

How you're helping us to create change

Habari

Welcome

The end of 2016 is almost here. And what a fantastic year it's been for Build Africa and the communities we support.

Our work has seen incredible results creating the opportunities many rural communities need, while we're also launching exciting new projects to reach more children and families than ever before. You can read about some of these in this issue (or find our latest annual review online).

You can also find out how our team of tough runners got on at the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October.

Remember, we love to hear your feedback. Please get in touch at hello@build-africa.org.uk

Thank you.



In this issue:

People power

Read about our community empowerment project in Western Uganda.

Farming for a better future

How our Farmers Network Project is helping to send their children to school.

Royal Parks Half Marathon

A round-up review of our recent challenge event.

Leaving a lasting gift

How you can create a lasting legacy with Build Africa.

Get the festive feeling

The Build Africa Christmas Catalogue 2016 is out now.

We have a brand new range of Christmas cards and some all-new poverty-fighting alternative gifts.

From textbooks to training beekeepers, all our charity gifts represent practical solutions to help beat inequality and support education in rural Africa.

Contact us to request a catalogue if you haven't already received yours, or visit our online Christmas store at www.buildafricashop.org. Remember, we can also send gifts directly to your friends or family.

This Christmas, please help support education in rural Africa.



Read on...



People power

A parents training session in Buliisa

Our new Community Empowerment Project will give parents in Western Uganda the power to support their local schools.

Our two year project to help 30 rural communities develop their schools has been so successful that we're extending it to 28 more in the area. This is a region where the quality of education taught is often low, with high rates of teachers missing school themselves. Sadly only 32% of final year students finish primary school.

However, our work has shown that by engaging parents in the management of their local school this can be changed, and we're proud to now help more schools reach their potential.

Through community classes and popular radio shows, we aim to give parents the skills they need to get directly involved in school management and to come up with practical plans to tackle the problems they see. Smaller groups, made up of experienced community members, will also monitor and support parents and teachers.

Many parents may not have had a complete education themselves, but by engaging them with their children's learning they can hold schools and even local governments to account – meaning the students can get the quality education they deserve.

We'll report back on how the communities are doing in a future issue.



Parental dialogue meeting at a school in Kiryandongo



Farming for a better future

Our Farmers Network Project is helping families send their children to school.

We know that in order for children to do well, we need to support parents too. Our project to help farming families in rural Kenya is doing just that – improving access to financial services for farmers, training them in new techniques and empowering them to work together.

We've recently seen some great results:

- We established 14 new farmers' networks, helping communities share knowledge and resources to produce stronger crops for more reliable livelihoods
- 66 farmers were trained in using better pesticides to look after their crops

- 40 farmers were able to visit a national agricultural show, taking part in an interactive demonstration to learn how to use new equipment and more efficient methods to support their farms
- We built five demonstration plots, letting farmers practice their new skills and pilot new crops
- With better access to markets and information, farmers are using their collective influence as a network to get a fairer price for their produce
- By combining their influence as a network, one group even acquired a loan of nearly £4,000 to invest in their farms

With the new income, the farmers can now provide for their children's education.

"We have been learning conservation agriculture and we have already started practicing it on our farm. We are hopeful that this will help more members in the community. The network also helps us avoid the middlemen who have been buying our produce cheaply. By selling as a group we shall grow together and this will help the whole community to improve."

Regina, a farmer from Kenya



Demonstration plots at Munanda

Trialing three types of beans on the Munanda demonstration plots in Gilgil



**COMIC
RELIEF**

LOTTERY FUNDED

A big thank you to the Big Lottery and Comic Relief

Thanks to the support of the Big Lottery Fund and Comic Relief, in 2016 our Kwale Girls Project has helped more young women in Kenya access a quality education. We've continued to work with 72 schools in Kwale County to overcome the barriers that stop girls going to school, and tackle negative attitudes towards their education.

Together we're making the ambitions of young women in rural Africa unstoppable.



Perspiration for education: The Royal Parks Half 2016

Our team of 30 runners raised an impressive £11,476 (and counting) at London's Royal Parks Half Marathon on 9 October. The funds raised from the awesome autumn race will go directly to supporting our education work in rural Africa.

If you're interested in taking part in an event for Build Africa, visit build-africa.org/events or email events@build-africa.org.uk

What our runners said:

"I was inspired to run for Build Africa because I believe every child should have access to an education. I feel Build Africa not only provide children with hope but they allow children to dream and dream big!"

Leaving a lasting gift

Leaving a gift to a charity in your will is one of the most generous things a person can do. At Build Africa, we've always been incredibly grateful to supporters who've chosen to create a lasting legacy with us.

If you're considering leaving a gift in your will, we've put together a useful new guide to help you and your family understand how easy this can be.

If you would like to receive our new guide or speak to someone about leaving a gift, please contact Emily, who will be happy to talk you through the options, on emily@build-africa.org.uk or call **01892 519 619**.

Do we have your email address?

Help us save costs, and the environment, by signing up to receive our communications by email. It helps us put as much funding as possible straight into our vital work with rural communities. Let us know at hello@build-africa.org.uk or call **01892 519 619**.

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