

Uganda Update - Spring 2021



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We Survived!

2020 was a year we will all forever remember! All of us reading this are thankful we survived. In Uganda it's recorded that 341 people died, but in rural areas with only 3.4% registered at birth, the exact number may never be known.

Daily life and routines in Kabubbu were disrupted and children had no books, entertainment, or video games to occupy them. With poor communications and without TV or newspapers few understood what a COVID-19 enemy looked like. But they obeyed the rules. Families of up to 12 people packed into a tiny home, 12ft x 12ft, and huddled together in the dark from 7pm until 7am.

The poor have learned to wait in queues for food, for mosquito nets, and for water. Now they wait for the vaccine. Will it be this year or next year? They don't know, but they know they will get it long after we in the West are protected.

In Uganda many went hungry. Without the support of QT donors, many in Kabubbu may not have survived. Kabubbu teachers were retained on a reduced wage. They remained in their KDP home. Families received food and soap and at Christmas you wonderfully blessed children, grannies, and many others.

114 families had meals of meat and veg, 138 had sacks of maize and 112 Christmas cakes were handed out– all totalling £11,097.45.

The *Grow their Future!* project for land, seeds and tools met its target of £30,000. A grand total of £41,097.45 was raised over Christmas.

Words can't express the joy in Kabubbu because families knew you remembered and cared for them. Thank you.



"I have no words to express my happiness, but may God bless our sponsors and Quicken Trust."

- Resident receiving Christmas food

Kabubbu women with their Christmas cakes

Some survived and were surprised...

A young lady recently moved to Kabubbu to escape from her violent partner.

On Christmas Day she was walking through the village centre on her way to meet with others to share their religion. On her way, she heard singing and exuberant joy being expressed in the songs and found herself being drawn into a building nearby.

She listened carefully as she heard about a God who came to earth and who changes lives. Then later when the speaker asked if anyone would like someone to pray with them, she ran forward to ask. Now she's surprised at the difference talking to Jesus makes in her daily life.

Some survived and thrived!

Your donations for the Quads, born in April 2020, ensured they not only survived but thrived.

Over £900 raised by QT donors provided milk, a home help and baby clothes. Their milk runs out in May, but they're now on some solid food - and they love bananas! Thank you for caring.



The quadruplets doing well

Some survived, thrive, and are alive

Some QT donors give monthly to fund Kabubbu Health Centre. From your gifts, great achievements are made. On average 738 babies and children are vaccinated every month against measles, polio, or other viruses - that's 8,856 a year! When donors support the health services, they choose to donate from £5 upwards. There's no letter-writing to beneficiaries and QT has regular updates in its Newsletter.

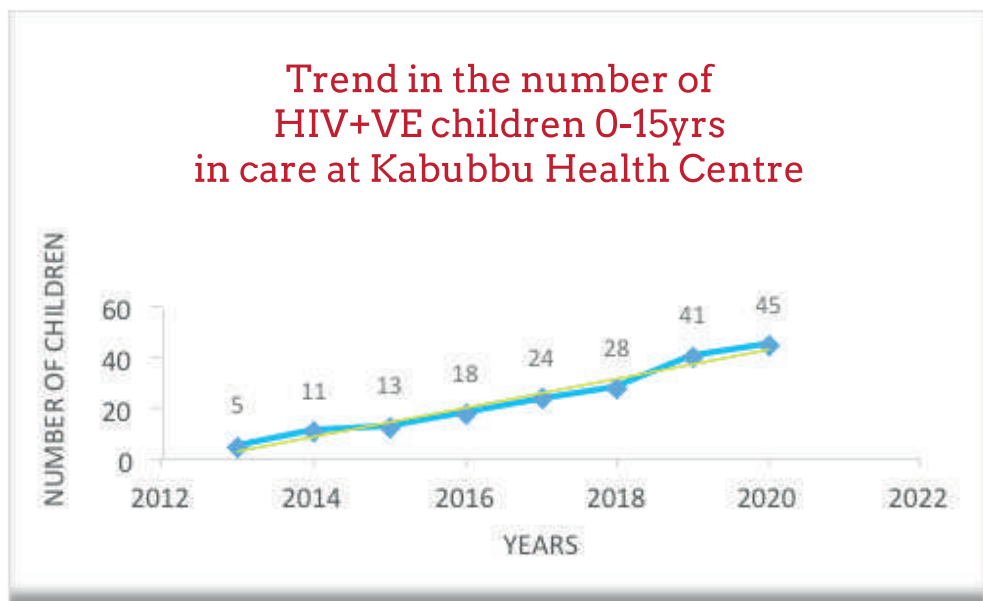
Mums and babies are alive in Kabubbu today simply because of our committed donors. It began in 2014 when QT received a large gift of £50,000 from a lady who was celebrating her 50th birthday and wanted to ensure Kabubbu began a maternal health programme. Then, in 2019, we received a 3-year grant from a trust of £2,250 per month to continue the antenatal, safe delivery, postnatal and family planning services. From 2018 to December 2020 appointments for antenatal rose by 136%, deliveries 123%, and caesareans by 311%. That's a lot!

We thank our donors and grant-making trusts for looking after our mums and babies in and beyond Kabubbu.

In 2020 the Kabubbu Health Centre raised an income of £54,263. Their total annual budget is £151,762, so 35% is now raised locally.

In 2021 the same grant-making trust also funded a block of six nurses houses. The original houses, located alongside the health centre, are being converted into twelve ensuite private patient rooms. During the pandemic staff learnt that some new patients living in a nine-mile radius of the health centre could afford private treatment. The improved facilities will enable the health centre to raise extra income and ensure that local patients, with only a very few spare coins to pay, can continue to access subsidised treatment and medicine.

No mother delivering a baby in Kabubbu has transmitted the HIV virus to her baby since 2012. But babies born elsewhere may have the virus and 42 children now travel from nearby villages to attend the HIV clinic and collect their ARVS drugs. The drugs are more effective when a child's immune system is boosted, so good nutrition is vital. The graph below shows the increase in the number of children attending the HIV clinic in the past seven years.



Source: Kabubbu Health Centre Dec 2020

Easter Appeal

Recently, 42 small children who are poorly nourished and HIV+ have been receiving two trays of eggs, 2kg of sugar, 2kg of porridge and a bar of soap each month to help keep them healthy. The costs per month just for the eggs and soap are shown here.

Item	£ per child per month	£ per month for 42 children
SOAP (1 bar)	75p	£31.50
EGGS (2 trays)	£5.00	£210.00
TOTAL	£5.75	£241.50

We also have other poorly nourished children in Kabubbu, but they aren't HIV+. Some struggle in school because their daily diet of maize flour and water was not adequate in the first three years of their life.



A child enjoys his gift of food

Bring life at Easter!

On Good Friday we often reflect on Jesus, who chose to give up his life for us. Then on Easter Sunday we celebrate how he overcame death and came back to life. An (Easter) egg has come to symbolise this.

We've done the maths, and 122 of the children at Kabubbu Primary School still need help getting vital nutrition to help them grow and learn. By making a gift this Eastertime you can give them the best start in life.

A gift of:

- £5 pays for two trays of eggs that provides protein to a growing child
- £5 per month provides eggs to improve a toddler's pre-school development
- £15 a month covers the cost of two nutritious meals, helping a non-sponsored child to sustain good health and learn

Please fill in the My Gift form to give your Easter gift!

Some survived, but strive to make up for lost time

Children in their last year of primary school, and those taking 'O' and 'A' levels, were pleased to return to school last October. In the past few days, many of these students took their exams.

Across Uganda, a phased enrolment of other students began early in March. This continues with colleges and universities recommencing education in March and April. Unlike our own children and families in the UK who have struggled with home schooling but have had access to many forms of educational support and regular food supplies, the children in Uganda will have lost a complete year of education. In Kabubbu we have sought to keep teachers in their homes and supported children and families with resources as much as possible.

Trust High School in Kabubbu has improved facilities to attract boarders from the city. During lockdown a new girls' dormitory block was constructed with indoor shower rooms and septic tank toilets - much better than pit latrines! The extra income from these students ensures local students receive subsidised lessons.



Girls' dormitory building at Trust High School

“Many staff have approached me and thanked you, Quicken Trust, for the support however small that they have been receiving this year despite being off duty.”

- Enoch Kagoda

Some survived, but are deprived

Life is very tough for kids in Uganda. As dawn breaks, and before they go to school, children must collect heavy jerry cans of water from the bore hole for their families, before walking to school at 7am. This daily routine is repeated, along with other chores, after they arrive home from school at 6pm.

Children in rural Uganda are often neglected and abused. Twin girls Babirye and Nakato recently arrived in the community and went to the church. As time passed they made friends and shared their story. Their mum had died a few years earlier when they were ten and she left them in the care of a neighbour. Later the neighbour couldn't afford to keep them, so the girls became housemaids.

Much later, the twins met their grandmother. She wasn't able to help them, but she did tell them their father had not died. He was alive and in Kabubbu.

The girls came to search for their Dad. They found him and he agreed they could live with him. But they soon found he was always inebriated and often violent. He beat them with a panga, chased them from his home and they slept in the garden. In the daytime they found work in Kabubbu doing gardening. In exchange for their work they earned a meal a day.

Pastor Peter heard their story and intervened. He invited their father to accompany him to the Local Council Chairman who would decide what could be done to help the girls.

As they discussed what to do, their father said he didn't want the girls in his home any longer. He asked the Chairman to write a document for him to sign to confirm he disowned them.



Nakato & Babirye

Now Peter and his wife Janat care for Babirye and Nakato. They already support four others in their home, none of whom are relatives, but have chosen to show this incredible generosity despite the cost.

**If you would like to help the twins,
please fill in the My Gift form**

Some died...

QT recently wrote to the sponsor of Patience, now age twelve. Her father Godfrey and mother Peninah were hardworking and reliable members of the community. However, both parents came from poor uneducated families and so could not easily find work. Without inherited land they had no garden to grow food. The only work available was in the local stone quarry, smashing boulders into ballast to sell for construction. If both worked hard, they may earn £5 each per week.

Despite this, the couple valued education. They worked hard to ensure their children weren't deprived, and paid the school fees for their four other children aged nine, eight, six and four. Godfrey also made bricks. After a few months he had enough money to buy an £8 bag of cement. After several years he had half-built a small home.

But in January, tragedy struck. Godfrey collapsed in agony at work, and died. It was thought he had suffered from a strangulated hernia, but couldn't have afforded surgery, which would have cost £300.

The children have lost their father, one of their providers. The house remains unfinished, without a roof or even a front door. And the children may now be unable to complete school.



House needing completion

We thank the sponsor of Patience who, overnight, increased her donation to ensure the family at least had some food. We would like to raise enough money to complete their house as well, giving them a secure place to live.

**If you would like to help Patience's family,
please fill in the My Gift form**

What you can do

Bond, a network of international development charities, reported that 66% of NGOs have already cut back on staff in the UK and overseas. QT too has noted a big dip in funds in the past year, simply because with restrictions in lockdown we were unable to organise additional fund-raising events. However, we thank God that our regular monthly supporters have remained committed to QT.

There are lots of simple ways you can support the village of Kabubbu. Our supporters have:

- Asked friends not to give them a birthday or a Christmas gift, but instead send a donation to QT.
- Initiated fund-raising projects or set themselves sponsored challenges to complete.
- These can now be virtual events, held online. So, while we're looking for things to do in lockdown, why not fundraise remotely with friends?

Sometimes QT receives a legacy in someone's Will. Five years ago, we received a sum of £20,000 from a lady who had lived and died in Essex. She wasn't on our mailing list, we didn't meet her, and don't know how she heard of QT's work. But the legacy arrived when QT most needed it.

Thank you to our supporters who in recent months have added QT in their Will. If you, spouse or partner would like more details about leaving a gift in your Will to the Quicken Trust please visit our website, quickentrust.com. Even a gift of 1% of your estate can help make a difference to the people of Kabubbu.

How to donate

There are lots of online and digital platforms that can be used to collect and send donations. JustGiving is a popular online way to give and you can also use Stripe. These can be found via the **Donate** page of our website, quickentrust.com. Although these services charge us a small admin fee, they are the simplest ways to raise and send the funds from your amazing fundraising challenges for QT.

Or you could collect the money and send a BACS payment to our CAF Bank account: Acc: 00088771 Sort Code: 40-52-40. Provided they give you permission, please remember to send an email to ContactUs@quickentrust.com with the name, address, and email contact of those who donated towards your initiative.

QT staff will drop the donor a 'thank you' line for their donation and send a Gift Aid form (if the donor pays income or capital gains tax) for them to complete. Gift Aid raises us an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. It all adds up!

Some survived and retired

Thank you to those who kindly sent Geraldine a gift, a card or lovely words of appreciation on her retirement. The work in Kabubbu continues and QT's aims remain as they were in 2001: 'To show the love of God in action to the Kabubbu community. We aim to demonstrate this through the provision of the resources they lack, to assist the community in training and acquiring the skills they need to sustain the projects commenced, and provide for themselves'

Geoff and Geraldine are thrilled that the resources they lacked for major infrastructure development to provide clean water, electricity, primary and secondary education, vocational skills, services for primary health, an AIDS centre, maternal health and minor surgery were provided, as well as developing Christian spirituality and welfare for the elderly and vulnerable children in care.



Geraldine Booker

Now, showing love through words and actions in Kabubbu will continue. QT aims to keep providing funds to enable the KDP to replace vital equipment, and assist in generating additional income. QT aims to continue maintaining vehicles, supporting salaries for 120+ staff and ensuring donors are found to support children in school and provide good food. We hope to train graduates with skills and provide small tools and equipment needed to support themselves. Some may later work on the project.

We will ensure all the life-giving support systems through the church, welfare and health services thrive.

Quicken Trust appoints a new Director

The QT Board has appointed a Director for the next stage of QT's UK growth to support Kabubbu. Paul Pirie was appointed and started with QT on 15th February. After a week of induction, he moved to the QT office in Hailsham.

Paul has held significant charity positions for 30 years, having worked for The Salvation Army nationally and internationally in Business Development, Marketing, PR, Fundraising and Social Enterprise. He has also served as Business Development Manager for I-CAN, a children's communication charity and recently helped lead a strategic turnaround for the Film & TV Charity.

When leading the international Salvation Army's fair trade programme, Paul visited social enterprise programmes and communities in East Africa. He witnessed how poverty can be devastating and quash all hope, aspiration, ambition and love. However, with appropriate skills, training, trust, and a little investment the interventions led to sustainable futures for those in most need.

Paul said, "I'm thrilled to be leading the Quicken Trust in supporting the people of Kabubbu. I realise to be effective post-Covid-19, we can't treat our operations as 'back to normal'. We need to be bold and treat this as a step change to new opportunities; helping to build a connected and resourced community. With the trustees, staff, supporters and people of Kabubbu we need to develop and deliver a radical way to build capacity and resources to aid our goal of self-sustainability."

Paul added, "I can build on our founders' pioneering work. I know with God's help we can provide a transformational difference to the thousands of people living in Kabubbu in poverty with little or no hope."

Simon Barnett, Quicken Trust chairman added, "I am delighted that Paul has been appointed as Quicken Trust Director. It will be an exciting journey as there is still much to do as we continue to build towards sustainable futures for the people of Kabubbu, building on Geoff and Geraldine's inspired voluntary work."



Paul Pirie - Quicken Trust Director

Open Gardens for Quicken Trust

Easter heralds Spring. Spring means gardens bursting into beautiful bloom.

Soon we might even be able relax in our gardens with family and friends! Would you consider opening your garden, with cream teas, to support our work?

If selected to be one of our Open Gardens we will provide a pack of resources, publicity materials (posters/flyers to print, email template etc.), a how-to guide, hints and tips, free tea and coffee supplies (sponsored) and lots, lots more...

Interested? Please email

ContactUs@quickentrust.com with your details, a few photos of your garden and possible dates/times you will be willing to open your gates.



Tasty cakes in the garden

If you have a smaller garden, allotment, or community space, why not get together with neighbours so visitors can visit several gardens or plots. Be part of our new summer venture - a great way to celebrate summer and the outdoors, whilst supporting our work.

And finally - as we come out of lockdown - Let's Meet Up!

When lockdown ends, Geoff and Geraldine, as Founders, are happy to be out and about sharing more of their amazing 20 years of QT stories and hopes for tomorrow.

Plan now to invite them for an inspirational illustrated talk which could be part of a breakfast club, school assembly, coffee morning, lunch club, afternoon tea, an evening event or club meeting. Email **ContactUs@quickentrust.com** with locations, possible dates, and times.

Keep an eye on **facebook.com/quickentrust** for our upcoming activities and further stories to inspire you.

**Blessings and best wishes from the QT team for Easter
and our gradual 'unlocking'**