



Investing in education

Spring 2013  
Issue 21

# Spring Newsletter 2013



The transformation of Koch Lila Primary School

Dear Friend

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. In this edition we've chosen to highlight our work at Koch Lila Primary School in Northern Uganda, where we have just completed a whole range of projects that will change the daily lives of these pupils. You may remember us introducing you to Koch Lila back in December 2011, now that just over a year has passed the school is almost unrecognisable.

Koch Lila is in a very rural location in the Nwoya District of Northern Uganda, about 75km from the nearest road. This area was hit hard during the long conflict and the community only returned to the area in 2009. When they returned the school was in a desperate state and we were asked by the local community to help them to improve the education for their children.

When we first went to Koch Lila the school had 500 pupils sharing just four classrooms, pupils were sitting on the floor to learn and there were very few text books and no teaching materials that the teachers could use to inspire these children. Nearly 18 months later, thanks to your support all this has changed.

# Update from Koch Lila

## New Classroom Block

With 500 children sharing four classrooms, Koch Lila was an incredibly crowded place to learn. With over 100 children in each room, different ages were being taught together and nearly every child was simply sat on the floor. The school tried to create more room by splitting the school day into a morning and afternoon session for the lower classes. This had a very bad effect on the amount children could learn in such a short time at school.

The teachers also turned to teaching the lower classes outside under the trees. This did increase the children's attendance, but was of no use in the rainy season when again all the pupils would have to share the four classrooms.

Thanks to our supporters we have now been able to build a double classroom block which was officially handed over to the community in December 2012. It was a fantastic celebration with 50 parents and 150 children attending.

## Classroom furniture and books

We have been able to equip all the classrooms at Koch Lila with desks and chairs for the children and teachers, creating a more effective working environment which greatly encourages both pupils and teachers alike. When we purchase new items we always like to use local craftsmen. The desks for Koch Lila were made by Lakica Wood Workshop, a local carpentry shop run by Justine Moro who started his business back in 1991 and now employs 17 local craftsmen in his workshop.

*"We have specialised in making school furniture that we now know the standard measurement for teacher chair, table, Portable black board, infant and upper class desk, cupboards and staff room tables since most order come from schools and to us customer satisfactions through quality work is our pride"* said Justine.

Koch Lila had a serious issue with the quality and availability of the core text books which the children needed in order to do well in their exams. The children were learning from the teacher lecturing at the blackboard and writing out large passages from the few books they had. Thanks to your support we have now been able to supply them with the books they need, which were bought locally from the Public Choice Bookshop in Gulu town.

The shop is owned by Francis who tells us that *"It is my duty to inform and advise head teachers and teachers if there is a shortage of certain types of books in the market and the most preferred alternatives. The major challenge in this business is the shortage of supply sometimes from the publisher that will always force me to buy from the nearby local shops at high cost while I maintain my normal cost for my clients"*.



Francis and his book supplies



Varnishing desks to prolong their life



Children using the new text books

# Update from Koch Lila

## Support for teachers

At African Revival we know that simply providing a proper classroom and text books will not guarantee that the children will learn more, so we further ensure that we support the teachers so that they can deliver engaging lessons. With this in mind we tackle the lack of resources in a two stage approach.

Our first job was to purchase simple teaching materials from local supplier Mango Tree, a social enterprise based in Kampala. They use cheap grain sacks and water-resistant marker pens, to create curriculum-focused teaching aids. Their range also includes interactive games and toys. All follow the very simple formula that learning should be fun for both pupils and teachers whilst also ensuring that the teaching is as effective as possible.

Providing these materials is a great support, yet with only a small termly allocation from central Government per pupil (£1 per child per term), the Koch Lila school has very little money available to buy further materials.

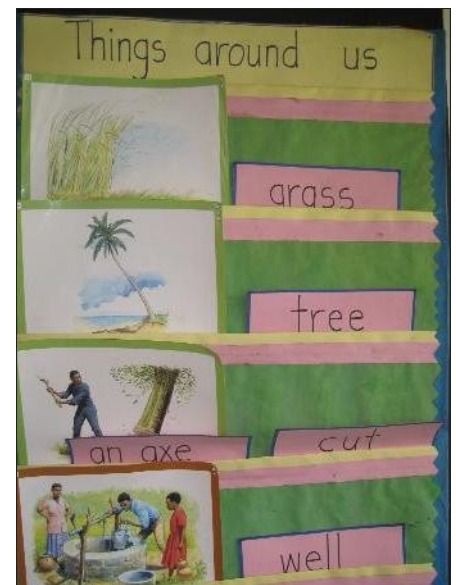
To overcome this, we also helped them in a second way. Working with Nwoya District Education Department, Koch Goma Co-ordinating Centre Tutor and Gulu Primary Teaching College, we delivered four days of training for the teachers.

The training taught the teachers how to use teaching aids effectively and how to make their own materials from items available within the local environment. For example, the teachers were taught how to turn clay, paper, cardboard, string and twigs into effective teaching materials, how to conduct lessons using these and how to improve pupil involvement. In total 13 teachers were trained during the school holiday, highlighting the teachers' desires to improve and develop even in their time off.

***Thanks to our supporters, Koch Lila now has two extra classrooms, desks for all the children, text books, teaching materials and motivated teachers who have had training on how to engage with their students. As the new term starts for this school we would like to thank you for your support which has helped to change these children's lives.***



Admiring counting cards



Word and picture chart



Making a science poster



Cardboard counting cards made by one of the teachers

# Can you help?

## Kitgum Core Primary Teachers' College

At African Revival we also support the Primary Teacher Colleges in Kitgum and Gulu in Northern Uganda. We know that a good school environment cannot guarantee a good education, but by supporting the Teacher Training Colleges we aim to have a wider impact on local children's education.

Kitgum College opened in 2002 during the peak of the civil war. Due to insecurity at the time, most of the buildings were not properly constructed. Now more than ten years later, these classrooms, toilets, dormitories and staff houses are in a very poor state and are falling down but they are still being used on a daily basis.

Can you help us to work with this college to transform the facilities for the students?



Kitgum dormitories



Dilapidated toilets

# Could you leave a legacy?

Making a Will is your chance to let your family, friends and favourite charities know how much you care for them. It also allows you to be in control of exactly what happens to all your possessions and a gift in your Will means that you can continue to help those after you have gone.

If you feel you are able, you may like to consider leaving a gift to African Revival which would really make a difference to the children in Africa.

Please feel free to contact us, with no obligation, as we have produced a free booklet that gives you all the information you need.



**We hope you have enjoyed this edition of our Newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more about our events or projects, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

[www.africanrevival.org](http://www.africanrevival.org)  
[www.facebook.com/africanrevival](https://www.facebook.com/africanrevival)  
[www.twitter.com](https://www.twitter.com) (search for African Revival)

Garrick House, 161 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1NG. Tel: 020 8939 3190 Email: [info@africanrevival.org](mailto:info@africanrevival.org)  
Registered Charity Number: 1108718