

Best buddies

Our 2014 Summer Appeal highlighted the need for early learning classes that prepare the youngest children for school. Great early learning sets off a positive chain reaction in a child's life. Without it children are in danger of dropping out of school before their learning properly begins. They are forever denied the benefits of an education, benefits such as opportunity, choice, health and prosperity.

Because of the generosity of our supporters Buddy Clubs like the one at Kilima Primary School in Buliisa District, Uganda, are training older pupils to support the youngsters, helping make school a friendly and stimulating place to be.

12-year-old Jovia is a buddy to 5-year-old Jackline at Kilima: "I enjoy taking care of my buddy and I have seen her improve. It is always good to teach the young ones things and then you see them doing it by themselves. I usually teach my buddy how to use the latrine well and not the bush, what to do when they need something, playing safely and also ensuring that they are smart by cleaning their hands and keeping their uniform smart. It is also good to play with them."

Harriet Tinkasiime is the nursery class teacher: "After attending the training organised by Build Africa we were happy by what we learned. We came back to school to share with the other teachers and managed to mobilise some older and younger pupils to form buddy partners.

By taking care of them we increase their chances of staying at school and being able to comfortably learn. We have seen some changes with the buddies. The older ones are more concerned and will spare some time every morning and free time to check on their buddies. They help them also in reading at their free time and how to play safely.

The project is very important, especially in our school, which is a community school. The pupils can interact at school and follow the good things even in their homes.



Jackline (left) with her buddy Jovia

As teachers we feel very supported and cases of bullying are on the decrease, which means the young ones can stay in school throughout the year."

We are very proud of innovative approaches such as Buddy Clubs. They are helping the youngest learners fully participate in school and providing a foundation that will help them make the most of all their future learning opportunities. We could only do this because you care about their future. Thank you for making our life-changing projects possible.

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Young Ambassador



Onapito John Michael

The future's orange

There are some very good reasons why Build Africa is training farmers in the Kumi District of Uganda to grow oranges. The area has terrible levels of health, education and poverty. It is plagued by drought, flooding and sporadic violence, which means that food is often in short supply.

But the region also has ideal soil and the perfect climate for growing oranges, with low rainfall and plenty of sunshine. Oranges are a high value and reliable crop with a rising demand, so farmers are assured a more reliable income from growing them and are better able to cope with the economic and climatic uncertainties of life in rural Africa. That is why we are training eight established citrus farmers to become nursery operators (who sell young orange trees on to other farmers), and providing the technical training, fertilizer and water that will help 8,000 farmers in 400 farmer groups go orange.

From lemon seeds to orange trees: an ingenious process explained



1. The nursery farmers that we support actually begin by growing lemon seedlings because these are more resistant to diseases than orange seedlings.



2. They then graft orange buds on to them to grow the orange trees.



3. Cling film is wrapped around the point of incision and the seedlings are left for two weeks, during which time the buds start to grow. The lemon branch above the incision point can then be snapped off to allow the orange stem to grow and become a tree.



4. After a few months the orange trees can be potted for sale to other citrus farmers or transferred into an orchard with wider spacing ready for harvesting.

Stephen Omoding has four children, an uncle and two cousins to support. He has been farming ground nuts, cassava, green grams and cotton for more than ten years, but he now intends to start growing oranges on his farm:

“Build Africa’s training taught me the benefits of orange farming and its lucrative returns. I feel that orange farming will not only help me support my family better, but will ensure that as I get older my family can inherit the trees for their future.”



Stephen Omoding

Agoti Merab is a farmer who has five children in primary and secondary school. She just manages to make ends meet by growing groundnut and millet on other people’s farms:

“The other crops I have been growing are quite demanding and you need to put in a lot. I feel that since I am no longer strong like I used to be, I cannot work a lot to meet my family needs. Also, the harvest is affected by the rainfall and prices are dictated by the supply. But with citrus the crop and the market are almost guaranteed and the work is not as labour intensive.”



“This is where I will grow my oranges” Agoti Merab

Oire Emmanuel is one of the eight established citrus farmers who have been trained by Build Africa to become nursery operators. He has received seeds, fertilizer, a water tank and fencing to help him set up his garden. He has since planted his seeds and expects to harvest around 200,000 seedlings which he will sell on to other farmers in the district:

“I believe that once I am able to sell the seedlings, I will be able to support my children in school and improve their way of life. I believe this is a good farming project which more farmers should be encouraged to join. I am sure that once this project is fully picked by the village and district at large there will be even more benefits and development in Uganda.”



Oire Emmanuel with his family

Onapito John Michael is another established citrus farmer who we have trained as a nursery operator:

“Citrus is my livelihood and I have seen its benefits since I have been able to educate all my children, buy assets and most importantly build a decent house and home for my large family. Build Africa has been very supportive and has supplied me with seeds, fertilizer and a tank, which are essential for my nursery. They also provide support by visiting and advising accordingly. I value the training and I know it will help me improve my citrus farming.”



Onapito John Michael with his family



Nzara (far left) with her classmates

Back in school and back on track

Nzara is in year six at Mwanguru Primary School in Kwale County, Kenya. Her dream is to go all the way to secondary school and become a teacher, “so that I can ensure that my younger sister completes her education and does not get married early”. It’s easy to see why, when you read her story:

“I left school in 2012, after my father who was supporting my education became ill and passed on. My mother was left behind with six girls to take care of and it was difficult for her to support the three of us who were in school.

When my father passed on my immediate older sister got married and she joined my other sisters in married life. I think it was because she saw no hope in continuing with education and my mother accepted the dowry. I almost gave up on education, since I would be frequently sent home to collect school fees and eventually had to drop out.

When I dropped out I would take care of my younger sister, while my mother went out to look for casual labour for our survival. Sometimes I would accompany her to work and we would work in peoples’ gardens, fetch water and cut firewood for them.”

Build Africa is helping girls with stories just like Nzara’s. Terry Kunina is one of our Project Officers working in the Kwale District of Kenya:

“We are identifying young mothers who are out of school, looking at the community holistically and addressing the issues that affect girls’ education.

We work with girls like Nzara to ensure that they are aware of their rights and we also aim to get community members like her parents to embrace education as a child right issue.”

Because of these initiatives Nzara is now back in school and enjoying her education:

“Because of a community awareness meeting, and after pleading with my mother, she approached the head teacher and told him of my intention to go back to school. I am happy since the head teacher accepted and I managed to come back to school.

“I am also a member of the Girls Club, which is encouraging us to stay at school and avoid early pregnancies, which are a cause of school drop-out. Since I came back to school last year I am struggling to catch up but I am determined to get back to my top position.”



In the school library

Busking for Build Africa

Grace is a fundraiser who has, quite literally, gone that extra mile to raise money for our work. She has been playing her violin on the streets and bridges of London, enchanting and entertaining the public with her classical repertoire.

“The best things are that you can get practice playing outside, explore different parts of the city and help raise money for different charities”, she told us. “The worst thing is the unpredictable weather. The other day, I was worried that the strong wind on Millennium Bridge would snap my bow or blow it away. I also noticed that a lot of children seem interested in buskers but their parents are usually in a hurry.”

A new child sponsor

But Grace isn't just busking for us. She has become one of our youngest child sponsors as well. “I thought it would be nice to get to know someone in a different country who is my age.” Grace will be able to see the impact her support is making, through the eyes of the child she is sponsoring. She can look forward to receiving regular updates about their progress at school, their family life and developments in the community.

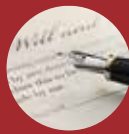
We would like to thank Grace for showing that even our youngest supporters can make a huge difference to the communities that we are working with.

“I thought it would be nice to get to know someone in a different country who is my age”



Grace busking on the Millennium Bridge, London

I'm an Executor of a Will, what do I need to do?



We appreciate that the death of a loved one is a terrible ordeal for all those involved, and the legal requirements of dealing with the estate (the property, money and possessions) of the deceased can sometimes add to an already stressful situation.

That is why we provide as much legal support and advice as possible at this most difficult of times. Being an Executor means validating the estate and carrying out the instructions left in a Will, often of a friend or loved one. It can be quite complex, and feel even more so at a time of sadness. Many people who take on the role of Executor often don't know what to do, or in what order.

To help you find out more we have been given some essential information from the probate specialist The Kings Court Trust, detailing what you would need to do in 10 easy steps.

You can download a copy of the booklet in the Legacy FAQs section of our website www.build-africa.org/leave-a-gift or call Emily Brown on 01892 519619 to request a copy by post.

Data protection: keeping your details safe



With all the media focus on the charity sector at the moment, we wanted to reassure all our valued supporters that we're looking after your personal information.

How safely are my details stored?

Build Africa abides by the Data Protection Act. We keep supporters' details on a secure database and our staff are trained on the importance of protecting information.

Build Africa does not sell or swap data with any other charities or organisations and this is not something we ever plan to do in the future.

Why does Build Africa use external agencies?

We do use agencies such as mailing houses and telemarketing companies, as we simply don't have the resources to carry out these activities ourselves. However, we only use these agencies once they have signed an agreement stating they have no rights to our data and will abide by the Data Protection Act. They must, for example, only use the data as we instruct them and then remove that data from their system once our campaign is completed.

Can I change the type of communication I get?

Yes you can. If someone tells us that they would no longer like to receive mail or telephone calls we will always remove their details from that type of communication. Everyone has the right to request which type of communications they do or don't receive so please get in touch and let us know your preferences.

If you have any concerns or comments on this topic please contact Emily at hello@build-africa.org.uk or call 01892 519619.

Profile of a Build Africa Young Ambassador

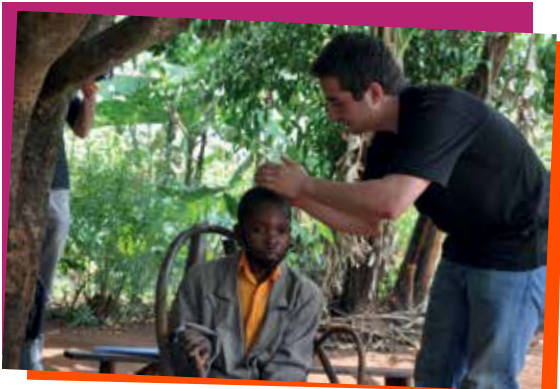
Build Africa's Young Ambassador programme recognises young supporters who are making a significant contribution to the work of the charity through their fundraising efforts. Giles Ross, an ex-intern at our offices in Tunbridge Wells, is one of those Ambassadors.



Hands-on approach: pumping water at Asinge Primary School, Kumi District, Uganda

A final year Sociology student at Newcastle University, Giles is in fact the third generation of Ross to give their time and expertise to the organisation. His father, Andrew Ross, is also an Ambassador; while his grandfather, Ian, was Chief Executive Officer.

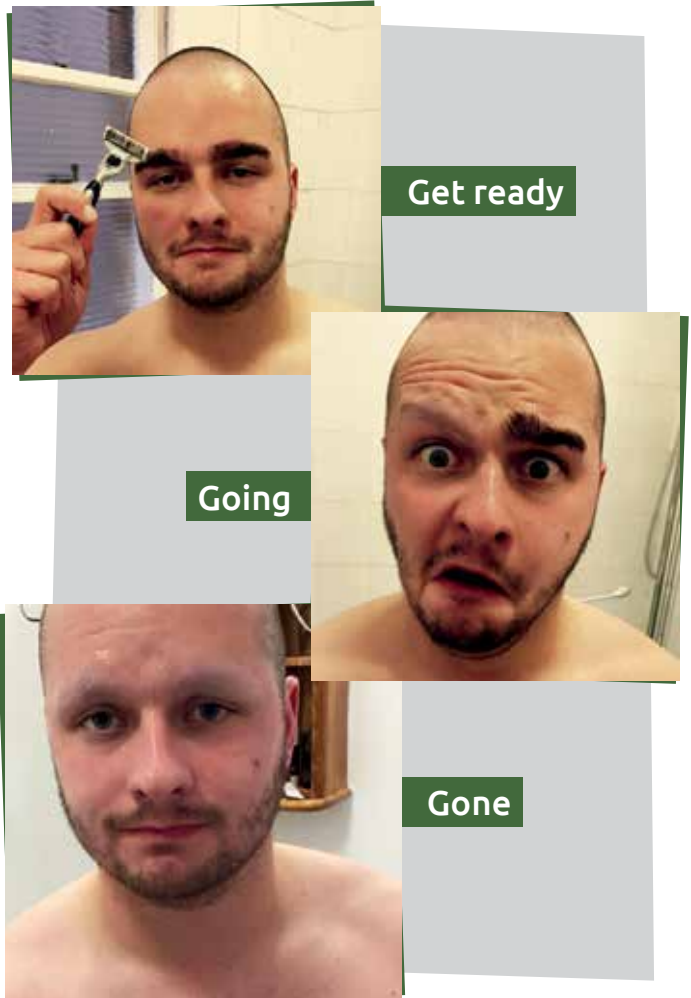
Giles was inspired to get involved after hearing about the fundraising efforts of others. He volunteered for an internship in our Tunbridge Wells office and while here grabbed the opportunity of a field trip to Africa. Like everyone who visits the inspiring communities that we work with, Giles came back determined to do what he could to help. So he signed up as a Young Ambassador and has already been hard at work raising money for us.



Make-up artist: preparing the star of the 2013 Build Africa video

Sponsored shave

Giles's initial fundraising idea was probably a first for Build Africa. We all remember Giles for his hard work and enthusiasm, his input and his sense of humour. But we also remember his magnificent eyebrows. It was inconceivable that he should want to lose these marvellous specimens for anyone. However, when it came to raising money for the communities that he had visited, no sacrifice was too great.



Giles decided to set a price of £500 a brow and we are pleased to report that he reached his target of £1,000.

We would like to thank him for going through with his "great sacrifice" and for volunteering as a Build Africa Young Ambassador.

Build Africa

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It's better by email

Have you given us your email address yet? It's a quick and easy way to tell you about developments and thank you for the difference that you are making.

If not, then please email Emily Brown on hello@build-africa.org.uk or call **01892 519619**.