

# When I grow up I want to be...

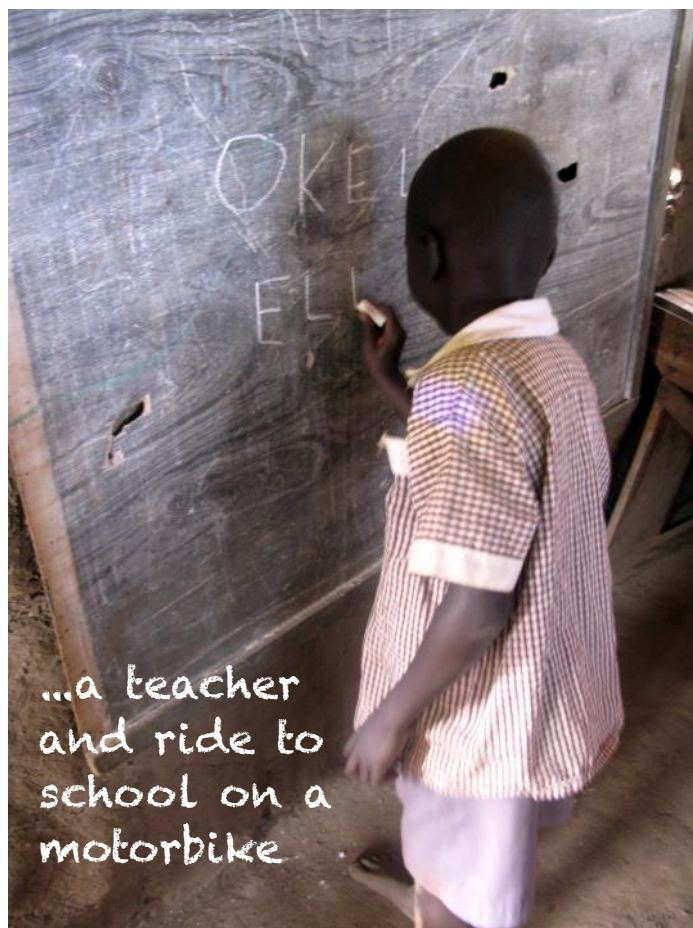
As we launch our **Jumpstart!** appeal we meet Okello Elvis, who shows us the importance of good quality nursery education.

Okello Elvis has to be one of the smiliest children at Koch Lila Pre-Primary School. Elvis is 6 years old and is in K2, his second year of pre-school. His huge smile is testament to how much he is enjoying school.

Elvis is only 6 but he can write his name almost perfectly. Many children in Ugandan primary schools who are much older than Elvis cannot perform this very basic task. Because he has been to pre-school, he has had the opportunity to build key foundational skills at a young age.

Elvis's favourite subjects at Koch Lila are writing and drawing. His teacher encourages her pupils to come up to the blackboard and draw pictures for the other children. Unfortunately there are not the resources for each child to be able to colour and paint as much as the teacher would like; they must make do with only a few pencils and workbooks, a far cry from the rainbow of colours available to children in some urban nurseries.

When he's at home, his mother says that Elvis practises his ABC and draws pictures of pots and chickens, which are admired by everyone in the village. He says emphatically that he wants to be a teacher when he grows up, and that he wants to ride to school on a motorbike. When other children come to play with him at home – some of whom don't go to



...a teacher  
and ride to  
school on a  
motorbike



Extending nursery access to the poorest and most vulnerable children boosts their education and livelihood opportunities later in life.

Education for All  
Global Monitoring Report 2012

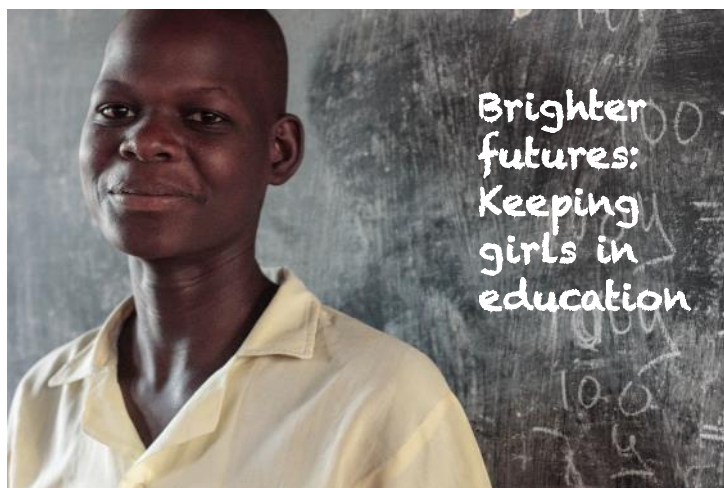
school – he tells them to draw and copy his writing.

He's already becoming a teacher, all he needs now is the motorbike! When asked whether he enjoys school Elvis's eyes absolutely light up. He says he *really* enjoys being at school, learning and playing with his friends.

And there's that big smile again.

**In northern Uganda, as in many parts of the world,** girls are at a disadvantage compared to their male counterparts. The culture of northern Uganda – particularly in poor, rural areas – is still highly patriarchal. Girls are expected to do household chores, to look after younger siblings, and to marry early – meaning they're less likely to attend and stay at school. A lack of female teachers and role models compounds this problem further. Girls feel embarrassed to talk to male teachers about the difficulties they face attending school, leading to higher drop out and lower academic achievement.

With your help, we have been working with Kitgum Primary Teachers' College to address the shortage of female teachers. We are supporting their amazing work in difficult post-war circumstances to train the next generation of teachers. One problem was the lack of adequate accommodation for female trainee teachers. These young women travelled from remote rural areas to attend



college, and were faced with sleeping on the floor or in dark, damp and cold accommodation with no privacy.

Thanks to your fantastic support, coupled with a donation from the Japanese Embassy, earlier this year African Revival completed the construction of a new female dormitory block at the college, with a second block also near completion.

## Thank you for your wonderful support

**Joyce Alum is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student** at Kitgum Core PTC. She is 18 years old. Joyce dreams of being a teacher, specialising in pre-primary education. From her smiles and outgoing nature, it is easy to tell that she will be great with children.

There are many girls who share Joyce's passion for education and with the construction of the girls' dormitories this dream is being made possible. More girls are enrolling and are optimistic that they will make great teachers. Thank you for supporting the teachers that will inspire generations of girls to come.



"We are very happy that African Revival thought about us. Before, we would sleep in cramped dormitories but now we have a spacious sleeping place and the front extension is providing us with space for revision even in the night."



## Staff Profile: Richard Ayella's Story

**After nearly a decade** working for African Revival, in our Gulu office, Uganda, Richard Ayella is AR's longest-serving member of staff.

Richard's forte is the strong relationships he builds with headteachers and teachers at the schools we work with. He is always greeted warmly when moving around in the field, and headteachers are effusive in expressing their gratitude for the work he does to support their efforts.

Richard's early career, pre-African Revival, was a little unconventional, and reflects his energetic and engaging personality. He hadn't even completed secondary school when he thought he would try his luck at being a teacher. With no training but endless energy and belief in the power of education to transform, he pitched up at a primary school and asked to be taken on. Impressed by his boldness and disarmed by his charm, he was employed by the headteacher on the spot.

Richard is frustrated at the lack of innovation and progress within the Ugandan education sector; he believes that education systems should move with the times rather than maintain the status quo. He has immense optimism about the future, but wants to see a government that prioritises education above all as a means of development. Uganda, he says, has so much potential, but a modern and dynamic education system is the key to this being unlocked.

## Uganda Focus

**Devastated by 18 years of conflict**, northern Uganda is slowly but surely returning to normal. Villages are once again bustling with life as people return home from the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps that have been their homes for far too long.

The region was at the centre of a brutal, two-decade insurgency by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group led by the infamous Joseph Kony. The war saw people uprooted from their homes and tens of thousands kidnapped, mutilated or killed. Men, women and children fell victim to the most atrocious abuses. When peace was restored in 2006 people started to

rebuild their lives, but the effect on Uganda's schooling system was disastrous. Schools had been ravaged and neglected due to the conflict; children had been displaced, abused and traumatised. For returning families, aside from creating a livelihood for themselves, their priority is the re-establishment of the many primary schools. Since 2006 African Revival has been working with communities to improve access to education, with our emphasis now shifting to improving quality—leading to the launch of **jumpstart!**



## Country Profile: Uganda

**1.7 million people forced into camps**

**25,000 children abducted by rebels**

**90% of the population living in camps  
and entirely reliant on aid**

# Give a child a head start with *jumpstart!*

## How can you help?

### Donate

Just £5 will stop a nursery child going hungry in class by providing lunch for a month. Text ARUK005 to 70070 to give £5, or visit the website to give more.

### Volunteer

Give your time to make a difference, at a supermarket collection or a local event.

### Events

Attend our ball, or bring the family to our Winter Walk. Or enter an event and run, cycle or swim for *jumpstart!*

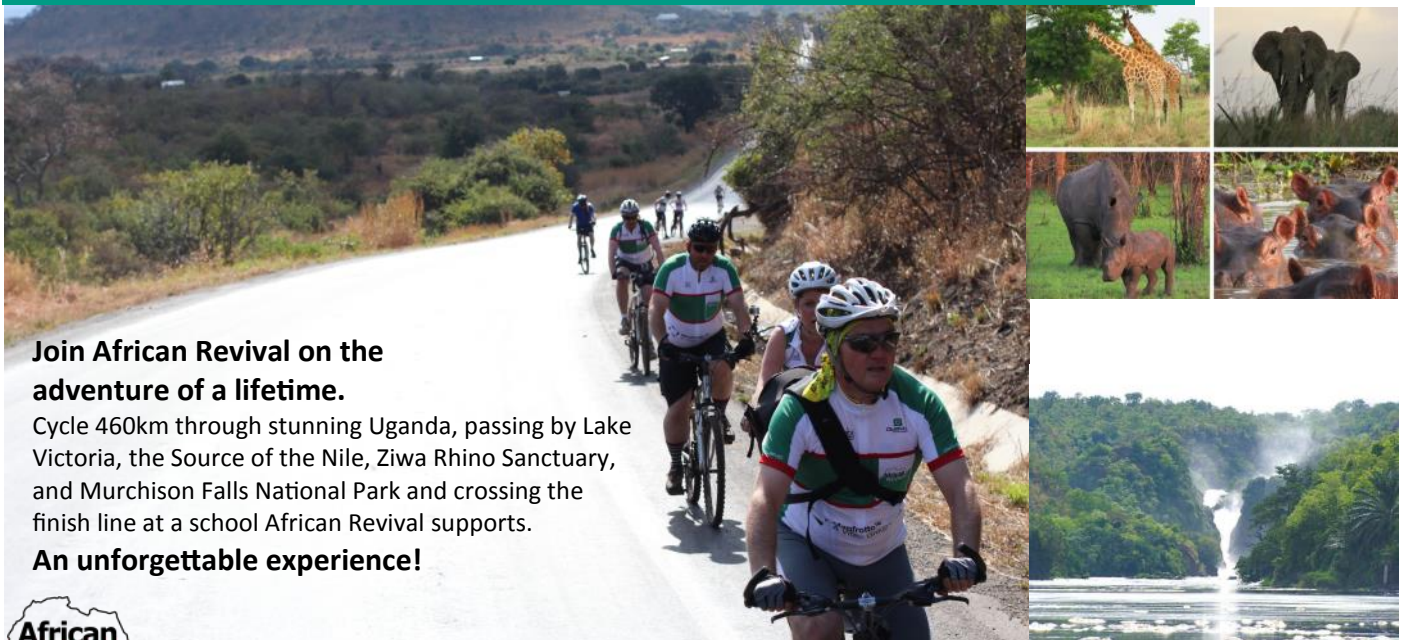
### Corporate

Become an appeal partner or take part in our Dress Up for *jumpstart!* Day on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Call Holly 020 8939 3190 or visit [africanrevival.org](http://africanrevival.org)



From 1st September until 30th November every donation from an individual to *Jumpstart!* will be doubled by the UK government—meaning that your support will make *double the difference*



### Join African Revival on the adventure of a lifetime.

Cycle 460km through stunning Uganda, passing by Lake Victoria, the Source of the Nile, Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, and Murchison Falls National Park and crossing the finish line at a school African Revival supports.

**An unforgettable experience!**



Uganda Cycle Challenge 2015  
5th-15th February 2015

020 8939 3190  
[info@africanrevival.org](mailto:info@africanrevival.org)  
[africanrevival.org/cycle](http://africanrevival.org/cycle)