



Winter Newsletter 2011

Investing in education



Stages of construction at Moonde School, Zambia - pictures taken in August 2011



For the full story on Moonde see page 3

Dear Friends

Welcome to our Winter newsletter. This is our chance to update you on the school projects you are making possible in Uganda and Zambia. We've had a busy few months, with many projects completed, allowing us to start work with even more schools in desperate need of help.

We'd also like to share the good news that we have been selected to take part in the Big Give, an amazing opportunity for us to showcase our work at Koch Lila School, Uganda, and raise more funds. If you'd like to visit our Big Give site then take a look at www.thebiggive.org.uk and search for African Revival.

Update from Uganda

Tackling the issues of girls leaving school

In Uganda we have been seeing serious issues with girls dropping out of primary school in the upper years. In Uganda, children start primary school at age 7 and leave when they are around 14. In the first years of school there are an equal number of girls and boys in each year group. By the time the children reach Primary Five, age 13, there is only one girl for every three boys.

We know it is vital that girls stay in education; reports show that:

"A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past its 5th birthday"

The reasons for girls dropping out of school include menstruation, early marriage and a lack of knowledge around sex and relationships. Statistics from UNICEF show that one in ten African girls skips school during menstruation or drops out entirely due to a lack of facilities.

Earlier this year we started our first pilot project designed to help girls stay in school. At Bwobo Manam in Northern Uganda we have built a specific girls washroom and changing facility. We have also provided the girls with free re-usable sanitary products and have partnered with Marie Stopes to give the girls workshops about how to manage their menstruation with dignity.



Girls receiving sanitary products at Bwobo Manam



Newly built girls washroom facilities at Bwobo Manam



Girls workshop at Bwobo Manam

This project has been a great success – the girls are really proud to be a part of it and we are carefully monitoring attendance rates. We are now working hard to establish these girls' washrooms in five more schools in Uganda.

Update from Zambia

Moonde School – New classrooms!

(See front page for Moonde photos)

We have just finished important building work at Moonde School in Zambia. Moonde lies 10km from the main tarmac road along a bumpy and sometimes impassable track. The school's rural location makes it an important focal point for the community, providing education for around 1000 children. We renovated two existing classroom blocks that were not at all suitable for use. The classrooms had cracked floors, no windows, no doors and were very dilapidated.

The community in Moonde were a great help, supplying bricks and other raw materials, which helped the project come together in time for the children returning to school in September. We were really delighted when the District Education Board Secretary for Kalomo decided to donate additional furniture to the school as he was so impressed with the work that we had carried out — work made possible by our supporters.



Digging the new borehole at Mulwazi Primary School



Collecting fresh water from the newly installed borehole

To view our exciting new video of the borehole at Mulwazi and children using the pump, search 'Mulwazi Borehole' on www.youtube.com

Water for Mulwazi Primary School

In August this year we finished installing a much needed borehole for the children at Mulwazi School in Zambia. This school is also in a very rural location, and had an urgent need for water for its 460 pupils. The nearest source of water that the children had access to was an incredible 5km walk from the school.

On August 10th work began on a new borehole, and on the 11th at midday, a cheer went up as water began to flow from the pump.

Mulwazi's head teacher Mr Kaunga spoke about just what this clean water meant to his pupils:

"We are very happy at Mulwazi to have water so close to the school. Before we would walk far to get enough to drink and wash with, but now the students will be able to concentrate on their lessons. We thank the kind donors for this gift. We are most grateful."

New Projects

Bowwood School, Zambia

Bowwood Community School is a rural school serving a community of farming families approximately 20km from Kalomo. It currently has 70 pupils in Grades 1-5.

Today, the school consists of just one double classroom block and two toilets, which are insufficient for the school's current size. The school has no teacher housing, so the two female teachers are living in the small office between the classrooms, which provides a tiny living space and just one bed between them. With these conditions there is always a danger of teachers leaving. We are currently working hard to raise the funds needed to build new facilities in order to change these children's lives and provide them with opportunities that they deserve.



The old classroom block at Bowwood School



The new classroom block at Bowwood
(Two teachers are currently living in this building)

New Schools in Uganda

In Uganda we are starting to identify new schools to work with. There is still an enormous need to provide help to communities who have returned to their original villages now that peace has returned to the region.

Our team in Uganda participated in a key meeting in October where we learnt of new "schools" that had been accepted by the Education Boards. These are schools that have no classrooms, no water, no teachers and no food – but often several hundred children. We are looking to start to work with some of these schools in the very near future and will keep you updated on our progress.

Discover Uganda! Next year's Bike Challenge is taking place in Uganda in June 2012. The challenge begins in Kampala and ends at one or possibly two of our African Revival projects in Gulu. This is such a truly unforgettable adventure. For an information pack please contact Mandy: mandy@africanrevival.org, tel: 020 8939 3983

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

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