



Patron Dame Diana Rigg, accompanied by supporters Tom and Alex Lindsay, at the opening of Kongatuny's new classroom block

January 2009 Update

2008 was another great year for the Build a School Campaign, with 47 primary schools receiving the support they needed to transform their school environment and raise education standards. We built a total of 47 new classrooms, all furnished with comfortable desks, ensuring that over 19,000 children never have to miss a day of school or take lessons sitting on hard mud floors. Kongatuny in Bukedea, Uganda, was one school which benefited from a total transformation and the new classrooms were opened in October by Dame Diana Rigg and supporter Tom Lindsay, along with his son, Alex. A complete listing of achievements for 2008 can be found on page 2.

Building on the success of 2008, our Build a School Campaign for 2009 will continue to develop a holistic approach to supporting education in Kenya and Uganda. The three main areas of priority will continue to be providing a safe and comfortable learning environment, making sure that the schooling the children receive makes a difference and getting the local community involved every step of the way.

Our school feature on page 3, which covers the development undertaken at Aputiput School since the start of 2008, illustrates how quickly we can transform a school from one collapsing stick classroom to a thriving place of learning. And how one supporter's journey to develop the school as a legacy for his wife has realised her wish and helped to sustain him during difficult times. Aputiput is also a shining example of how committed parents and local communities are to bringing lasting change to their village schools.

Finally, we have a number of new school projects for 2009. These include radio broadcasts, a new incentive to encourage sport and play at schools and a comprehensive health education programme – more on these can be found on the back page. None of this work would be possible without the help of our dedicated supporters. **Thank you.**

Build Africa Achievements in 2008

- £2.1m has been raised in support of Build Africa projects in 2008

This funding has enabled...

- 27 remote schools across 4 districts of Uganda and 2 districts of Kenya to have been transformed, benefiting 19,421 children

Achievements in Detail

- 12 classroom blocks & 11 individual classrooms were constructed, benefiting 19,421 pupils
- 9 five-stance and 16 two-stance toilet blocks built providing 77 sanitation facilities for 10,000 pupils
- 14 classroom renovations benefiting 904 pupils
- 3,730 desks were provided benefiting 11,190 pupils
- 3 boreholes providing clean water for 1,200 children and teachers
- School Management Committee members in every school have been trained to identify the needs of their school and develop a three year school development plan
- Training of peer educators and the establishment of health clubs has increased awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention at 27 schools benefiting 19,421 pupils
- 773 teachers received training in English, Maths and Science

St. Aloysious Primary School New for 2009

St Aloysious School has been providing the local children with an education since 1914 and has now grown to accommodate 755 pupils and their 15 teachers.



Pupils sit outside their condemned classroom

During a recent visit it was immediately clear that the old classrooms were in a terrible state. Over the years they had had many uses, including acting as a temporary shelter when violence forced people from their homes in the late eighties. Upon closer inspection, the reality of the situation really hit home. Huge cracks ran through the walls and the wood holding up the fragile roof was riddled with termites. The deputy head informed us that these structures had been condemned by the local authority but were still used, as they simply had no alternative. During lessons plaster often falls on the children and all classes have to be cancelled when it rains, as there is a very real possibility that the classroom may collapse on the children.

Sanitation facilities at the school are no better. When we visited, both pit latrine blocks were unusable – one sunk by flooding and the other, a temporary structure made of corrugated iron, blown over during a storm.

In spite of these challenges, the School Management Committee is incredibly committed to the school. Despite their limited resources, they have planted a garden to provide the pupils with a midday meal and have repaired all the buildings to the best of their ability – plans were already underway to rebuild the temporary pit latrine structure for the new term.

As a demonstration school, St Aloysious trains newly qualified teachers. Despite its challenges, these teachers constantly strive to provide the children with a decent education - a commitment clearly evident just from the amount of work on display in every classroom.

Eventually, a rain storm forced us to leave the school and as we left the community sheltering in the precarious classrooms it was reassuring to know that the school will soon have six new classrooms and two new latrine blocks.



The community turns out to welcome the visitors

A Tribute to Ellen Aputiput Primary School, Kumi, Uganda

In September 2008, Build Africa supporter Cedric Fairclough embarked on the trip of a lifetime to visit the schools and communities in the remote district of Kumi, Uganda.

However, the journey began over a year earlier when his late wife Ellen introduced him to Build Africa's Build a School project. Sadly Ellen passed away in 2007, but moved by her enthusiasm and passion for this project, Cedric decided to support Aputiput School in Uganda in Ellen's memory.



Pupils seated in the shade of their old classroom

When Aputiput School first opened in 2004, the pupils learnt under the shade of mango trees. There were no toilets, classrooms or teaching facilities and children were sent home when it rained as there was simply no shelter. The few books that they did have

were ruined as there was nowhere dry to store them at school. The temporary structure housed 150 pupils in three separate classes, all sharing just one blackboard.

All this changed thanks to Cedric's support. Driving down the bumpy mud track on our way to open the new classroom block and witness firsthand the impact which Build Africa's work has

had on the school, we were greeted by the pupils, teachers and local community of Aputiput, eager to meet Cedric and show off their new classrooms and toilet blocks. From this moment, their dedication and enthusiasm was immediately apparent. When they should have been enjoying the final week of their holidays, they had all come to witness the official opening of their new classrooms. It was clear that everyone was looking forward to lessons being conducted inside, away from the wind and rain.

As we sat under the temporary structure the local community and teachers explained to us the challenges of teaching in these conditions. Most striking, however, was their overwhelming commitment to ensure that their children receive a decent education. Despite their limited resources, they have already put aside bricks and sand for a new classroom block and have planted maize and potatoes at the school to ensure that the children will be able to eat at lunchtime.



Cedric meets Head Boy Paul Ochom

It was an incredibly moving moment when Cedric stood up to give his speech in which he described why and how he had come to support Aputiput. He then presented the Head Boy of the school with a framed picture of Ellen to honour her memory. As Cedric officially declared the school open, the children flooded excitedly into their new classrooms and the whole community joined in song to celebrate this momentous occasion. As we drove away it was humbling to think about the incredible difference that one person had made to Aputiput and the many future generations which will benefit.

“Being involved in this project with Build Africa has helped me through the most difficult period of my life and the knowledge that Ellen's name is now associated with Aputiput Primary School in Uganda gives me a feeling of great achievement and satisfaction.”

Cedric Fairclough



Paul Ochom is twelve years old and the Head Boy at Aputiput School. When we visited the school, Paul was very excited about having lessons inside the new classroom. He explained how difficult it was to learn in the temporary structure as it would often collapse around them. He said, “Sitting on the ground we get dirty and so do our books, it is difficult to see because of all the pupils and the sun getting in my eyes”. Classes were cancelled if the teachers thought it would rain as there would be no shelter.

Paul lives with his parents and seven brothers and sisters, and before enrolling at Aputiput he walked nine kilometres to school. He wants to pass his primary exam and go to secondary school; later in life he would like to be a judge. Paul loves football and his favourite team is Manchester United! Until now, he and the other pupils played football with banana leaves bound up with string but happily, thanks to all the gifts of footballs that our supporters bought for Christmas, they'll be able to practice with the real thing this year.

Campaign News

Getting Girls to School

Girls' rights to an education are often overlooked and sidelined. A series of radio broadcasts will begin throughout Uganda in 2009 informing parents of the importance of educating the girl child, and aimed at reducing the number of girls who are married young or forced to stay at home as carers.

Health Clubs for Schools

Education has been called a social vaccine against HIV/AIDS because it empowers children with the appropriate skills to receive and act on knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention. In 2009 Build Africa will help establish health clubs in all of the schools we support with child sensitive information packs. We will also train individual students to act as tutors to their peers, so they can openly discuss the dangers from an informed perspective.

The 'Right To Play'

New partnerships always bring new opportunities and in 2009 Build Africa is working with international humanitarian organisation 'Right To Play' which uses sport and play programmes to improve health, develop life skills, and foster peace for children and communities in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world. The organisation has offered to work with Build Africa supported primary schools in the Kumi and Bukedea region of Uganda.



Schools We are Working With in 2009

Uganda

Bukedea District: Malera Okouba, St Aloysius, Aputiput, Kokwech, Kongatuny, Kasechi, Okula

Kumi District: Amugagara, Kopege, Kachuru, Olungia, Omaditok, Onyedde, Owogoria, Tamula, Nyero Kodike, Tididiek, Obosoi

Masindi District: Kawiti, Kimogora, Bunyama, St Livingstone, Kididima, Jeeja, Nyakibete, Nyakabale, Kitwara, Kiryandongo, Kiigya, Nyakatama, Kizibu, Kyembera

Buliisa District: Waiga, Kisomere

Kenya

Naivasha District: Echariria, Nagum, Kapkures, Kanorero, Morop, Gitare, Meri, Twendane

Machakos District: Kavete, Myanyani, Mbukuni, Kyangala,

Mwala District: Kwandoo, Kanyongo, Kituamba

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