

How you're helping us to create change

Habari



Our young mums appeal is off to a stunning start!

On 27 September Build Africa launched the **#MumsReadKidsSucceed** appeal. This is our biggest appeal to date, helping young women in rural Uganda learn to read and access healthcare so they can support their children. The importance of this work can be summed up with one statistic: if a mother can read, her child is 50% more likely to survive past five years old.

What makes this appeal even more powerful is the support of UK Aid Match from the Department for International Development (DFID). This means donations received before 27 December will be matched pound-for-pound with UK Aid – doubling the much-needed support for vulnerable young mothers in rural Uganda.

Build Africa has also partnered with influential organisations to help spread the word.



News website **The Huffington Post UK** is producing a series of video reports, while the popular parenting forum **Mumsnet** will be featuring our appeal in November.

We've already seen an incredible response. Our annual Build Africa Ball, which took place at London's historic Banqueting House on 27 September, kicked off the appeal by raising a staggering £415,760. The event was hosted by BBC News presenter and Build Africa patron Clive Myrie, while guests included Downton Abbey star Dame Penelope Wilton, a fellow patron, and iconic Channel 4 News host Jon Snow.



If you would like to find out more please visit www.build-africa.org/youngmums

Welcome Martin, our new Chief Executive



"I am thoroughly humbled and extremely excited to have joined Build Africa as we progress into our 40th year. Our long-term commitment to communities in rural Africa, many of whom we have worked with for decades, remains unparalleled. I have been inspired by the generosity and willingness of our supporters, the professionalism of our staff and most of all the impact and change we are delivering in the field. Fighting poverty through education and empowering the world's most vulnerable children is at the heart of our work."

Every single one of you has played a huge part in changing the lives of so many. Without you, our newly built schools, complementing infrastructure and educational support programmes simply wouldn't exist. Thank you for your ongoing support into 2018, Build Africa's 40th year."

Martin



Girls with dignity kits

How your support helped girls stay in school

Thanks to your generosity, our BBC Radio 4 Appeal raised a phenomenal **£84,041**.

The appeal, presented by BBC Woman’s Hour host Jane Garvey, focused on how simple reusable sanitary towels can help girls in rural Africa stay healthy and avoid missing school during their period.

The appeal is one of Build Africa’s most successful public campaigns to date, and is also one of the biggest BBC Radio 4 appeals of recent years.

More importantly, it means we’ve been able to work with over 25,000 vulnerable girls in rural communities across Kwale, on the coast of Kenya.

As part of this work, our Heshima Project (meaning ‘dignity’ in Swahili) has been helping thousands of young girls learn the skills that will help them stay healthy, and access safe water and sanitation.

We’ve been conducting training sessions for primary school girls to use clean, reusable sanitary towels, as well as providing them with important ‘dignity kits’ that contain reusable towels, spare underwear and bars of soap.

This means that they can remain healthy, avoid discrimination and most importantly stay in school.



Head teacher address girls at Maledi Primary School

“You have done something that no one has ever done for our girls. Honestly some of our girls come to school without pants because their parents cannot afford while others have them, but they are in a very bad condition with some tied with sisal or with patches. Build Africa you are God sent to rescue my girls. This will go a long way in the memory of these girls.”

Alice Muthiani,
Head Teacher at Maledi Primary School



Sarafina

“We appreciate what Build Africa has done for us by bringing us pants, soap and sanitary pads. It is like you knew we do not have sanitary towels for use every time we are on our periods, and at times some of us use mattresses while others use rags made from old khangas because not all parents can afford disposable pads. We would get infections and our parents can’t afford the medicine at clinics.”

Sarafina, Year 7



What we achieved in 2017

Because of your support:

- We distributed over 14,000 text books to 7,000 early years students in 59 schools
- We installed nine new toilet blocks helping protect over 2,000 children from preventable disease with safe sanitation
- We built 14 new classrooms and renovated three more improving access to education for more than 850 students
- We cleaned-up nine water sources providing clean water to over 6,000 students

The Teacher Empowerment Project

Our wonderful Teacher Empowerment Project, funded by the British and Foreign School Society, recently ended. Over two years the project worked with teachers at 15 schools in Kumi, Eastern Uganda, to help them overcome the everyday challenges they face working in remote rural schools.

Build Africa knows there's no substitute for a good teacher, so we trained staff in new methods to engage their students and improve their lessons. Teachers were also brought together by a new network to help them discuss the issues they face, and share solutions and innovative ideas to support their students.

Just by reaching this group of 75 teachers, we had a direct impact on the education of more than 3,750 children.

After this incredible success, Build Africa is now being supported by UNICEF to roll out this project to a further 60 schools – helping 180 more teachers and over 9,000 children.

"We were so impressed by every member of the Build Africa team in Kumi. Their commitment and passion were just amazing and we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them; being given a direct insight into the incredible work that they are doing. The trip confirmed that Build Africa are doing the most amazing job and we are very proud to continue supporting them." **Nicky Vernon (October 2017)**



Visiting Build Africa projects

Up next

Following on from the incredible success of the Farmers Network Project that we reported on last year, we're starting a new three year project to continue this powerful work.

We've been able to help farmers manage the pressures of poverty with access to community-based savings schemes that allow them to invest in their businesses and support their children's education.

And it doesn't end there.

Two thirds of the farmers we worked with increased their crop yields, meaning they can sell more at market and feed their children.

Now, we're launching the second phase of the project, which builds on the strongest elements of the first phase to reach 3,000 farmers and their families in Nakuru County, Kenya.

We're also working to improve the impact we can have on every school we work in.

In July we kick-started the pilot phase of a new project to support a group of 18 schools in rural Uganda and five schools in Kenya with new classrooms, toilets and teacher training programmes.



Six marathons in six days ... in the Sahara

For most of us, running one marathon on a brisk British morning is enough of a challenge.

However, Build Africa supporter Richard Perlhagen took his running up a notch (or six) with the gruelling Marathon des Sables (known as the toughest footrace on Earth) and raised a phenomenal £37,000. The six day race covers 251km through Morocco and the scorching Sahara Desert. Crucially, it's a 'self-sufficiency race', meaning runners need to carry supplies for the full event.

We spoke to Richard, who finished an impressive 167 out of 1,200 runners, once he'd had time to recover.

Why did you want to run the Marathon des Sables?

Yeah, good question. I'm still not sure! I had completed a few marathons, so just decided to do something more challenging. When I signed up a year ahead it seemed so far away. But by the time it actually came, I'd already told everyone I was doing it. I couldn't really back out!

Did you enjoy the challenge in the end? The entire experience was incredible. The remoteness of it, the scenery, the people around you... Every once in a while you'd look around at 1,200 other people who've chosen to spend months training and then to travel to the Sahara and compete in this nutty ultra-race in one of the harshest environments. It was surreal.

So, what did you enjoy the least? Sleeping was uncomfortable and all the blisters and foot injuries were pretty unpleasant – including losing four toenails. But the worst part for me was probably the food. I went for a low weight/high calorie strategy, bringing only granola, nuts, dried fruit and beef plus some protein and carb powders. That's all I ate for seven days. By day four, I already couldn't stomach granola and had to force feed it down. I still haven't eaten it since ... I definitely regretted that decision.

Would you ever do it again? I'd do something similar. There are so many amazing events that it would seem a shame not to try something new. Plus, I wouldn't mind something with a bit less sand and heat. I would, however, definitely recommend it to someone who wants a challenge.

Feeling inspired?

In 2018 we will be reaching a milestone as we mark 40 years of changing lives, and we want to celebrate by working with you. Whether it's donating, fundraising or volunteering, we'd love you to join Team Build Africa!

- Get your local community involved – schools, churches, clubs, libraries – we'll help you with your fundraising from start to finish
- Make a donation to support vital projects like #MumsReadKidsSucceed
- Give us your time and energy by becoming a volunteer or student ambassador

- Take part in one of our challenge events or organise your own. Visit www.build-africa.org/events for ideas
- Make Build Africa your company's charity of the year or become a corporate partner and work with us to have a long-lasting impact

We want to hear from you! Share your fundraising stories and experiences with us by contacting hello@build-africa.org.uk or calling **01892 519619**.

We won't stop until every child is in school and every child is learning. **We can't get there without you.**

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