income. The family may think they can further benefit if they tell the researcher they earn less than they do. Conversely, if a family is proud, they may feel too embarrassed to tell the researcher they earn so little, so they may inflate their real income.

How then can we accurately measure poverty?

A university researcher in Kampala, assisting the KDP on community development, found a new way of defining poverty. The researcher designed a questionnaire to determine if a family has 1, 2 or 3 meals a day. They interviewed 178 family guardians and asked what each member of the family ate at each meal, each day. The researcher found:

- 43% of the families had three basic meals a day (maize flour and, sometimes, a few beans)
- 35.4% could only afford two meals a day
- 15.7% had only one meal a day.

The research found that 100% of the children aged under three were malnourished. The scale of the problem shocked Enoch, the KDP Executive Director who has lived in Kabubbu for 20 years. We are also shocked, as many now appear to be poorer than in 2002.

To check if their research was correct, the researchers weighed each child aged under three and measured the upper arms - and yes, it was true! This research also helps explain why some children who have started school in the last seven years haven't thrived educationally to the same level that our small children did up until 2014. It has long been recognised that hungry children aged under five often have delayed cognitive development and health issues leading to poor academic performance. (Borgenproject.org/effects-of-hunger-on-education).

Why are so many children in Kabubbu now malnourished?

- There are fewer income-generating activities since the village quarry was sold
- There's a shortage of land for cultivating as very few now have 'squatters rights'
- There's a shortage of land for cultivating since land was sold for housing
- Many more families are now living on less than £22 a month.

Recently a pilot scheme with 42 HIV/AIDS+ children began with funding from a grant. Children received nutritious millet flour, sugar, eggs and soap each month when they attended the clinic. This, as you can see below, costs £6.73 a month, per child.

Item	Unit Cost	Quantity issued to each child	Total cost for one child	Total cost for all 42 children
Sugar	77p	2kgs	=£1.54	£64.68
Soap	77p	1 bar	=£0.77	£32.34
Porridge flour	88p	2kgs	=£1.76	£73.92
Eggs	£2.66	1 tray	=£2.66	£111.72
TOTAL			=£6.73	£282.66

£282.66 between 42 children = £6.73 each

Quicken Trust also did some research and found a recent report, 'State of Food Insecurity' released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. It states that in Sub-Saharan Africa 66% (724 million) now suffer moderate to severe food insecurity across the continent. This is up from 51% in 2014, so food insecurity has increased by 15% over seven years. This is before the UK government's recent decision to reduce its international aid budget.

Food problems will intensify with climate change, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations convened a Food Systems Summit on September 13th to address global failures to meet the Sustainable Development goal commitments.

It would be terrible, having prolonged children's lives with vaccines to prevent childhood diseases and invested time and love in their education, to find children die of hunger.



Children in Nursery

Invite a friend or family member to become a sponsor

Kabubbu's problems of malnourishment also coincide with a Quicken Trust drop in the numbers of child sponsors. During 2002-2015, we had 30-40 new sponsors each year pledging £30 a month. Later, other monthly donors supported breakfast and school lunch during school time at £15 a month with the child's guardians paying school fees. Now, the number of new child sponsors each year has dropped dramatically as you can see below:

In 2016 we had 24 new children sponsored	
In 2017	23
In 2018	14
In 2019	8
In 2020	4
In 2021	1 (from 1 January to 31 August)

Quicken Trust has been blessed with many generous donors contributing regularly for a child, granny or a school meal. Your monthly donations help us to plan, but more importantly provide a regular amount of money that we can send month by month to support the various programmes in Kabubbu that are helping lift people out of poverty and transform lives.

If you are regular reader and are not a donor, may we urge you to consider donating a regular small amount each month. Many of us enjoy a cappuccino from our favourite coffee shop two or three times a week. If you could give up one cappuccino a week, the money saved could help provide two square meals a day for a school child in Kabubbu.

If you are regular supporter, may we encourage you to invite your family and friends to consider becoming a regular supporter too? For £15 a month, your relative or friend could be part of our *School Meal Appeal*, whereby our school children receive a nourishing breakfast and lunch each school day – helping set them up for a full day of learning. Your relatives or friends may just wish to give a regular amount to help pay for education resources like the basics of textbooks, exercise books, pens, crayons and pencils etc.

Why not introduce Quicken Trust to your family and friends by giving them this newsletter. You may wish to consider buying alternative Christmas presents for your loved ones from our *Christmas Gifts for Kabubbu* leaflet enclosed. By letting them know what you have donated you could invite them to consider supporting us too.

To support our School Meal Appeal please visit:
www.donorbox.org/qt-schoolmeals

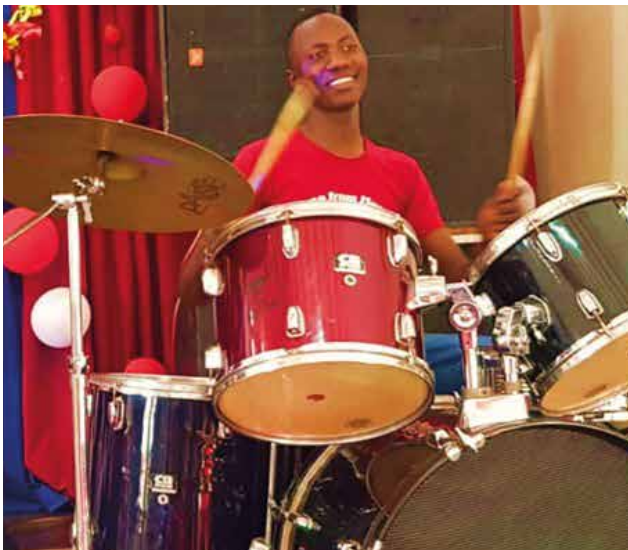
Deo's dream

Deo wrote his story and called it 'an elusive dream' but when we read it, we thought it was a dream come true! You too can make dreams come true by supporting our *Christmas Dreams Appeal 2021*.

Deo's father died in 1999 when he was a year old. His mum had no work or income to support herself and her three sons, so the KDP selected Deo for a sponsored education. His sponsors were a group in Living Stones Church, Eastbourne. They funded and prayed for three children.

After completing 'A' Levels, Deo began studies at Esom Music School (www.esom-music.com). He focused on drumming and learning the violin, and he loves jazz. Now aged 22, he views his education as the best opportunity to prepare for a future career, but he doesn't take his support for granted. He's also gaining work experience at Kingdom Media (KTV) as a drummer on their live TV programmes. He earns £1.20 a day for his work. He spends 48p on transport and saves the remaining 72p each day. He's also gaining experience as a volunteer in the worship group in Kabubbu Community Church.

His elusive dream is to help other orphans near where he lives. He would like to pass his music skills, knowledge on repairing instruments, farming and counselling on to other children. His dream is becoming less elusive. He's completed two years in college and will graduate in 2023.



Deo drumming

Christmas Gifts for Kabubbu and Thank You

In addition to our *Christmas Dreams Appeal 2021*, our traditional *Christmas Gifts for Kabubbu* leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter. Please do consider making an extra gift this festive season. These additional gifts are so appreciated by the families of Kabubbu because they bring a little extra Christmas cheer to those who face such adversity day by day, reminding them a little of the hope the season brings to each one of us.

A special thank you to friends and volunteers who have Open Gardens and organised tea and coffee events. It was so good to reconnect with you all again, face-to-face! If you would like to join our growing number of Open Garden hosts for the 2022 season, or have other fundraising activities that you are planning, then please contact us by email at contactus@quickentrust.com.

Also to our more athletic supporters. Some events will have taken place before you receive this newsletter, but their fundraising pages should still be open if you wish to support them.

- Georgie & Jo who walked the *South Coast Challenge* (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/georgiejowalk)
- Andrew & George who prayer walked part of *The Ridgeway* (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/george-hooper1)
- Charlotte Dodds is running in the COVID-19 delayed 2020 *London Marathon* on 3rd October, 2021 (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-dodds8)

Open Lunch Invitation

Geoff and Geraldine, founders of the Quicken Trust, are guest speakers on Wednesday 13th October at Christchurch, Rope Makers Centre, Rope Makers Park, South Road, Hailsham, BN27 43GY. You, your family and friends are invited to attend this open event. Coffee is available from 11am and tickets are available in advance from paul@paulendersby.co.uk or phone 01323 442 485.

Whatever you are dreaming, imagining or even praying about for this Christmas, we join you in watching, listening and expecting new and better things for the year ahead.

The Quicken Trust team wishes you
a Happy Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

To donate online to the Quicken Trust please
visit quickentrust.com/donate