

## Thumbs up for our health club. How you have helped the children of Echariria



**Also inside:** How you can help the Kahara community learn and earn • Your gift of water to Meli Primary School

# Letters to the editor



Dear Chris,

I would like to take part in the Kilimanjaro trek, how would I go about signing up?

Olivia Webster,  
Guildford

Dear Olivia,

We are delighted you would like to take part in one of our treks. **Please call Katharine in our events team on 01892 519619 for an information pack.** You can talk through the trip and fundraising ideas with her.

Dear Chris,

It is so heartening to read of all the many projects that have transformed the lives of communities in Uganda and Kenya. Seeing the pure delight and happiness of the children at Kapkures Primary School, with the new classrooms and improved sanitation, makes donating so worthwhile. A big thank you to your team.

Christie Priggis,  
Bedford

Dear Christie,

Thank you so much for your kind words. The fantastic developments at Kapkures Primary School are the direct result of your generosity: we really do appreciate your continued support. It is a school which encapsulates Build Africa's holistic approach to education, the importance of community involvement and the value of listening to the particular needs of the people we work with: we are very proud of the long term improvements there.

Dear Chris,

How do I know that the money I donate is being spent wisely, reaching the people who need it most?

Mr. Toni Piccolo,  
London EC1N

Dear Mr. Piccolo,

I'm sure that's a question that every donor would like to ask. 77% of our income is currently spent on running and supporting our Build a School and Build an Income programmes. The remaining 23p in every pound is spent on raising the next £1 that we need for their future development. So you can be sure that every penny of your donation is going towards ensuring that these programmes are the best they can possibly be and that they are reaching more and more people over time. In fact we have been able to grow our income by 50% over the past 4 years, no mean feat given the current recession.

Build Africa, Second Floor, Vale House, Clarence Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HE.  
Tel: +44 (0)1892 519619 • Fax: +44 (0)1892 535484 • Email: [hello@build-africa.org.uk](mailto:hello@build-africa.org.uk)

[www.build-africa.org](http://www.build-africa.org)

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# Mrs. Kimani's health club and the revolution at Echariria Primary School



Mrs. Kimani and the environmental award

There has been an Internally Displaced Persons camp in Echariria for three years now, occupied by more than 1,500 people forced from their homes following the post-election violence in 2008. Many of the students at the local primary school live in the hurriedly built assortment of cramped, corrugated shacks where the amenities are basic and diseases like cholera and AIDS rife. Not surprisingly, the emotional scars left by the violence and sudden relocation are plain to see, as Mr. Kimani, the deputy head teacher at Echariria, told us:

*"There are many behavioural issues. Some children have seen their parents killed and their homes burned. Sometimes in class you can see a child who is daydreaming. They are thinking of that moment. It is a difficult thing for them to move on from."*

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## Caring for the environment

But helping them move on is exactly what the health and environment clubs at Echariria are trying to do. As patron of both clubs Mrs. Kimani (no relation to the deputy head teacher) is leading a revolution at the school, turning it into the heart and soul of the community.

The award-winning environment club has planted 3,500 trees in the school compound, while students have also started putting cut-out jerry cans in the trees which they use to feed the birds with seeds and water. This is quite a novelty in Kenya and the children have enjoyed watching the birds feeding.

The health club members have also started a clothes collection which they want to distribute to those living in the camp. It is

encouraging them to be understanding and caring towards those who are less fortunate than themselves.

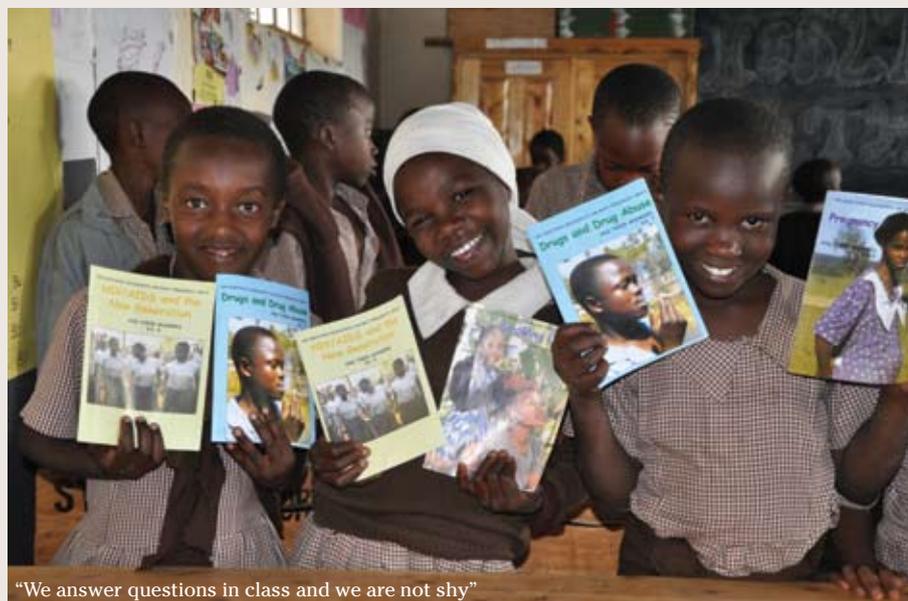
And, as with all Build Africa-supported health clubs, the members at Echariria are learning about the dangers of HIV and AIDS, and what can be done to prevent it, through songs and stories. They are learning about the threat of drugs and the dangers of teenage pregnancy. They are taught that girls should be given the same opportunities as boys.

## Doing better than the boys

Girls like Tabitha; a sunny, intelligent thirteen year old student who lives in the nearby camp. When we met her in April this year to see how the school was progressing she was clearly overjoyed by the progress made, not least in the area of gender awareness: "Before we would miss school and we were in the lower grade but now we progress. And, yes, we are beginning to do better than the boys! We answer questions in class and we are not shy".



Tabitha

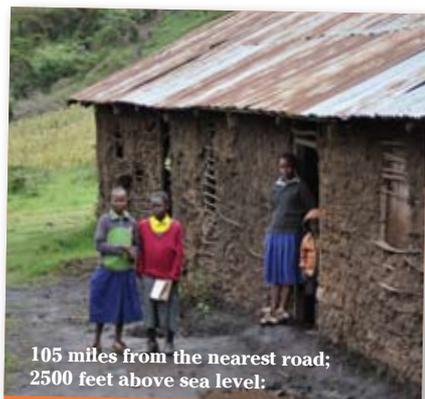


"We answer questions in class and we are not shy"

We all remember those few inspirational teachers at school. By supporting Build Africa you are not only improving the facilities and teaching standards at Echariria; nor are you simply providing the furniture, sports equipment, textbooks and sanitary towels that the school so desperately needs. You are also helping teachers like Mrs. Kimani inspire the many vulnerable students at Echariria, setting them on the path to recovery.

# Your gift of water to Meli Primary School

In November 2009 we asked you to help Meli Primary School. A remote and overlooked collection of mud and timber classrooms, the school has suffered terribly from a harsh environment where recurrent downpours and drought are the norm.



105 miles from the nearest road;  
2500 feet above sea level:

Meli Primary School might appear to have vanished off the map but there are 263 little boys and girls who will tell you otherwise...



## Dried up rivers

It is water that lies at the heart of Meli's problems, as Deputy Head Teacher Mr. Harrison Gicheha tells us: "The rivers that we used to rely on had their source in the famous Mau Forest. But they had their course disrupted due to deforestation and they have now dried up. What remains are the boreholes and wells that are far away and individually owned."

Rainfall could provide an alternative water supply, but without proper storage the precious rain water is lost. And a lack of water means sickness, fatigue and hours of school time disrupted as children and teachers travel the five kilometres to the nearest source.

## 30,000 litres of clean water

But a lot has happened in the last 16 months: because of your generosity the school is unrecognizable now. We asked Harrison and 16 year old Class 8 student Martha Wajiru to tell us about the recent improvements at Meli. This is their report:

“Before we had serious problems recruiting teachers but now they ask if they can come here.”

“One of the projects your help has made possible”, Harrison told us, “has been to ensure that the school has water. I was so happy to see the three plastic water tanks installed last year. I realized that one of the main challenges that had disturbed the school for so long was soon to be gone. The tanks give the school a total of 30,000 litres of water whenever there is heavy rainfall.”

“The water has contributed immensely to better learning at the school. The school day is no longer taken up in the search for water: instead the pupils are using the time to learn. We are also better able to retain and recruit teachers because they do not have to look for water for their domestic use and can spend more time with their pupils. Before we had serious problems recruiting teachers but now they ask if they can come here.”

## Better hygiene, better health

As a talented pupil with dreams of becoming a doctor, Martha is painfully aware of the health issues associated with a scarcity of water:

“The presence of water in the school has improved the personal hygiene of the



Harrison Gicheha

pupils because they are able to wash their hands after visits to the latrines, reducing the danger of disease. In the past pupils suffered from serious diarrhoea as a result of the lack of water. Water is now being used for many things in the school: for wetting the classrooms to reduce the dust, for drinking and cooking. And teachers no longer wander looking for water instead of spending time with the pupils.”

“pupils...are able to wash their hands after visits to the latrine, reducing the danger of disease.”

## “I am making the school beautiful”

“Because of the new water supply the school health club has also established a tree nursery. It has planted over one hundred trees on the school compound to improve the school environment. I love to



Students at Meli collecting clean water

## You can give the gift of water

£50

A clean water supply is essential for preventing water borne diseases like cholera and typhoid. At Meli Primary School water tanks and guttering really are saving lives. If the improvements at Meli have inspired you to help us give other schools the gift of clean water then please complete the form enclosed.

**A £50 donation would provide a whole class with clean water.**

water the flowerbeds because I know that I am making the school beautiful. And it is not just the school that is benefitting: parents who previously had to carry water five kilometres by donkey can now use our supply for construction when there is good rain.”

The benefits of a reliable source of clean water are clearly far reaching. But it is just part of a process of improvement that is transforming the infrastructure and quality of education at Meli. At the heart of Meli’s success is a proud community working in cooperation for the good of all. It is a situation best summed up by Martha:

“Performance at the school has improved because teachers, parents and pupils are now working towards a common goal, each with their own responsibility. Pupil discipline has improved, and teachers are giving them good advice (which they are now listening to). Because of this, many of our pupils went on to secondary schools last year, which was not the case in the past. New pupils are joining from other schools and even those who had dropped out are returning. Parents now have a positive attitude and are aware of their responsibilities and teachers are happy to teach the pupils.”



Martha



## The story so far at Kathyoli: an update from Musyoki on what your support is achieving

In the last edition of Habari we introduced you to our special Build a School correspondent Musyoki, a 12 year old student from Kathyoli Primary School in Kenya. Musyoki's school has been hurriedly built: the dilapidated classrooms are a health hazard, their walls swaying dangerously when the wind blows. In addition a lack of furniture, teaching resources, teacher training and parental involvement make learning almost impossible. It is no surprise that few of Kathyoli's pupils complete their studies and progress to secondary school. But with Build Africa's help all this is changing in 2011. We managed to catch up with Musyoki before the school closed for the April holidays for an update:



Musyoki ticking off the checklist

### Musyoki's report



Musyoki

"The first term of 2011 has been really good. I am now in my final year which I'm finding both challenging and interesting. I want to go on to secondary school, attend college and eventually become a police officer like my uncle. So it is very important that I do well this year."

#### Ticking off the list

"I am very pleased to report that we have begun to tick the items on the list of improvements. New toilets have been built, so girls and boys no longer have to share them. We also have a new science kit, making science lessons much more interesting. On the fun side we have also been given school balls for playing football and netball; we usually play during break time and after classes."

"New teachers arrived at the beginning of the year. They are very friendly and

help us in our class work. We expect new text books and we have been issued with more exercise books and long lasting pencils. Some of the pupils are also being trained as Peer Educators, through Build Africa, so that they can spread awareness of the dangers of HIV and AIDS and teach us about healthy living."

"But the most exciting news is that new classrooms will be constructed with the help of Build Africa and our parents by the end of the year. We can't wait. I have heard my parents say that they will be helping."

*"But the most exciting news is that new classrooms will be constructed with the help of Build Africa and our parents by the end of the year."*

"Our headmistress says that we performed well in our end of term exams which is a great relief. Last year's final year pupils also did very well, the majority of them now able to go on to secondary school. This is great news and a great inspiration for students like me who are in the year below."

## Musyoki's shopping list

Eight items ticked, five remaining. We're making great progress but we still have a way to go, building work being one of the priorities for the second half of the year. Remember, you can make a massive difference with just a small donation, helping us reach our £29,144 goal:

**£15** £15 would provide 500 bricks that will go towards construction of the new classrooms

**£75** £75 would train a teacher in more child-centred learning methods and on the importance of treating girls and boys equally

**£100** £100 would pay for desks for a Kathyoli classroom

### 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.

## Preparing the ground for construction

We asked Musyoki's headmistress, Sarah Kioko, to tell us more:

"It is difficult to put into words the difference you are making to the quality of education at the school. We have had no protection from the elements until now. The rains interrupt the learning process because they cause flooding, while on baking hot days the teacher and pupils are forced to follow the shadow as it moves around the room."

*"It is difficult to put into words the difference you are making to the quality of education at the school."*

"But since Build Africa Kenya came to our school last year we have witnessed a lot of positive changes. With their guidance we have developed our School Development Plan with the School Management Committee and the parents. As a result, the parents have become more interested in the schools activities and the School Management Committee is more cooperative and meets frequently. I am also very excited to report that the ground has now been cleared and the contractor chosen for the new classrooms."

"The pupils are now more dedicated in their studies and last year we improved from position thirteen to position seven and raised our exam score within the zone. The girls are also performing well in their studies; they no longer miss classes during their menstrual period since they are issued with sanitary towels every month. Most girls say that this has really improved their lives as they feel more comfortable and confident around the boys."

**Fantastic progress is already being made at Kathyoli. In the next edition of Habari we hope to be getting very close to a completed checklist. Watch this space!**

Children using new pencils and crayons



The headmistress, Sarah Kioko, discussing exam results





## How you are unlocking Kahara's potential to earn and learn.

**A report from the field by Victoria Oakley**

The savings group was not difficult to find, sat as it was under a makeshift tarpaulin to keep off the worst of the midday sun. As I got out of the car, a gaggle of local children formed, grinning at me nervously. The children were shockingly poor. Poverty is relative: most children I meet probably eat one meal a day – if they're lucky – and run around barefoot in old clothes. These, however, were absolutely filthy and wore tattered clothes over their malnourished bodies. They should have been in school but it was clear their parents had more pressing concerns.

With the children still looking on curiously, we acquainted ourselves with the group members and sat back to watch their meeting proceed. One by one the members were called to pay in their savings contribution, which was counted and receipted in their savings book. As I got talking to the group, we did a head count of how many members had children at Kahara Primary School: amazingly, 25 out of the 30 members have a total of 44 children enrolled at the school.

We left with some group members to continue on to the school, which was a hive of activity. Parents cleared the school compound with machetes, while pupils ran around with that universal exuberance associated with the end of term and

impending school holidays. Today was the day they would pick a site for the new classroom block – and everyone wanted to be there.

### **The price of education**

I was introduced to Victoria Ikedi, the School Management Committee Chairperson, and a truly inspiring lady. As we sat and talked, the community's problems became clearer. Because Kahara is not a government registered school, parents have to pay 10,000 shillings (around £3.30) per child, per term just to fund the teachers. The nearest government school is Bunyama, which we have worked with since 2009, but it's too far away for the children of Kahara village. It's no wonder that so many children were out of school; parents without paid work simply can't afford the luxury of educating their children – they have no disposable income. And it was no surprise that many parents who were able to afford the fees could do so because of the collective savings and loans made available through the savings scheme.

“  
*Poverty is relative: most children I meet probably eat one meal a day – if they're lucky – and run around barefoot in old clothes. These, however, were absolutely filthy and wore tattered clothes over their malnourished bodies. They should have been in school but it was clear their parents had more pressing concerns.*  
”

A small, remote and rural community: Kahara village



The crumbling mud classrooms are soon to be replaced



## A life changing year for the whole community

Thanks to your support 2011 will be a good year for Kahara. Victoria put it beautifully when she told me, "It feels as though a star has fallen in the middle of our compound!" She was referring, of course, to the new classroom block that will replace the termite infested, crumbling mud classrooms that the children currently use. A large part of the afternoon had been dedicated to a community meeting – chaired by Victoria – to discuss the upcoming construction work and the Building Committee's responsibilities; culminating in the symbolic ground breaking ceremony on the block's new site.

As work with Kahara continues this year, the focus will be on cementing a relationship with the local education department and ensuring that Kahara meets all the requirements to be taken on as a government school. Once enrolment is free, primary education will be available to all the local children; not just those whose parents can afford it.

But there is always some cost associated with sending children to school, whether it is money for uniforms, books and pens or the impact of not having children around to help with farming activities. And that's where the Village Savings & Loans scheme comes in. The parent members have already proven that, with the ability to access loans and invest in small scale businesses or increase their food production, they can afford to give their children the education they deserve.

The symbolic ground breaking ceremony



Attendance is always full at the savings group meetings



Victoria Ikedi (School Management Committee Chairperson) and Happy Rogers (Build Africa Programmes Assistant) addressing the Kahara community

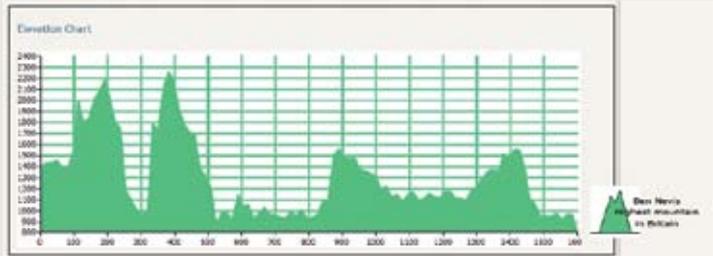
# Fundraising News



Imogen and her trusted bike

## ‘On yer bike’: two women who are taking the ultimate cycle challenge for Build Africa

After a volunteering stint in our UK office, Imogen Cust decided that she wanted to do something a little more adventurous for Build Africa. So she roped in her good friend Lyn and set herself a leg aching, lung burning, eye watering cycle challenge of truly epic proportions. Because Imogen and Lyn plan to cycle 1000 km across the snow-capped Rwenzori mountains in Uganda, crossing the equator and negotiating heights of up to 2300m in the process.



The ultimate biking challenge: a route elevation that dwarfs Ben Nevis



A temporary classroom at Kooki Primary School

This is a self-funded, self-organised trip that aims to raise much needed funds for Kooki Primary School in the Masindi District of Kenya. Because of Imogen and Lyn’s herculean efforts we will be able to build three permanent classrooms, a sanitation block and a fully stocked library; we will supply all the furniture and teaching resources needed and provide teacher training for the next two years. The school will also be able to accommodate an additional 300 children on top of the 171 pupils who already attend.

Please visit Imogen and Lyn’s fantastic website to learn more and to pledge your support for these two remarkable women:

[www.anotherbrickintheschool.com](http://www.anotherbrickintheschool.com)

We wish Imogen and Lyn well on their adventure and we will of course keep you updated on their progress.

## Giving it up for Lent

By giving up a little you can sometimes give a lot, as demonstrated by Tom Carling from Tunbridge Wells based design company, Blaze:

“Having worked with Build Africa on developing this year’s “Give up a Little, Give a Lot” Lent Appeal, we decided to get involved ourselves by giving up a luxury or treat for Lent. It has worked really well, with some team members encouraging each other and others trying to trick colleagues into eating sweets, cakes and chocolate when they shouldn’t! We are hoping that with the proceeds from this and from our run we will raise somewhere around £800 for Build Africa”.

**Thanks to everyone at Blaze for making those little sacrifices pay.**

blaze

The Blaze team



## The teddy bear sale: raising money for Kachumbala Primary School

They're cuddly, they're cute, they're every infant's perfect companion; but what exactly do you do with that teddy bear you've outgrown? You could let it collect dust in the loft or make a bit of extra pocket money on E-bay. Or you could do what nine year old Emily has done: recycle those old bears, raise funds for a fantastic cause and have a fun and fulfilling time in the process.



"I had an idea", Emily told us, "so I wrote to Mrs Hayes, who is our Headmistress, to ask if me and my friend Sabriyah (with mummy's help) could collect the bears that my friends at school didn't want to keep and then sell them to the infants at Holy Cross Prep School to raise money for Build Africa. We are supporting Build Africa for our Lent Appeal, hoping to raise money for Kachumbala Primary School in Uganda."

### Selling like hotcakes

"On the day I was very excited. The bears sold out in twenty minutes and there was a queue around the hall! We kept our best bear for 'guess the name' and the girls had to pay 50p for each go. We had such fun and everyone enjoyed it. In the end we raised over £240 which my mummy's company matched, so our final total was an amazing £485."



"I was very proud because I know it will make a difference to children my age in another part of the world. We are going to do it again so watch this space!"

### Fabulous fundraising

Since then the children of Holy Cross have raised a further £1,077.69 (including £332.50 from a music recital). It just goes to show what one great idea can lead to. We would like to thank Emily, Sabriyah, Emily's mum (and her mum's colleagues), and all the pupils and staff at Holy Cross for putting so much effort into helping us support Kachumbala Primary School.



Floor room only: the dusty, dilapidated classrooms at Kachumbala are no fit place to learn in

## Get involved in 2011

### Adidas women's 5km Challenge, 11th September 2011

Hosted in scenic Hyde Park, this 5km Challenge is a great way to get started as a runner.



### Royal Parks Half Marathon, 9th October 2011

Limited places  
remaining!



A fantastic way to see the nation's capital, the route takes you through all four Royal Parks.

### GRIM Challenge, Oct & Dec 2011

Are you up to the 'Challenge'? This 8 mile run through an all-terrain army training ground is more than your average jog in the park.



### New York Marathon, 6th November 2011

One of the 'top five' marathons in the world, this is the perfect autumn challenge.



### Gold Challenge, ongoing until December 2012

The Gold Challenge is your chance to become an Olympian: you can test your skills in 5, 10, 20, or 30 Olympic and Paralympic sports. Visit [www.goldchallenge.org](http://www.goldchallenge.org).



## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Email Katharine Clark on [katharine@build-africa.org.uk](mailto:katharine@build-africa.org.uk) or call 01892 519619

If Imogen, Lyn, Emily and the staff at Blaze have inspired you to come up with a fundraising idea then please get in touch. We could feature your event in a future edition of Habari! Contact Katharine Clark ([katharine@build-africa.org.uk](mailto:katharine@build-africa.org.uk)).

# Leave a life changing legacy

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

Imagine a girl like Stella, sitting on the hard mud floor under a flimsy straw roof with the sun beating in through the holes. Her teacher is writing sums on the blackboard; three classes take it in turns to use the board because they only have one between them. Stella is having difficulty following the lesson as the textbook she shares with her friends is tatty because there is nowhere to store it and she has no exercise book in which to write down the answers. Then, as often happens in East Africa, there is a sudden rainstorm and Stella is sent home – again.



Stella

This was the reality at Aputiput School only a few years ago. Aputiput once consisted of little more than a fragile thatched structure serving as three classrooms for 150 pupils. Stella and her peers had to sit uncomfortably on the ground: when the rains came it would become drenched and they would be sent home. The sanitation facilities were vitually non-existent with only one latrine for all the pupils and teachers.

This all changed with a generous gift which transformed the school. When Ellen Fairclough sadly passed away, her husband Cedric, moved by her passion for our Build a School project, used her legacy to

Cedric poses in front of his wife's plaque



support Aputiput. As a result of this gift, a three-classroom block was constructed at the school. Desks and chairs were supplied and two five stance toilet blocks were also built, improving hygiene standards and offering much-needed privacy for the girls.

as a result of his wife's gift and by the enthusiasm and dedication of the community to ensuring the success of the school that now stands as a lasting tribute to her life.

Now able to have a good education, Stella has a much brighter future to look forward to, all thanks to the generosity of one person and their lasting gift.

*"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

Stella's quality of education improved significantly. As well as enabling her to stay at school for longer, the news of the new classrooms reached the government, who sent three new teachers to Aputiput School. There are now enough teachers for each year group to be taught separately.

Cedric was able to visit Uganda and witness firsthand the difference his wife's legacy made. He was profoundly moved by the way in which the lives of children like Stella have been transformed



## Did you know?

The government has announced new changes in the 2011 Budget. The intention is that if you give at least a tenth of your estate to charity, you get a 10% reduction in your rate of Inheritance Tax and all of that saving goes to the charity named in your will.

If you would like to find out more about leaving Build Africa a legacy or how to make a change to your existing will, please do not hesitate to contact Abi on **01892 519619** or email [abi@build-africa.org.uk](mailto:abi@build-africa.org.uk)