

A proper ticking off at Kathyoli: Musyoki presents his last report

Also inside: *Girl power at Jeeja Primary School •
How partnering makes our programmes more effective
• Big changes to the Build Africa website*

Letter to the editor



Dear Chris,

As someone who has lived in Kenya for many years I was very saddened to see East Africa blighted by the recent drought. How have the communities where Build Africa works been effected and is it too late to do anything to help?

Mrs Davies
London W3



Dear Mrs Davies,

While the areas where Build Africa works have been spared a humanitarian crisis on the level of Ethiopia or Somalia, it is also true to say that Kenya has been hit worse than Uganda, with Machakos and Mwala Districts suffering more than the other areas where we operate. In these districts widespread hunger has had an adverse effect on education, with teachers reporting erratic attendance at some of the schools that we support. Similarly, Village Savings and Loans groups have been unable to meet because members have understandably been searching for food or attending food relief meetings in the area.

As a result we launched a summer appeal in August to deliver water to the nine hardest hit schools in Machakos and Mwala, providing guttering and tanks that will give the schools and the surrounding communities enough clean water if and when the rains fail in the future.

It is never too late to help. You can find the appeal on the Build Africa website (www.build-africa.org).

In this way we are playing our part in the international community's drive to provide assistance and save lives in the short term, while continuing to provide long term solutions to rural poverty in East Africa.

Because sustainability is an important part of our ethos: our Build a School and Build an Income programmes are already helping people prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought, in particular by helping them diversify their livelihoods so they're not so dependent on their livestock or crops and by installing and maintaining rainwater harvesting equipment.

I hope that gives you all the information that you require. We will be updating you on developments at the Machakos and Mwala schools in the next edition of Habari.

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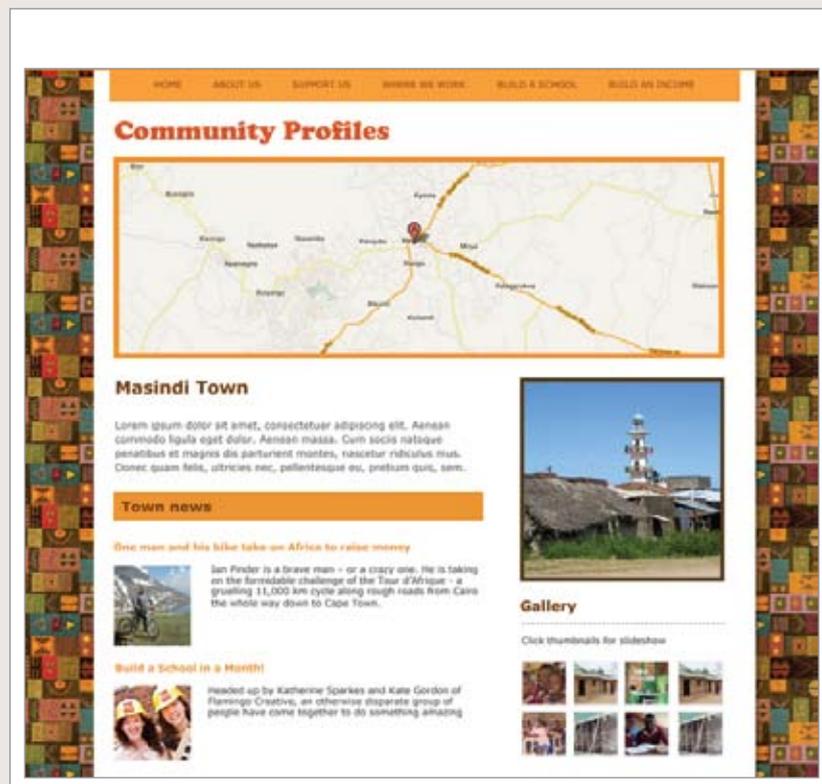
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A bigger, better website

Giving you more control

We will soon be rolling out a few changes to our website. You will soon have the ability to do a number of things which you previously had to call us to do, including signing up to fundraising events, updating your address and mailing preferences, signing up for e-newsletters, and viewing your donation history.

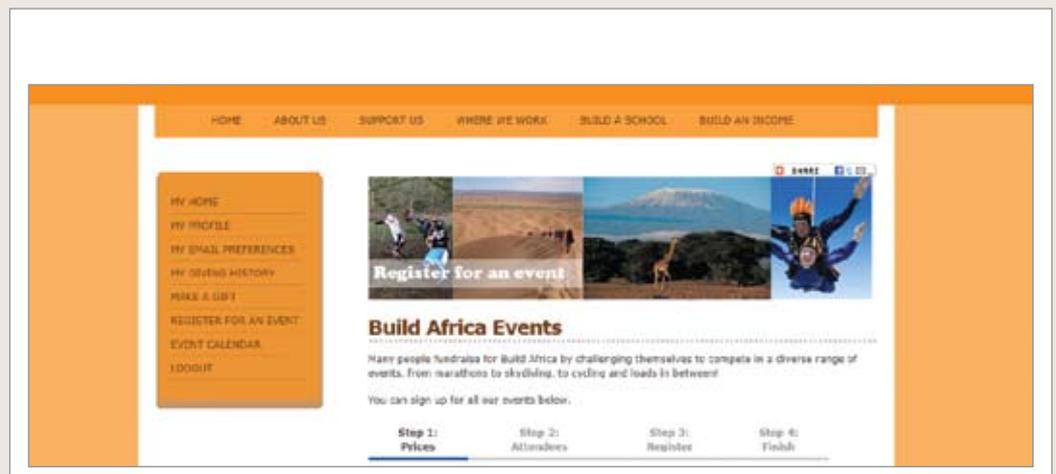


A window to our work

We will also be introducing you to two communities in Kenya and Uganda (screenshot on left) whose progress we will be documenting in greater detail on the website. We want you to meet the people we work with, follow their stories and be able to see exactly where they live, study and work.

You will be able to follow local news, explore the locality through the detailed map with pop-up images showing specific locations, and see for yourself how your support of the school and savings groups is contributing to community life through case studies and profiles.

We believe in making it as easy as possible for you to learn about the communities we work with and see how your support makes a difference.



Keep an eye on our website from the second half of September for changes!

www.build-africa.org

Overcoming the obstacles to development: how your support has created a culture of success at Kathyoli Primary School

We are delighted to announce that every one of the items on Kathyoli's list of developments for 2011 has now been ticked. But a tick on a blackboard tells only a small part of the story. To get an idea of the remarkable achievement that each completed objective represents we must look at the sometimes overwhelming cultural, economic, environmental and demographic challenges that our communities face from one day to the next. Mrs. Serah Mesyuka, a teacher at Kathyoli, has given us a candid account of the particular problems presented by the construction work at the school:



Mrs. Serah Mesyuka

"The drought situation in Kenya has led to a delay in the construction of the classroom block. Parents who were expected to provide materials,

such as ballast for the buildings, have been busy looking for food for their children instead. It is impossible for an exhausted workforce to carry out manual labour because the work is very tiring."

'...there are very few men in Kathyoli...'

"In addition, there are very few men in Kathyoli because of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, while many of the pupils at the school are orphans who live with their grandparents. The women and older

villagers have found hard manual jobs like the shaping of the stones and digging of foundations very difficult. Understandably their progress has been very slow."

The new classroom block taking shape.



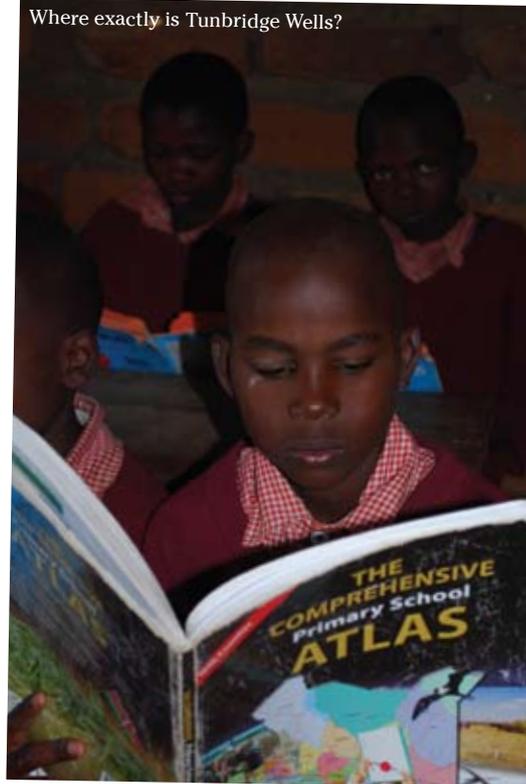
One of the main challenges that the project coordinators face is to communicate roles and responsibilities to the community members. Large construction projects like this are often unprecedented, so effective communication is of the utmost importance:

"We also got off to a slow start because many of the parents thought the construction work would be carried out by Build Africa alone. But after parents in the School Management Committee were trained they took up the project and informed all other parents to get involved and take ownership of the programme."

'The parents have given their best...'

"Despite all of these obstacles the parents have given their best, and we expect the new block to be ready for use in September. In addition, our final year

Where exactly is Tunbridge Wells?



pupils have improved in their performance because they have been motivated by the success of the year before. They are determined to improve on last year's scores. There is a very calm atmosphere as you enter the school now because most pupils are busy reading."

“

"The disability training has also helped parents and teachers give special attention to those pupils who have some physical impairment; we have since received two new students with disabilities."

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"Some of my colleagues have attended courses on child protection and parents are now better informed on children's rights, determined that their children attend classes without fail. The disability training has also helped parents and teachers give special attention to those pupils who have some physical impairment; we have since received two new students with disabilities."

"Our first school exchange visit is also planned for September 6th. Teachers, School Management Committee members and pupils will be going to Kasooni Primary School in the Kithimani region. The school has an exemplary performance record and the education office felt there was much to learn from such a visit."

Musyoki's Checklist:

- two new classrooms ✓
- develop the health club and supply sanitary towels to all the girls when needed ✓
- four new toilets ✓
- train ten children to become HIV Peer Educators ✓
- new school desks ✓
- mentoring of the thirteen members of the School Management Committee ✓
- textbooks ✓
- refresher training for the teachers ✓
- sports equipment ✓
- train the head teacher in school management ✓
- science kit ✓
- train five of the teachers in child protection, gender and disability awareness ✓
- arrange five exchange visits between Kathyoli and other schools in the region ✓

Time for celebration

"We expect a big ceremony at the end of the year to celebrate this great achievement. We hope to have Mr. and Mrs. Ivens (the Christmas raffle winners) attend the ceremony. They are part of this success and it would be a blessing to have them here with us."

"I believe that Build Africa has been a godsend: they have not only ensured that Kathyoli has new facilities but have brought the community together as well. Parents, teachers and pupils have cooperated under very difficult circumstances to ensure that this project is a success."



Musyoki ticking more items off the list of plans



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Musyoki's report

We leave the last word to Musyoki, our Kathyoli correspondent, who has been monitoring developments on our behalf:



"The summer term has been full of new and exciting things. The health club has been inspirational with new members signing up every week. I have also been involved in digging a pit for us to burn rubbish in, as well as trimming the bushes that we use as a fence."

Opening a window to the world

"Lessons have become much more comfortable and interesting because of our new desks and textbooks. We now have books for all of our subjects, including Maths, English and Social Studies. My favourite book is the Atlas because now I know where Build Africa is in the United Kingdom and can find the district where our school is located."

"I also enjoy break time much more now because we have new footballs. We defeated two schools at the district games this term, and all because we had a real ball to practice with instead of the ball of rolled up paper that we used before."



"I also enjoy break time much more now because we have new footballs."

"My time at school has been much better in 2011. We are so grateful to Build Africa for being with us during this time and for selecting Kathyoli for support. This has been such a great experience for all of us. Thank you Build Africa."

The give and take of international development:

how your support is helping us build better partnerships

A report by Sam Logan

How many times have we heard that 'together, we are stronger'; or that 'united we stand, divided we fall'? Variations of this cliché are used by everyone from banks, to political parties, to football clubs these days.

While we try to steer clear of using corporate-speak in the international development sector, the concept of 'togetherness', or 'partnering', is very relevant to our work. By fostering a close relationship with Uganda and Kenya-based organisations, for example, Build Africa benefits from the sort of local, in-depth knowledge that means we target the communities and issues that matter most. And they, in turn, can learn particular ways of working from us that increase the effectiveness of their work.

The development jigsaw

The causes of and solutions to poverty in rural Africa are complex; and no organisation, however big, has the skills and resources to tackle every contributing factor alone. Build Africa focuses on a number of important pieces of the jigsaw, but it's important to recognize that we can't put the jigsaw together on our own.

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Our work in the Masindi District of Uganda is typical of this collaborative approach. By pooling resources with a local non-governmental organisation called Recreation for Development and Peace, for example, we have been better able to promote gender equality in the remote areas of the district. This particular partner specialises in organising community meetings that deal with gender issues, as well as airing local radio shows that address topics like early marriage and the value of sending girls to school. Their approach fits perfectly with the messages that we promote in our school health clubs.



Build Africa and Recreation for Development and Peace are collaborating to put on weekly radio shows that address gender equality issues. Josephine Medeva (far left) is just one of the grateful beneficiaries. Her full story is on page 9.

Partnering to reduce rural poverty

We also have well established partnerships aimed at improving the impact of our Build an Income programme in Masindi. We work with Mukwano, a company which works with farmers to increase soya bean, grain and sunflower production; and the Masindi District Farmers Association, a local organisation that promotes agricultural business development, to ensure that the members of 38 savings and loans groups in the area are given business development training.

The training is designed to help members use their savings to set up small businesses, and to develop marketing and business development skills which will increase the chances of their projects being a success. Because of the partnerships savers have established marketing committees and are able to use the money for business development. And those interested in accessing external financial facilities can now apply for credit support and other financial services from micro-finance institutions and banks.



Business development training is helping our village savers put their enterprise ideas into practice: Charles Tumwesigye, from the Furaha Village Savings and Loans group, has a thriving tomato business. His son, Robert, is a pupil at Build Africa supported Bunyama Primary School.

Anthony Nyungu, Build Africa's Programme Manager in Masindi (left) with Daniel Bagambe, Head Laboratory Technician at Masindi Hospital.



Partnering for Health

And as for our health projects, we asked the District Health Office in Masindi to tell us why partnering with Build Africa makes sense to them. Daniel Bagambe, Head Laboratory Technician at Masindi Hospital, told us:

"Our main objective is to provide health care services to the communities and we are supposed to deliver these services free of charge. But resources are limited. Partnering with Build Africa to help us deliver these services was an opportunity we could not refuse".

Combating rural HIV: prevention, detection and treatment

Because of Build Africa's involvement, the Health Office is able to reach more people and save more lives:

"Because of Build Africa I was able to visit Kayera, a very remote area that I had not been to before. I was so impressed to see the new classroom block at the school. But most importantly I was able to provide HIV testing and counselling services to over 100 people, six of whom were infected. We advised them to go to Kamengo

Health Centre. Three of them are now seeking treatment. Without Build Africa we would not be able to reach such places very easily."

"I was able to provide HIV testing and counselling services to over 100 people, six of whom were infected. We advised them to go to Kamengo Health Centre... Without Build Africa we would not be able to reach such places very easily."

So we work with the local government and District Health Office to provide health services to the local communities, including HIV prevention training, counselling and testing. Our school health clubs have become forums for the local people to discuss their health concerns. They provide an invaluable community service, acting as a drop-in centre open to anyone in need of support. But they are also a vehicle for the Health Office to carry out its essential medical work:

"If Build Africa can continue setting up these health clubs, the government will provide the necessary health resources for the benefit of the whole community. We have few health centres so it is very rare for the local communities to be able to access these resources easily; they have to walk so many miles to access the medication they need. In the past people were afraid to go to hospital because they couldn't afford to, but now they can access many services locally."

"Our pupils are healthier, happier and are performing well"

We leave the last word to Joshua Pario, a teacher at Nyakabale Primary School in Masindi, who gives us her views on the benefits of partnering:

"Build Africa has built two classroom blocks and teachers quarters for our school, while the District Health Office has also conducted HIV testing and counselling in our health club. The two organizations have benefited our school in different ways, but together they have improved our learning environment enormously. Our pupils are healthier, happier and are performing well. What more needs to be said?"



How you are helping us give girls the education they deserve: a report from Jeeja Primary School

We are so accustomed to the notion of gender equality in school that it has long ceased to be a topic of debate in the UK: we simply take it for granted that girls should be entitled to the same education opportunities as boys. In Kenya and Uganda, however, this is not the case. In the rural areas where Build Africa works social, economic and cultural factors often conspire to exclude girls from school.

Girls who would otherwise flourish in a normal school environment can find themselves trapped in a cruel cycle that starts with school days spent at home helping with the housework and the care of brothers and sisters; while older girls can miss up to a week of school every month because of a lack of sanitary protection. As they fall behind with their school work they are forced to leave school for good, usually to be married off early, resigned to a life of dependence and financial insecurity.

Fighting for their daughters' future

Build Africa started working with the Jeeja community in the Masindi

District of Uganda in 2003. At that time the school was little more than a ramshackle assortment of mud-and-wattle structures with poor sanitation, unmotivated staff, limited community involvement, low enrolment and a high dropout rate (especially among the older girls). Tragically less than 10% of girls completed their primary education.

Seven years on and the figures make for very different reading: at the end

of last year the percentage of girls graduating from school had gone up to 40%. In fact nearly half of the final year students going on to secondary school were female. The improvement is due to a School Development Plan that has seen the building of seven classrooms and a staff house, an improvement in sanitation, better governance, a great teacher training programme and a vibrant health club.

The girls now outnumber the boys in most of Jeeja's classes

CLASS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
P1	60	51	111
P2	67	58	125
P3	45	59	104
P4	46	62	108
P5	28	44	72
P6	32	36	68
P7	19	21	40
TOTAL	297	341	638



Josephine with Milika and her three sons.



Milika

The benefits of educating girls: the figures speak for themselves

- An extra year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10-20%, and an extra year of secondary school by 15-25%;
- When women and girls earn income, they reinvest 90% into their families, as compared to only 30-40% for a man;
- A girl in Africa who receives an education is three times less likely to contract HIV and AIDS;
- Education gives girls the confidence to marry later, and gives women greater influence in household decisions. Educated women tend to have smaller families, their children are better nourished, more likely to survive and are far more likely to do well at school themselves;
- Education also encourages active citizenship by giving girls and boys the knowledge to influence the direction of society and to engage in politics and democracy as adults.

Rural radio

But it is Jeeja's parents that have really made these improvements possible. Parents, like Josephine Medeva, who are making the most of the new resources now available, resources such as the weekly radio shows used to address local gender issues:

“At school my girls are taught that they should be given the same chances to succeed in life as boys. They are learning about the ABC's of HIV and AIDS (Abstinence, Being Faithful, using Condoms) and essential life skills through the health club.”

“Every last Friday of the month I listen to a radio programme hosted by Build Africa”, Josephine told us. “The programme gives people an opportunity to raise their voices against early marriage, absenteeism and even issues like girls' periods. For the first time I believe that I can really make a difference to the lives of my daughters. For this I have the new spirit at our school to thank.”

The ABC's of healthy living

“At school my girls are taught that they should be given the same chances to succeed in life as boys. They are learning about the ABC's of HIV and AIDS (Abstinence, Being Faithful, using Condoms) and essential life skills through the health club. Milika wants to become a nurse while Elika wants to go into teaching. Such achievements will be very important for our family and community, especially as poverty and cultural prejudices forced me to leave primary school early.”



For Milika gender equality means the freedom to make her own life decisions; decisions that will shape the economic

prospects of her family and her community at large:

“I do not want to get married yet because marrying young can have problems. For me I want to study and finish school. I want to become a nurse so that I can treat sick people and help my parents and my brothers and sisters.”

“I do not want to get married yet because marrying young can have problems. For me I want to study and finish school. I want to become a nurse so that I can treat sick people and help my parents and my brothers and sisters”

Clearly it is the involvement of mothers and daughters like Josephine and Milika (women who are determined to make their voices heard) that is ensuring the long term success of our gender equality programme.

Fundraising News

'Finis!' and mission accomplished.



Supporting the charity “that has touched our hearts”

Chantal Coady is the founder of Rococo Chocolates, a company which has been supporting our Africa Blossoms campaign over the past few months. In April this year Chantal announced, with some trepidation, that she wanted to do something a bit special for “the charity that has touched our hearts”:

“I have decided to challenge myself to a bike ride, having managed to do Brighton last year. This time it’s to Paris, over 4 days and around 400km long. My son Fergus likes the idea and says he is coming with me - so that is great and will help to motivate me for the difficult training over the next three months. So we have one very fit boy and one very unfit mum!”

But the three months of training paid off: on the 29th July both mother and son passed the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower to the rapturous welcome of family and friends. It has been an immense achievement considering the mental and physical challenges involved: from the leg-aching hills of Picardy to the treacherous potholes of the Parisian suburbs. Even a painful tumble at the hands of a French motorist failed to dampen Chantal’s spirits!

Between them they have reached 85% of their fundraising total, with over £2,500 pledged so far. We would like to thank both of them for their extraordinary efforts.

To donate to their fundraising page, simply log on to www.justgiving.com/chantal-coady.

If Chantal’s efforts have inspired you to get involved with a Build Africa event, or to come up with a novel fundraising idea of your own, then please get in touch. We could feature your event in a future edition of Habari! Contact Katharine Clark at katharine@build-africa.org.uk or call 01892 519619.

The Ashcombe School goes Ugandan

A visit to a Build Africa project is always an inspiring experience. For the eleven students and three members of staff from Ashcombe School in Surrey the chance to visit their link school of Kachumbala Township in the Kumi District of Uganda was an opportunity they couldn’t refuse.

A ‘hands-on’ approach

For a week in July the visitors became immersed in the life of the Kachumbala community, presenting extra lessons at the end of the day and participating in health sessions that focussed on the use of reusable sanitary towels. The girls helped pump water from the local borehole, prepare a meal in a homestead and supervise out of class activities such as football, netball and dancing.

Ashcombe’s current involvement with Africa is due to the dedication and generosity of two inspirational teachers, Mr. James Rosser and Mr. Peter Thompson, now sadly passed away. The presentation of a plaque at the school provided a poignant moment of commemoration. All agree that the opportunity to meet the schoolchildren, parents, teachers and Build Africa staff in Kumi was one that they will never forget.

If you would like to know more about how your school can get involved with Build Africa’s projects please contact Helen Sharpe on helen@build-africa.org.uk or call 01892 519619.



Stitching reusable sanitary towels with the girls of Kachumbala



The companies that are transforming lives

Build Africa has a well-established and mutually rewarding relationship with a number of companies in the UK and abroad. These companies support us in a variety of ways, from employee fundraising ideas to corporate donations. Here are some of the corporate fundraising highlights of 2011:

Cripps Harries Hall

The staff of Cripps Harries Hall, a law firm based just up the road from Build Africa's office in Tunbridge Wells, have set themselves the goal of raising £15,000 this year to support Kong'asis Primary School in Naivasha, Kenya. So far a quiz night (pictured), an 'own clothes' day, a summer cake sale and a raffle have proved a great success. Future events include the Tonbridge Half Marathon and a Christmas Fair.



E C Harris

E C Harris is an international consultancy firm specialising in building, owning and managing property. In May this year four runners from the Düsseldorf office completed the city's Metro Group Marathon, raising £1,500 for Ongatuny Primary School in the Bukedea District of Uganda.



Flamingo Creative

Flamingo Creative's Katherine Sparkes and Kate Gordon have been networking like crazy to raise £25,000 to support Mumbuni A Primary School in Mwala, Kenya. They want to prove that big things can happen when a lot of people come together. With over 130 individuals and companies currently fundraising (and more joining the cause each day!), the campaign is making fantastic progress.



The Richmond Group

Twelve members of staff from finance company The Richmond Group set off to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in August. Their aim is to raise over £20,000 for Kombe Primary School in Mwala, Kenya. The painstaking months of preparation have taken the team from Dartmoor to Snowden to altitude simulators. And the hard work has paid off with all twelve of them scaling the 5895m to the summit.

Spayne Lindsay and Clifford Chance

Law firm Clifford Chance and investment advisors Spayne Lindsay are long standing Build Africa supporters. This year they are entering teams for our Ultimate Londoner event in September. Starting off in Regent's Park this 'urban adventure race' will test the teams' knowledge of the capital. The participants will have to solve clues to reach the secret locations dotted across the city, and can use any mode of public transport in the process. The first team to solve all the clues and reach all the 'checkpoints' wins the race.

To find out how the teams got on log on to our Ultimate Londoner web page (www.ultimateLondoner.co.uk).



We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those members of staff who have been supporting us this year.

Leave a lasting legacy

When making a Will we naturally think of those closest to us: our family, friends and loved ones. It also gives each and every one of us the opportunity to do something more, such as helping some of East Africa's most vulnerable people get a better start in life and work their way out of poverty with dignity. Your generosity could make all the difference to a child in rural Uganda who has lessons under a mango tree, at the mercy of the extreme African weather; your gift could help provide them with a classroom equipped with desks and chairs and give them a real chance of a decent education.

In the 2011 Budget, the Government is seeking to encourage philanthropic giving in Wills by reducing the Inheritance Tax (IHT) for those leaving money to charity. If you wish to make a Will, or make a change to your existing Will, now is the time to act and take advantage of this new tax relief. Leaving a lasting legacy at the schools supported by Build Africa may reduce the Inheritance Tax you pay as well as support generations of children to build better lives.

IHT: The Facts

- As of April 2012, anyone who has left a minimum of 10% of their estate to charity will be subject to 36% IHT instead of 40%;
- Such charitable gifts will be exempt from tax as they are now, but will also reduce the tax applied to the rest of your estate;
- IHT is only due if your taxable estate is valued over the threshold, currently £325,000 per individual. Through early Estate Planning and by thinking about how to pass on your assets, you may be able to protect your estate from IHT altogether.

To find out more about updating your Will or to learn about how Estate Planning can help you protect your assets, we encourage you to get in touch with your local solicitor.



The memory of Ellen Fairclough lives on at Aputiput Primary School in Uganda.

Need advice?

Rachael runs Heir Tight Wills and specialises in Estate Planning. She is offering all our supporters a free telephone consultation with professional advice on IHT and asset protection.



Rachael is offering a free Will audit. A shocking 28% of existing Wills are invalid at the time of death – mainly because they are not kept updated!

Rachael is also offering either a 10% discount of her fees for any of her services or a 15% donation to Build Africa, completely at your own discretion. Of course, there is no obligation to use Rachael's services if you already have a family solicitor; however, you are still very welcome to contact her for free advice on IHT and asset protection.

Contact Rachael:

Telephone: 0845 519 7585
Mobile: 07902 433 775
Email: info@heir-tight-wills.co.uk

Why leave Build Africa a legacy?

"I have supported Build Africa for a number of years and want to continue to help make a real difference to the lives of the people they work with after I am gone."

Mr G, Kent

"We have been very lucky in our lives to have received an education and had good jobs; we want to make sure less fortunate people have such opportunities."

Mr and Mrs C, Nottingham

"I've only recently written my Will. I included a legacy to Build Africa because I want to know that in some way I've helped the next generation of children to get an education."

Ms I, Sunderland

"My children and grandchildren have been provided for in my Will, but I also wanted to leave a small gift to help other families who need it."

Mrs W, Glasgow

If you already have, or intend to, leave Build Africa a gift in your Will please do get in touch so we can thank you personally and show you the difference your gift will make. You can call Abi on **01892 519619** or email abi@build-africa.org.uk