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## African Revival

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Nursery pupil Hannah celebrating St Patrick's Day with classmates



This March we launched a new project in Amuru District, Uganda with funding from the Bestseller Fund. Over 3 years, our agricultural officers will work with ten schools to create parent and student led gardens which will enable the whole community to learn more about nutrition, increase their entrepreneurial know-how and gain agricultural skills whilst also growing nutritious crops. These skills will enable families to maximise their own yields at home and share their knowledge with others.

with nutritious midday meals.

*"Our school garden's meals have increased attendance and improved students' test scores, with more than ever achieving top band grades."*  
Head Teacher Walter Oduch (Paminvai School)

The project will also bring parents into their children's school more frequently, increasing their involvement with their education. The presence of parents on school property also decreases teacher absenteeism and lateness, keeping them accountable.

The district's Chief Administrative Officer praised the programme, saying that "agriculture is key for development in this region; it is a pertinent area of investment in this district because agriculture is so important to Uganda"

Everything we do is motivated by our aim to improve equal access to quality education. No-one can concentrate on an empty stomach, yet many children in Uganda walk considerable distances to school under the hot sun without eating during the day. Some of the crops produced will provide students

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**Savoy Ball**  
**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**  
Its back – and you're invited!  
Join us, BBC Breakfast's Bill Turnbull and Nick Carter from Channel 4's the Auction House for fun, fantastic food and drink and of course - incredible fundraising.

**Annual Golf Day**  
**Stoke Park**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
Tee off for African Revival – teams of four still welcome!



Could you help with an auction or raffle prize?  
Any donations gratefully received!

## Staff Profile: Babra Akello

Babra joined African Revival in 2012 as an agricultural field officer on our Schools Garden Scheme. She works with schools to identify a plot of land on the school grounds, pick appropriate crops and recruit parents to join farmers' groups which will cultivate the garden.



Babra says of the project: "What makes the greatest impact is being close to our beneficiaries.

"My favourite part of my role is training the community in good agricultural practices, and also interacting with the community at large - I really love building those relationships".

She sets up weekly meetings with parents, for them to learn more effective, organic agricultural techniques which they can also replicate in their home gardens. She also links farmers to buyers, so they can sell their products, and advises them on savings for school fees for their children.

Being based down in the community in the field office of Amuru creates a lot of trust between AR and the community and it means we can have more contact hours with them, and make good use of our time and resources".

## Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers and supporters

As we celebrate the end of another fantastic year of fundraising, we'd like to say thank you to the people who make it happen – you!



Whether you've given a donation, attended an event or taken on a challenge – your support means thousands of children will have a brighter future.

As we look forward to working to raising over £700,000 in the next financial year we'd like to say a special thank you to our volunteers (some

pictured) Anja, Ayo, Alex, David, Cheryl, Ian, Nicola, Jade, Jessica, Jon and Rachel who give their time so generously. We couldn't do it without you.



## We speak to **jumpstart!** nursery teacher Irene at the training week

Irene, 21, has been working at Anaka P7 School since the start of 2015, teaching K1, K2 and K3 (the first three nursery grades).

"I like my job because, we, the care-givers, learn so much from children. It is a privilege to love the children, take care of the children, and to show them good behaviour".

In March she attended the first **jumpstart!** training week run by African Revival, along with teachers from the 10 nurseries we will be supporting over the next 3 years. When Irene started work at Anaka P7, like so many other nursery teachers in the area, she had not completed any

teacher training. "When I joined the school, I didn't really know anything about teaching, but when I came on this course, I learnt the importance of welcoming and loving nursery students; to gather the little ones to you when they are nervous, singing and rhyming together.

Once the child is in the classroom, new pupils learn by doing- for example, learning songs with actions. I have also learnt that you need to plan short lessons so that the children don't get tired and stop learning.

Again, using rhymes and songs is a great way for children to learn. In maths, you need to use creative materials, like bottles to count, or use songs like "ten little ducklings go out to play", which helps teach children subtraction.

Finally, I have also learnt the importance of nurturing the full development of a child: so helping with their physical needs, helping the children to wash their hands, making sure they have food to eat and develop good eating habits".

With your support, we are equipping caregivers like Irene with the Early Childhood Development knowledge and skills needed to optimize their pupils' learning. With a good start at nursery, these children will be able to hit the ground running when they move to primary level.