



Kanana Genesis: bringing new hope to a new school in a new area of operation

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Kanana Genesis: bringing new hope to a new school

In 2013 Build Africa moved into new districts in both Uganda and Kenya. We want to replicate our successful education and livelihoods programmes so that we reach more of the people who need us most. That's why Msambweni and Kinango Districts are part of that expansion. With over 75% of the population living in poverty they are the poorest districts in Kwale, itself one of the poorest of Kenya's counties.

Kanana Genesis Primary School is in Msambweni district. Mkambe Mwero, a parent and member of the School Management Committee, told us why Build Africa's support is so desperately needed.



Mkambe Mwero, a parent at Kanana Genesis Primary School

'I grow cashew nuts, cassava and maize in my small piece of land. It is barely enough to give my children one meal a day. And there is a lack of enough water in the village.'

Kanana Genesis is in desperate need of our food and water programme. We will give parents like Mkambe a clean water supply and a school garden.

'So we have diseases, like malaria and typhoid, which are made worse by lack of a public clinic in the area. The nearest clinic is about 20 kilometres away from our village.'

A Build Africa health club will ensure that every child is healthy, safe and secure at school, better supported and motivated to learn. And these essential health messages will be passed on to family members.

'Kanana is also prone to jiggers due to the high temperatures and sandy soils. The jiggers usually attack children and this affects their feet and hands, making walking and learning difficult.'

A new classroom with a stone floor, filled with desks and tables for every child to use will make the threat of jiggers a thing of the past.

'The majority of the residents of Kanana did not get the opportunity to go to school. I was lucky to finish my primary education, although I would have loved

to attend secondary school. But as a girl I was asked to let my brothers study while I remained at home. The majority of the parents do not support their children in school.



By working alongside the Kanana community we will show the parents just how valuable their support is to the success of the school and their children. By addressing issues such as girls' access to education, girl-friendly teaching methods and negative attitudes towards girls' education, we will also help reduce the inequalities between girls and boys and give girls the greatest opportunity to gain a high quality education.

In our covering letter you will find out more about the desperate situation that Kanana Genesis is in and about our commitment to bring new hope to a new community in a new area of operation.

Taking away the pain of jiggers

Our 2013 Summer Appeal highlighted the misery caused by jiggers, or sand fleas, at our schools. Hidden in warm dusty areas, they burrow into the skin causing irritation and itchiness. If left alone they can cause severe inflammation and ulceration; secondary infections can lead to tetanus and the loss of a toe. To prevent this, children resort to digging the jigger out with a dirty pin or needle, often leaving a sore that can develop into a septic ulcer.



Jigger damaged heels and toes

We asked you to help us eradicate this terrible problem by taking our pupils out of their dusty and dangerous temporary

classrooms made of mud, corrugated iron and termite-infested wood and giving them well-built and furnished classrooms with concrete floors and sturdy walls. We asked you to help us provide the desks and chairs they need so that they don't have to sit on the floor; to help us provide health clubs where they can learn to live healthier, disease-free lives.

Mutuku's jigger hell

Mutuku, a 14-year-old pupil at Kathyoli Primary School in Kenya, is just one child who has been given a second chance by your kindness. He has experienced the misery of jiggers; the sleeplessness and lack of concentration in class; the isolation and school days spent at home:

'You feel itchy all the time and this leads to discomfort while walking, sleeplessness on warm nights, and bad concentration in class. The wounds which result from the infected parts take time to heal which means walking is painful and wearing shoes is difficult. Other children even distance themselves from those affected and this means some children have to sit by themselves or even stay at home. This affects their performance since their esteem is low'.

The road to health and a better education

How has Mutuku's life at school improved since he moved into the new classroom?

'Since we moved into our new classroom, which is cemented and painted, my well-being has improved because my uniform and books always remain clean. I do not have jiggers as the floor ensures that the jiggers cannot survive in the classroom. The shutters also keep the classroom warm when it is cold and there are strong winds, this ensures that I am free from any ailments.'

Mutuku's new classroom is going a long way to addressing the health issues at Kathyoli, as is a vibrant health club that meets every week.

We support over 65,000 school children in 119 rural African communities. Every one of them deserves the same basic rights to a quality education that we are already giving to Mutuku: to study and grow in a safe and supportive school environment. With your help we can do this.

Mutuku, centre, in the new classroom

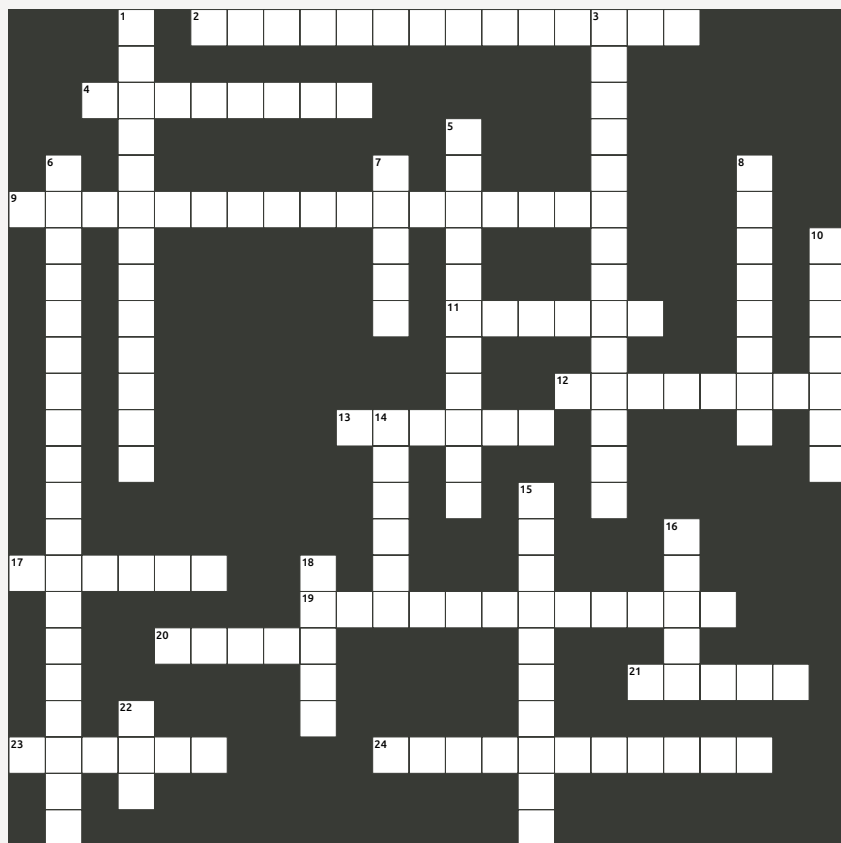


'At our health club we are advised to maintain high hygiene standards, such as washing our hands before eating and after visiting the toilet, and boiling our drinking water; we also visit the health centre regularly now so that we can be scanned for any ailments and treated as early as possible, by being given deworming tablets for example'.

Mutuku, centre, during play time



The Habari crossword



Across

2. Build Africa supporter. Star of Downton Abbey and Ever Decreasing Circles (see photo). (8,6)
4. What we'd like to say to all our supporters. (5,3)
9. The Build Africa programme that's supporting children's learning, from early learning years to their final exams. (8, 9)
11. What you are reading. (6)
12. Build Africa's education work helps give 65,962 of these get a better education (see photo). (8)
13. We don't look back we look forward. We want to give our communities a better one. (6)
17. Will you support us after you've gone? (6)
19. The number of pupils sitting these increased by 20% on average between 2012 and 2013. (12)
20. In 2013, 38% of them achieved the grades they needed to go to secondary school, 11% more than the year before. (5)
21. Every clean drop helps. (see photo). (5)
23. Financial supporters. (6)
24. We do a lot of this to raise money! (11)

Down

1. Children can learn to grow here. (6,7)
3. Build Africa patron. Star of The Mystery of Edwin Drood and The Tudors (see photo). (6,8)
5. Join these for wellbeing. (6,5)
6. The Build Africa programme that's increasing the incomes of the poor. (8,11)
7. Yum! We provided this to 72% of the final year pupils in 2013. (see photo). (5)
8. In 2013 we supported 1,323 of these in 119 schools (36% more than the year before). (8)
10. 49% of these contribute to school construction in Uganda. (7)
14. We work in this country. (6)
15. In 2013, 230 Build Africa supporters did this leafy half-marathon in London, raising £85,000 for our work. (5, 5)
16. We work in this country too. (5)
18. 69% of pupils now sit comfortably at these. (5)
22. Who we need most to make a change. (3)



2 across



3 down



7 down



21 across



12 across

Our man in the field

Alfred Itunga

He finds the stories that bring our programmes to life and keeps you up to date on our work.

Alfred Itunga, our Communications Officer, tells us why his job is so rewarding.

'The most amazing thing about my job is meeting the people Build Africa has helped and having the privilege of retelling their incredible stories to our supporters with words, photos and videos. Talking to children about their hopes and dreams makes me remember my childhood, when I loved being photographed. I often hear how whole communities have had their lives transformed when I'm at a new school opening, a training scheme or just visiting our projects.

I also work closely with the communications and fundraising teams in the UK. I tell them about the hardships and achievements here in Kenya and Uganda and they reach out to you, our supporters, to tell you about the successes your generous support has made possible and what still needs doing.

I love to see people making real progress in their lives. Whenever I visit a community I am moved by their improvements, whether it is in their school life, employment or standard of living. These changes motivate me to work even harder, because even the smallest things have a huge impact.

It is my firm belief that the communities I work with have the solutions to their problems within their grasp. They just need the guidance and confidence to seize them.

Some of the most satisfying moments have come from linking supporters with the people whose lives they've changed for the better. Writing a story or taking a photograph which is later printed or posted online, makes it all worthwhile, because I know this will have an impact on our supporters.

As a Communications Officer at Build Africa, I have had the chance to travel to many areas of Kenya and Uganda to meet people from all kinds of backgrounds and cultures. At times it is very challenging when we go to some rural areas without roads, especially when it rains and I cannot reach the person whose story we are trying to tell. But we are determined at Build Africa: I always get there in the end!

So you see it is a life full of ups and downs, but I am so proud that what I do changes the lives of people for the better.'



“Whenever I look at the 'before' and 'after' pictures of communities that Build Africa has worked with, I feel so proud of what we have done and pleased that I have been able to show this through my material.”



Alfred in action



Build Africa volunteer trip to Kilima, Uganda, in October 2013

Be part of our volunteer trip to Kenya

We're so proud of what we've achieved and we want to share it with everyone who has helped us along the way. In June 2014 we're taking a group of 12 Build Africa supporters to Kenya to visit our projects and see how we deliver life-changing programmes to the communities we support.

Would you like to join us?

Selection for this trip is on an application basis, and you will need to explain how – on your return – you will be able to continue to support our work, either through fundraising or by helping us raise awareness about what we do. We believe that when you witness the positive changes Build Africa has made, you will come home excited and energised to help us make a difference.

The deadline for applications is April 11th. If you would like to apply, please visit <http://www.build-africa.org/volunteer-2014>

All your legacy questions answered

On Build Africa's brand new website you can now find out more about how to leave a gift in your Will, and what this means to us and our beneficiaries.

By clicking on the 'donate' button you can find out about how your legacy can be part of Africa's future, including a comprehensive FAQ section, legacy clauses for your solicitor and examples of the huge impact such gifts can make on the communities we work with.

We understand that choosing to leave a legacy is an important and deeply personal decision. If you would like to talk about leaving a legacy in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please contact Abi Betts on 01892 519619 or abi.betts@build-africa.org

Legacy FAQs



We've put together a few FAQs to help answer any questions you may have about leaving a gift in your Will

[Read more](#)

A new school gardens partner

A UK-based coffee company with roots in Kenya, Kahawa Origins is working to improve the lives of people living in coffee growing communities. It's trading direct with African farmers to guarantee fair prices for their produce, and it's investing 10 per cent of every coffee club subscription into its charitable wing Maisha Poa ('The Good Life Trust').



We're delighted that Maisha Poa shares Build Africa's vision and purpose and is partnering with us to fund and support School Gardens projects in Uganda. These water and food access initiatives are already transforming lives and livelihoods.

As well as educating pupils, teachers pass on best practice in cultivation to parents to increase productivity in their own gardens. This reduces pressure on children to abandon their education to support household food and income generation.

Not only will Kahawa Origins bring outstanding African coffee to discerning drinkers, it will also, through Maisha Poa, help children, their parents and their communities in Uganda learn new agricultural skills such as crop rotation and drought management.

For more information about Kahawa Origins and Maisha Poa, visit www.kahawa-origins.co.uk, and follow their news at www.twitter.com/kahawaorigins and www.facebook.com/KahawaOrigins



Crossword Solution

Across

2. PENELOPEWILTON
4. THANKYOU
9. BUILDINGEDUCATION
11. HABARI
12. CHILDREN
13. FUTURE
17. LEGACY
19. EXAMINATIONS
20. GIRLS
21. WATER
23. DONORS
24. FUNDRAISING

Down

1. SCHOOLGARDENS
3. TAMZINMERCHANT
5. HEALTHCLUBS
6. BUILDINGLIVELIHOODS
7. LUNCH
8. TEACHERS
10. PARENTS
14. UGANDA
15. ROYALPARKS
16. KENYA
18. DESKS
22. YOU

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