

What made the news in 2014?

We made some great progress in 2014. We launched a five year strategy that aims to improve the quality of education and the livelihoods of more than a million people in rural Africa. Our Education Programme is building strong life foundations for children by supporting them throughout their time at school, from their first day to their final leaving exam; while our complimentary Livelihoods Programme is helping families save and borrow, providing that small but crucial financial freedom that allows them to invest in their businesses, support their children at school and prosper even when the economic shocks and stresses of rural African life hit them. You are helping us do all this.



We love school

You have helped us give more children a quality education.

All in all we worked in **154 schools**, supporting over **90,000 children**.

Moving on up

Only **17% of the children** in the Ugandan schools we support had to repeat their first year; compared with **22%** in 2013.

Passing with flying colours

You have helped us prepare children for secondary school, for vocational training or work.



The number of children who sat their school leaving exams in the Kenyan schools we support went up **13% in 2014**.

76% of children who sat their school leaving exams in our Ugandan schools passed them, more than ever before.

A life free of poverty

You have helped us give our community members a better livelihood. They were able to save and borrow through our Village Savings and Loans scheme, were trained in good agricultural practices, learned how to market their maize better and got higher prices for it because of improved drying and storage methods and because they bulked it with other farmers.

Giving girls a fair chance

You have helped us address the issues that affect girls. We held community awareness meetings and broadcasted radio shows that dealt with issues such as early marriage, trained teachers in child-friendly teaching methods that treat every child as an individual and improved girls' access to sanitary towels and washing facilities at school.



In Uganda, **80%** of girls at the schools we support had an emergency sanitary towel supply; compared with **73%** the year before.

We're getting there

With your continued help we will improve the education and livelihoods of more than a million people in rural Africa by 2018



With your help we really are making a difference

We achieved so much in 2014 because you care about the work we are doing. On behalf of the 90,000 plus children receiving a better education and the 6,077 community members enjoying better access to financial services and improved business skills we would like to say a big, big thank you. They couldn't have done it without you.

We would also like to tell you a little about our plans for the future. We have a strategy in place that will improve the quality of education and the livelihoods of more than a million people in rural

Africa. With your help we can do this by the end of 2018. You will be helping us ensure that subsistence farmers and small business owners are able to provide their families with their basic needs: food, education and healthcare; while a better education will ensure that children get better jobs as adults. Your support will help us extend the reach of our work, explore innovative ways to increase our impact, and develop the insight, capacity and resources to tackle the challenges ahead and transform the lives of Africa's poorest communities.

Thank you again for your priceless support and here's to transforming the lives of more and more of the rural poor over the next four years and beyond.

What do you think of the information that we send you? If you have any comments then please email them to chris@build-africa.org.uk.

Have we got your correct details (name, address, contact details and gift aid status)? If not then please email them to hello@build-africa.org.uk.

A mother on a mission



Dorcas Muthoni

Dorcas is a 30-year-old mother of four children, two of whom are pupils at Build Africa Kenya-supported Mbombo Primary School. She grows maize and beans in her half-acre plot of land, as well as vegetables which she sells to neighbours or at Kiptangwanyi market. In 2013 Dorcas joined the Gitemu Central Dam Savings Group in Gilgil District, and has never looked back. With her first loan of 2,000 Kenyan Shillings she bought six chickens. The chickens have since started laying eggs which she is planning to hatch to get more chickens to sell. And her plans for the future? Dorcas wants her group to accumulate more savings so that they can overcome a major challenge: to buy a water tank that will store water for the dry season.

Equal opportunities at work and home



Our Village Savings and Loans Association scheme has been particularly popular with women, which means more investment in children's education, health, access to food and nutrition, as well as an improvement in women's involvement in decision making at household level.

70% of the Village Savings and Loans Association members in Kenya were women.

Victor's gardening victories

Victor is a 15 year old final year pupil at Kahara Primary School. He has learnt a lot of great things about growing food from his science teacher Mr. Wamalwa. And that's because Mr. Wamalwa has been trained to pass on good agronomic practices as part of the Water and Food Access Project.

Victor is the sort of learner that we like, taking the lessons he's learned home and showing his parents how to grow more crops for food too.

"With the knowledge that I acquired from school, I decided to open up a small garden at home, where I planted maize and vegetables. We eat the vegetable at home, but I have sold the 70kg of maize at 570 Ugandan Shillings a kilo, and with the money I made I bought shoes and clothes and materials for school."



Green fingered Victor in his home garden



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