

How you're helping to create lasting change

Habari

Welcome to your Spring Habari!

It's an exciting time at Build Africa, as we celebrate our 40th year. You can read more inside this issue about our plans for Big Summer Garden Parties, enjoy a look back over some of the pivotal moments of the past 40 years and learn more about our recent projects.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your generous and ongoing support. Together, we are helping more children access the education they deserve. We hope you feel proud of the difference you are making.



Inside:

- **Happy Birthday!**
- **Improving early education**
- **Our promise to you**
- **Challenge yourself for summer**

Update: Our #MumsReadKidsSucceed appeal



Our #MumsReadKidsSucceed appeal raised a fantastic £464,618 thanks to incredibly generous donations from supporters. What's more, as a UK Aid Match appeal public donations were eligible for matched funding from the Department for International Development – meaning £420,987 of funds raised will be matched “pound-for-pound” by the UK government. This brings our new total to a staggering £885,605 which will help deliver our vital education work.



Preparatory work is already underway in Uganda, where our team is working to plan community childcare spaces for young mothers as well as create materials in areas where seven different local languages are spoken. The project is due to start in July 2018. We'll update you in a future issue of Habari.



Jeeja Primary School, Uganda, 2013

Happy Birthday Build Africa

In 2018, Build Africa turns 40. A landmark moment for our small but innovative education charity.

Originally formed as International Christian Relief (ICR) in 1978, our history involves some of the most dramatic global events of the last four decades.

We established ourselves during the “Vietnamese Boat People” crisis following the fallout of the Vietnam War and went on to respond to some of the most devastating humanitarian crises of the 1980s and 90s. This included widespread famines in Ethiopia and Sudan, immunising children across Africa against polio, providing vital support services at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda, helping survivors of devastating floods in Venezuela and becoming one of the first aid agencies to reach refugees from the brutal Kosovo War.

However, as the 1990s ended, we were achieving powerful change with our education work worldwide, from Cambodia and the Philippines to Lebanon and Zaire (now the DRC). After decades of work in East Africa, we chose to refine our focus on more sustainable school projects in the region, launching our Build a School programme in 2004. Through this project we have since helped thousands of vulnerable children across Kenya and Uganda receive the quality education they deserve and break free from poverty.

This is where we are today, proud of our heritage while working for a better future.

We would like to thank you for helping us become the charity we are today. We simply couldn't do it without you.

Celebrate our birthday with us!

Help us mark our 40th milestone with a Big Summer Garden Party. Sign up for your party pack at www.build-africa.org/gardenparty



Refugee children attend kindergarten in a classroom built by ICR, Thailand, 1987



Columbian Earthquake – unknown date, circa 1999



Nyakatama Primary School, Uganda, 2003



We want to reach more children than ever before

Worldwide, 264 million children are missing out on school.¹

Over half of these primary aged children live in sub-Saharan Africa; kept out of education by poverty and the inequalities it causes.

In Kenya and Uganda, where Build Africa works, very few children get to complete primary school, creating enormous obstacles for their future success and wellbeing at such a young and vulnerable age.

The need to reach these communities is more urgent than ever before.

To tackle this, we're increasing our efforts to reach more children in rural communities than ever before with our powerful Build a School Programme. We are renovating classrooms, stocking libraries and installing sanitation, as well as training teachers and partnering with parents to support their children's development and overcome negative attitudes and social inequalities.

Over the next 12 months, we'll be working hard to raise funds so that we can give over 20,000 children currently living in poverty the opportunities they need and make sure that nothing stands in their way. So that every child is in school and every child is learning.

Build Africa know that the earlier a child starts to engage with their education, the stronger their chances of doing well. Research shows their future earnings increase by 10% for each additional year they attend school.²

This means the quicker we act, the more powerful the impact for communities and the more sustainable it will be.

Transforming a rural school can help entire communities live healthier, happier and more productive lives. But, for this change to make a real difference, it needs to happen now, and that's why we need your support more than ever.

1. Leaving no one behind: How far on the way to universal primary and secondary education?; Global Education Monitoring Report: policy paper; Vol.: 27; 2016
2. Global Education Report, UNESCO GEM Report The Benefits of Education Page 7



Preparing to leave primary school

We know that it is vital children receive the support they need during their final years of primary school in order to make a successful move to secondary education.

Our Nepepe (meaning 'together' in Iteso) project is doing just that. Build Africa has a long track record in Uganda, spanning over 20 years. We have combined the most successful interventions from our previous projects, delivering them together to maximise their impact.

We focus on three areas:

Supporting children through their stressful exam period and ensuring they learn the skills they need to not just pass their tests, but go on to lead successful lives.

Equipping parents with practical skills to manage the increased financial cost of secondary school, as well as working to increase their engagement with education.

Working with teachers to improve techniques and make sure children are well prepared for their exams and receive the support they need as they transition to secondary school.

So far we've reached 420 children, 630 parents and 20 teachers across 10 primary schools through a number of approaches, including:

- Mock exams for final year students
- PTA meetings
- Financial and agricultural training for parents
- Sex/relationship/health lessons for older children
- Teacher training on classroom support and assessment

Case study: Aputiput Primary School

The teachers at Aputiput in Bukedea are determined to beat the odds and become the best school in the district.

Headteacher, Mr Kiyala, is proud that in the 2017 leaving exams his students achieved a 100% pass rate. This is one of many recent successes he attributes to Build Africa's presence at the school.

The school is now 29th out of the 94 schools in Bukedea – only two years ago, it was in last place.



"I want to tell you, the work you did cannot go unnoticed. You helped parents to support the education of their children by providing materials, meals and supporting with fees.

"All the children took part in monthly mock tests to prepare for their exams and now most of our students have joined Kabarwa High School for secondary education.

"We visited Kabarwa to see how our children were doing and were welcomed by the Headteacher, Mr Maraka, who applauded Build Africa for supporting education in the area."

Mr Kiyala, Headteacher at Aputiput



UNICEF partnership

A well-managed school is a sustainable school.

For the past year, Build Africa has been working in partnership with UNICEF on a pilot project to improve important but often missing management practices at 60 schools across the Ngora and Kiryandongo districts of Uganda.

We have been working together to ensure each school is properly collecting data and making decisions based on evidence. This means each school is now delivering a full curriculum, has proper planning and management policies in place and that teachers are using effective and engaging child-friendly methods. All so that schools are able to meet the needs of every child in their care.

Of the 158 teachers we worked with, 100% were able to successfully demonstrate the use of more accessible teaching methods. An incredible achievement and we're delighted with the success so far.

As a result of this powerful trial, both Build Africa and UNICEF have agreed to continue the project at 30 schools in Kiryandongo, where the need is greatest, for a second year.



The impact of early learning

Our three-year EQUAL project, helping children in Western Uganda access quality early years education, was due to end in July 2017.

However, after some initial challenges and delays at the start of the project, we extended work until the end of the year to ensure we delivered our commitment to children and teachers.

The original project aimed to give teachers at 20 schools the skills and resources to engage younger and more vulnerable learners, as well as create a strong support network of parents and older children to counter high drop-out rates. This was to ensure the children were receiving the best possible education during their crucial first few years of school, setting them up for a successful journey through education and into adulthood.

Early results:

- The pass rate for literacy and numeracy tests increased from 31% to 40%
- Teachers reported that the number of girls actively engaging in classes rose from 45% to 63%, with boys engaging at 65% compared to 43% before
- The percentage of children stating bullying as a reason to avoid school almost halved from 72% to 42%
- 62% of children said they were better supported by their parents at home, compared to 31% before the project



Mini libraries

A key part of EQUAL was to supply age-appropriate books and resources to each school, helping to open up education for young learners and improve literacy rates.

Each of the 20 schools was supplied with three specially-created mini libraries (one for each early years class); including a total of 2,514 books. This reduced the student to book ratio from a shocking 7:1 in 2014 to a more manageable 3:1, meaning more children now have a book to learn from.

With the arrival of the new textbooks, resources and stories, Build Africa field staff have reported increased engagement and enthusiasm from children.



Charity standards: Our commitment to you

In the wake of failings recently made public about several international development charities, and the subsequent and understandable backlash, I felt it was important to reassure you, our supporters, that Build Africa has always been both compliant and professional in all our work with vulnerable children, adults and communities.

Build Africa has continually excelled in ensuring high industry standards. We have undertaken a child-safeguarding policy overview in the last 18 months and have an up-to-date set of policies and practices which apply to all staff, whether based in the UK or overseas. We are governed by the following principles, which are publicly available on our website:

We will always:

- Ensure our programmes are designed to actively prevent child abuse
- Make it absolutely clear to staff, partners and visitors that Build Africa has a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse in any form
- Inform all children involved in our work of their right to protection, and make sure a safe mechanism is in place for them to report abuse
- Take all suspicions and allegations of child abuse seriously and respond swiftly and appropriately to such cases
- Ensure anonymity for those who report their concerns
- Take disciplinary and/or legal action where there has been a breach of any law by our staff, partners or visitors

We pride ourselves on the relationships we maintain with the communities we partner with. As part of this, we employ local staff, not just with expertise in our projects, but in the social and cultural environments in which they work.

In order to maintain the highest possible quality and child safeguarding standards in this work, it is important that we have expert technical staff who oversee our administrative and operational procedures from our UK office. This involves associated costs, but is necessary to deliver the standard of support that our beneficiaries deserve.

I am proud of our transparency, and am happy to explain these additional costs to donors and supporters; it's something that separates us from others and is exceedingly important in this modern era of development.

Please don't hesitate to contact our team or me directly with any questions that you may have.

Martin Realey

Chief Executive



Women for Women

On 8 March 2018, 50 inspiring and amazing women came together to launch Build Africa's Women for Women initiative.

Hosted by Build Africa patron and long-term supporter, Shiulie Ghosh, the event aimed at connecting influential UK women to the powerful initiatives which put Kenyan and Ugandan women at the forefront of change in their community.

The Women for Women initiative are planning to meet again during the year with a series of working lunches in order to identify and pursue suitable projects to support through their networks.

Support our Women for Women initiative

If you're passionate about change, we'd love to work together. Please get in touch with ideas about how your skills, experience and connections could help us tackle the challenges faced by women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa.

Join our network, visit www.build-africa.org/women





Mighty Marathoners

On 22 April, a team of dedicated Build Africa supporters took on the iconic London Marathon.

Despite the record-breaking heat, we saw some impressive times from our runners as more than 40,000 athletes, amateurs and fundraisers made their way along the 26.2 mile course.

The months of training and hours of racing all paid off, as together they raised an incredible £11,753 and still counting. We can't thank them enough!

Build Africa's own Chief Executive Martin Realey also took to the streets, pounding the pavement in a giant gorilla costume that not only kept the crowds entertained but even made the papers the next morning.

If you're interested in taking part in next year's London Marathon, email us on Karen@build-africa.org.uk



(Half) Marathon Man

Richard Thomas, one of Build Africa's long standing supporters, has already raised over £70,000 for our education projects with his often epic running challenges – taking on more than 35 marathons, ultra-marathons, triathlons and countless other events.

After almost 20 years of fundraising, Richard's challenge for 2018 is no less incredible as he plans to run 12 half marathons in 12 months. Lining up for events across the country every few weeks for Build Africa.

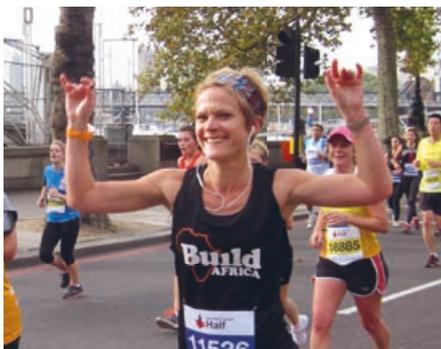
Please support Richard to complete his 2018 challenge:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-thomas82



Challenge yourself in 2018

We have some incredible fundraising events happening throughout 2018.
Challenge yourself. Get fit. Perspiration for education!



The Royal Parks Half Marathon

Sunday 14 October 2018 | London
Registration fee: £35
Minimum sponsorship: £400

This stunning central London half marathon takes in the capital's world-famous landmarks on closed roads plus four of London's eight Royal Parks.



London to Paris Cycle – Tour de France edition

25 - 29 July 2018 | London
Registration fee: £149
Minimum sponsorship: £1,630

Cycle 300 miles in four days from London to Paris and see the spectacular finale of the Tour de France!



Kilimanjaro Trek

When: October 2018 | Tanzania
Registration fee: £449
Minimum sponsorship: £4,100

Trek the beautiful Machame route that takes you through dense tropical rainforest to the mighty snow-capped summit of Africa's highest mountain.

Fight poverty in rural Africa.

See our full list of challenges at www.build-africa.org/events



Other ways to help

Get involved!

Visit www.build-africa.org/GetInvolved or call us on **+44 (0) 1892 519 619**



Corporate partnerships

Work with Build Africa to transform lives in rural Kenya and Uganda together.

There are a number of ways that your company and employees can get involved in our work and help us end poverty through the power of education. From charity of the year partnerships to sponsoring an event, employee fundraising to gifts-in-kind – we take pride in offering a unique partnership that can be tailored to meet the needs of your company, its people and your business aims.

For more information or to discuss partnering with us, email Hannah at Hannah@build-africa.org.uk



Global learning through school linking

Linking provides a unique opportunity to impact the lives of students in the UK, Kenya and Uganda. Students develop a knowledge and understanding of each other's culture, the wider world and their own role as global citizens.

Become a linked school today to help us transform education at a primary school in rural Kenya or Uganda.

We'll send you everything you need to get started, email Laura@build-africa.org.uk



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Save the date

Join us as we celebrate the festive season and mark the end of our 40th Anniversary year with live performances and readings from our celebrity patrons.

Further details including full line up and how to buy tickets will be announced over the summer.

Tuesday 4th December 2018
at Union Chapel, Islington

Supporting our work into the future

We believe that every child deserves a good education. It has the power to transform their life. To give them a more prosperous and healthy future, and help their entire community beat poverty and inequality.

For over 20 years we have made this a reality for thousands of children, but there is so much more to do. In the areas we work, many parents can't support their children's learning. School environments are unsuitable, teachers struggle without proper training and learning resources are scarce. We have a proven track record in tackling these barriers, but it takes time and commitment.

It is only thanks to our dedicated and generous supporters, like you, that we are able to help children access the quality education they deserve.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all those who have chosen to support our work into the future by leaving a gift in their Will. These important gifts can ensure that we can commit for the long-term and you can continue transforming lives for many years to come, leaving a touching legacy for the future.

To find out more about the difference a gift in your Will could make, or to talk to us in confidence about your existing wishes, please contact David on **01892 519 619** or email **David@build-africa.org.uk**. Alternatively, visit **www.build-africa.org/legacy**

Build Africa has moved

Build Africa UK has relocated to London after 20 years in Tunbridge Wells.

Our office in Kent was due to be redeveloped and we were offered a space in London at a discounted charity rate. This allowed us to utilise the benefits of a London location without London rent, meaning more of the money we raise can continue to go directly towards our vital projects in Kenya and Uganda.

As a team, we were sad to say goodbye to Kent, but know that the move will help us achieve more and ultimately benefit the children and families we support in rural Africa.

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