

Spring 2022 Newsletter



Update from the Chair

Last month we wrote to share the many wonderful stories from Kabubbu, and incredible accounts of God's love and provision.

We are thankful for the £35,000 given to our Christmas Dreams Appeal. Families and children in Kabubbu were blessed with 114 Christmas cakes, 156 Christmas dinners, and enough funds to purchase resources educating children returning to school after lockdown. During the pandemic, school closures meant that school children in Kabubbu could not receive their two meals a day. We were able to redirect that food to those children and their families. 580 families plus an additional 236 children were given basic food items including 912 sacks of maize flour to help them survive this difficult time. Thank you!

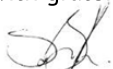
On a more serious note, most of you will already have received a letter from Quicken Trust about our current financial situation. In brief, we have been focusing 100% on the short-term survival needs in Kabubbu over the past two years of the COVID pandemic, and lost sight of a reduction in Gift Aid at a time when our UK operations costs were increasing, as highlighted in the 2020 Christmas newsletter. This, coupled with our inability to fundraise due to UK COVID restrictions, led to a funding gap that may mean we are unable to pay our small team of staff beyond the end of this financial year. It is important that we are open with you about this.

We have been and are taking action to find new sources of funding to fill this gap to keep supporting Kabubbu. This happens through grant applications, corporate fund matching, promotional work, and of course finally restarting public fundraising events, which you can read more about in this newsletter.

A few of these actions involve our donors. The first is moving as many donors as possible to Direct Debit, which is secure and will save staff time. Also we have reviewed our sponsorships, so our new monthly donations now include a small amount to help cover UK overheads. Set slightly higher for the next two years, our new sponsorship donations allow for other fundraising activities to come online. Finally, we are asking supporters who don't currently give regularly to commit to a monthly donation. This creates a predictable income, allowing us to plan for the future.

We continue to be hopeful and are blessed to have such wonderful supporters committed to Kabubbu. We ask only that you would give the letter your prayerful consideration and respond as you are able. For more information, please email [**admin@quickentrust.com**](mailto:admin@quickentrust.com)

With grateful thanks,



Simon Barnett, Chair of the Quicken Trust

A legacy of transformation

We are thankful for your long-term support over the last 23 years. When Quicken Trust's founders first spoke with the Kabubbu village elders in 2000 about their requests for their village, they prioritised:

- Care for the orphans
- Primary school
- Clean water supply
- A Health Centre

At that time, achieving even these felt like a massive challenge. Quicken Trust began its journey of faith without funds, with no regular sponsors, or even map for a long haul journey! We only promised to tell the story of the people of Kabubbu, and are still amazed by the miracles that have taken place.

As the relationship with Kabubbu grew, along with our understanding of the complex and intertwining needs of a village, these first projects were expanded on. The resources serving the Kabubbu community now also include:

- High School, offering a complete pathway of education, with dormitories for students who needed to board.
- AIDS Clinic & Operating Theatre
- Graze School of Farming training in more productive farming methods
- Vocational College, teaching skills and empowering local workers.
- Maize Mill, processing the most fundamental food many families rely on.
- Church & Community Centre.
- More than 175 homes for community families and staff.
- Programmes improving health, adult education, and providing income.



A Kabubbu water pump - one of nine providing life-giving water

Education

Only this year, a report said of Uganda that “after one of the world’s longest school closures, authorities warned at least 30% of students may never return”¹. Thanks to the support of Quicken Trust donors, this has not been the case in Kabubbu. Quicken Trust has been able to provide the Kabubbu teaching staff with accomodation and 60% of their salary throughout lockdown, meaning the students still had teachers ready to welcome them back. The children are so happy to be back in a school routine.



Learning is precious. The small resort in Kabubbu was able to re-open and begin taking guests again. As well as providing employment, this allowed some visiting students to continue learning. For over two months they used the conference room as a study space.

Many of the Kabubbu students have overcome incredible obstacles and traumas to succeed in their education. It will take hard work to catch up and surmount the long-term impact of the school lockdowns, but Kabubbu students can achieve incredible things.

Our partnership with Kabubbu is as vital today as in 1999 because, despite the challenges the students face, we know that championing education works!

The first generation of Quicken Trust sponsored children to enter Kabubbu Primary School 20 years ago have now graduated. Over 350 have certificates in vocational skills or university degrees, and are working to support themselves and their families.

Some have returned to their home village and continue developments for the next generation of children. Others are succeeding in the wider community. Jenipher, a Kabubbu gradate, now works in the office of the Attorney General of Uganda as a solicitor. It has been a privilege to watch them flourish, and the impact of these students in their communities will be immense.

Photos to right: Some of the Kabubbu graduates, who now work to transform their village

¹ Patience Atuhaire, *Uganda schools reopen after almost two years of Covid closure*, BBC.co.uk, 10th Jan 2022, <http://www.bbc.co.uk >world>Africa-59935605>.



Cate, Finance Officer
Studying for CPA



Mahad, Clinical Officer &
Health Centre In-Charge



Helen, Librarian
at Trust High School



Winnie, Health Centre,
State Enrolled Nurse



Evelyn, Teacher
at Trust High School



Livingston, Communications
& Journalism



Budallah, Finance Officer
Studying for CPA



Mariam, Counsellor
AIDS Support Centre



Christine, Teacher
at Trust High School



Hasifah, BSc in Nursng
Deputy-in-Charge



Doreen, Manageress
at Kabubbu Resort Centre

What does education look like in Uganda?

Uganda has a high proportion of children under 15 in its population, 49% compared with only 21% in the UK. Most education isn't free and class sizes are large.

Because of the pandemic, children only returned to school in January. We received news that 539 pupils enrolled in Kabubbu primary school for 2022. This is the first time in the past seven years that numbers have risen above 500.

This seems positive, but pupil numbers may have increased because the number of Ugandan schools that are still open after the pandemic has decreased. Many did not receive sufficient funding to weather the lockdown successfully. Uganda also has one of the fastest birth rates worldwide, so there is a constant need for children to be able to access education. These two factors together may explain the higher enrollment rate.

This year's enrollment figures show the number of primary school students across the Kabubbu schools, from the infant year through to P7, and how they are funded.

Sponsored			Non-sponsored		School Meals Appeal		School bursary funded	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
	79	57	161	145	36	26	13	22
Subtotal	136		306		62		35	
Total enrolled	539							

In Kabubbu, some families have moved to the area who are able to pay for their child's schooling. This raises additional income for the Kabubbu Development Project and supports the school. However, Quicken Trust's aim has always been to provide education for the most deprived children. Of the 539 children in primary school this year, only 136 (25%) are currently sponsored, which is fewer than in previous years. Our work continues!

We are always seeking new sponsors who can share in the story of Kabubbu. For those that have experienced life in the village even for a short time, perhaps as a teenage student on one of our volunteer trips, sharing the memories of your visit lets others know how they can help. As we reconnect with friends after the pandemic, we encourage you to have those conversations! They make a massive difference.

The simple act of giving less than £1 a day to our School Meal appeal provides two meals each day for one of the 306 non-sponsored children, helping them focus and learn. For information about how to donate please email admin@quickentrust.com

Careers

All students need to complete education and gain a qualification to have a chance to find regular paid work. Sometimes even then, a little help getting started makes all the difference.

Dennis' story

Dennis achieved a First Class Honours degree in electrical engineering, but it took three years for him to find employment. Ugandan engineers need to register with a regulating body before they can practice. The registration fee is £300, and although Dennis had found work as a casual labourer in the meantime, this didn't allow him to save enough money to register.

Thankfully a Quicken Trust donor supplied this need, completing the last piece of the puzzle, enabling Dennis to start work as a fully registered electrical engineer.



Dennis with his degree



Simon at work

Simon's story

Simon lived with his Granny Rose until he was 11 years old. She cared for nine grandchildren, five of them younger than Simon. That's hard work when you're 70 years old!

Eventually Rose was no longer able to support Simon, so in order for him to complete his secondary education he needed the care of the Kabubbu Foster Home, run by foster mother Betty.

Simon thrived and had a passionate desire to become a fashion designer. In 2017 a visiting UK volunteer met Simon, was inspired by his story, and offered to fund his training.

Simon is now a fully qualified tailor. He works in Kampala, using a new sewing machine that was donated to him, and is developing a good business and a growing income.

Healthcare

Some routine figures from December 2021 show the scale and impact the Kabubbu Health Centre is making in the community:

- 738 children were vaccinated against routine children's viruses.
- 1,289 HIV patients attended clinics.
- 97 patients were admitted to the private rooms in the Health Centre.
- 2,396 were outpatients, that's 77 outpatients attending every day.

Being able to offer the dignity of healthcare and show God's love in action, is part of the foundation of Quicken Trust's vision. Thank you for helping make this a reality.

Shamina's story

Shamina is a student who recently received emergency surgery for a hernia and an ulcer, provided from UK donor funds. To Quicken Trust, every person in Kabubbu matters. Building the infrastructure of a Health Centre goes hand in hand with subsiding procedures and medicine, ensuring that patients like Shamina can receive treatment.

Update on the Quadruplets!

Two years ago we reported the successful birth of four babies to a mother at the Kabubbu Health Centre. The children are doing well, and will reach their second birthday at the end of April!

As they have moved onto solid food, feeding this large and swiftly growing family poses a challenge. Having fruit, eggs and milk in their diet would provide the nourishment to help them keep thriving.

A safer place to live is also becoming increasingly important. They live on a busy local road and moving to a quieter area would be better, now that they are talking, walking and moving around in all directions! Quicken Trust is hoping to help with both these needs.



An active family!

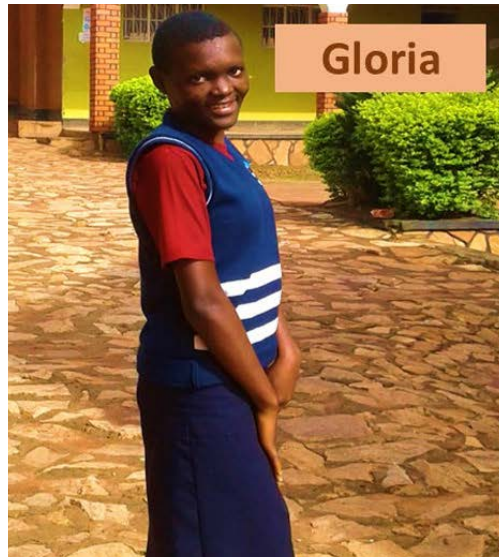
The future of Kabubbu nursing

At the beginning of the year, we learned about two young women, Angela and Gloria, who are hoping to train as nurses. We all know how highly we have valued our UK nurses during the last few years, and it's no different in Uganda.

For Gloria, who lost her long-term supporter last year, the training fees are £1,560 per year for three years (£130 per month).

For Angela, who is partially supported, the fees are £960 per year for 2.5 years (£80pm).

Quicken Trust is looking for donors to support Angela and Gloria in completing their education and beginning their careers in this valuable field. This could consist of a group working together to jointly fund a nurse at £10 per person per month (for a group of 13 for Gloria, or 8 supporting Angela)



Angela and Gloria

To donate to any of these causes,
or for more information
please email **admin@quickentrust.com**

Changes continue as our Founders Geoff and Geraldine Booker retire. Now in their 70s, they will be stepping back from some of their more operational roles in the charity after 23 years as self-funded volunteers, but will stay on in advisory roles. They continue to be an indispensable source of knowledge on the culture and realities of working in Uganda, as well as a strong link between Quicken Trust in the UK and the Kabubbu Development Project, with whom they have nurtured a long and faithful relationship.

During their time at the head of Quicken Trust Geoff and Geraldine have seen God open doors in many amazing ways. Through chance encounters, opportunities to share His story with staff in British Airways, UNICEF, a Daily Mail news feature, through school assemblies or public speaking, on plane journeys, at quiz nights. Even during personal holidays, often leading to extraordinary meetings with stage, screen, TV and radio celebrities... and on one memorable occasion a US President!

Moved by God, and a deep love for the people of Kabubbu, they promised to tell their story. 23 years later, the results speak for themselves.



Former US President Bill Clinton
receives a Quicken Trust leaflet

They are looking forward to returning to Kabubbu in person, hopefully during the middle of the year, and then again accompanied by Paul Pirie, our Chief Executive of UK Operations. Volunteer travellers fundraising, or visits to Kabubbu have been paused since February 2020, and a lot will have changed in the village.

We also say goodbye to our Partnership Administrator Mark. He and his wife Tracey are moving to be near family in Grimsby. Thank you Mark for being part of the Quicken Trust team, and for the excellent level of service you've provided to all our donors and supporters. We wish you all the best in your new home!

Looking forward

It's a massive relief that Quicken Trust is able to restart its charitable activities as UK COVID restrictions lift. Although we have continued to raise funds through grant applications and social media, and are grateful for the new opportunities that are emerging, we've deeply missed the connection that comes from being able to meet in person. We are so thankful to all our regular donors whose support has helped keep Quicken Trust and the Kabubbu Development Project going.

Spring is in the air...

Longer days and warmer weather lie ahead, and most of us are finally able to get together with our friends and family once more. Which makes us wonder...

What have you been looking forward to doing again? Perhaps there is a cherished project you've been waiting and longing to begin. This could be the time to rediscover an old hobby, or learn something completely new!

We've seen some very creative and adventurous fundraising over the years. Crafty types have run cake sales, picnics and tea parties. Green-fingered givers opened their homes to share their beautiful gardens with the neighbourhood. Sports-lovers of all levels have taken part in sponsored hikes, swims, bike rides, skydiving and marathons. One daring teenage donor even raised £1,200 by having his head shaved!

Whatever your interests, we'd love to hear about your plans to get out there and make the most of Spring 2022.

For help setting up your fundraiser, as well as any ideas you have for the Quicken Trust's calendar please contact the team at the email or phone number below.

admin@quickentrust.com

01323 832361

(Open hours Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm)



Enjoying the sun at a fundraising plant sale

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

Miracles still happen!

Pastor Peter, the minister at Kabubbu Community Church shared these stories of lives being changed in some amazing and unexpected ways...

"About eight months ago, a new bar started in the village. Even the police officers came to drink there all night, and the music was so loud that the entire neighbourhood heard it. Some were so drunk they fought with others at night.

The bar owner was married to a lady with a sponsored child. One Sunday morning the lady came to church, and everybody was amazed. The next week she came to my office when I arrived and she looked exhausted. She said she had listened to my sermons broadcast over the village radio (from loudspeakers fixed to the church) and she thought someone was reporting to me about what she was doing. But I had never met her, so she thought that maybe God was using my sermons to speak into her life. She had a very troubled life and relationships but she said she was now tired of her way of life and wanted Jesus to help change her. We prayed together and since then she has changed."

"Another lady came jumping for joy to tell us her story. She had never conceived and was aged 37. Her first husband abandoned her after five years because she didn't conceive. Later she had a new partner and they've been together for two years. Two months ago, she came to the church and at the end of the service she asked for prayer. A month later after regularly attending she again asked for prayer, but she didn't disclose that she was childless. A few weeks later she felt unwell and went to see a doctor. He examined her and a pregnancy test proved positive. The lady didn't believe the results so she went to another health facility for a second test, but this was also positive. She still didn't believe it so she went to a third health centre, now after a third positive test she believes it. God's amazing. He can answer prayer so fast, but other times it is decades."

In what can sometimes seem an uncertain world, God has not forgotten the people of Kabubbu, and neither will we. We pray that this village, a beacon of light and hope in Uganda, will shine brighter as a result of your prayers and continuing support.

Thank You
from the Quicken Trust team

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