

UCUK NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017



Thank You and Happy Christmas!

Uganda Concern UK trustees would like to wish all our supporters a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year!

We would also like to express our sincere thanks for your support, prayers and gifts during 2017. Every donation, whether regular or one-off, is gratefully received and passed on without deduction to UWCM.

Children's Conference January 2018



We continue to receive such positive feedback about the annual 5-day residential conference which caters for about 70 disadvantaged children that we are planning to support UWCM to arrange another one in January.

Thanks to our faithful supporters who ran the Ashford 10K again in October (Keith, Xander & Heather, Andrew) approximately £1554 has been raised so far towards the £2250 budget. This year we also need to replace some of the worn out foam mattresses that have been used at the conference for the last 12 years. They cost about £12 each.

News from one of the Community Groups

One shelter was constructed for Kyimbo Michael and the construction was carried out by the women of the Ramba Shifubi group. Ramba Shifubi means "work like an orphan" which indicates that the women volunteer to work hard to help themselves and others.

Esther from UWCM reports:

"People from that community commented that surely UWCM has done what no other organization has by helping the most vulnerable community members. Michael himself was overwhelmed with joy and he could not believe that anybody would love and care for him to that level. When we purchased for him bed sheets, a mattress, blankets and a bed, the two grandchildren could not believe that for the first time in life they were going to sleep on a mattress and even cover themselves with a blanket. The old man was very happy and thanked UWCM for the kind heart."

Traditional shelters are built using wooden poles and local mud. Corrugated iron roofing is purchased if money permits as it lasts much longer than banana leaf thatch. UCUK's building fund (Sarah's Shelters) helps purchase land and building materials for impoverished families.



"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2 v 11



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Uganda Concern UK mission statement: the prevention & relief of poverty in Uganda, in particular by supporting Uganda Women Concern Ministry, a Christian charity working in communities around Mbale in the east of the country.

Sakiya Prayer & Porridge Project

Over 200 children are currently registered in this small community project and in addition to receiving teaching, games and porridge at the church, they were all given exercise books, pencils & a pen which helps them to attend school. Seventeen children also had some support with their school fees which they really appreciate.

Joyce was one of the children that benefitted and she is now pursuing a 2 year course in nursery teaching; this is her testimony:

“In her home, they grew up not knowing yet hoping they would one day study but God has done it through Sakiya Project. The first school uniform she put on was after joining the project. She was encouraged to go to church and up to now she is in church. She encourages Sakiya children not to lose hope in life but to know that God can help them too.”

The vulnerability of young girls is highlighted in this recent report from UWCM:

“We managed to help a young teenage mother Esther. Esther’s mother died when she was only two years old together with her five siblings. The father got married to another woman who has been taking care of Esther. Due to poverty, most of the children did not go far in education, Esther’s sisters got married at a tender age and the first born brother stays in Kampala where he does casual labour in building site. Last year, he carried Esther from Mbale to Kampala and promised to take her to school but when they reached there, he started defiling her and the poor Esther got pregnant and when he learnt this he put her in a bus and told her to go back to her father. Esther went through C-section and gave birth to a baby girl. She developed infection and that is how we ended up taking her for treatment. She is willing to go back to school next year but due to stigma, she can’t go back to the same school.”

Rainwater Harvesting

Some of the community groups are keen to learn how to harvest rainwater and build effective water tanks. Contact has been made with a Tearfund partner in the west of Uganda who has the expertise and discussions are taking place to work out the most cost-efficient way of helping UWCM groups to acquire these skills.

Changes at Uganda Women Concern Ministry

In August, UWCM’s Executive Director Nasta Watua made the decision not to renew her contract as she had been experiencing health challenges for some time. We would like to appreciate her skills, wisdom and much-valued service over the last few years. Due to financial constraints, she has not been replaced but Lornah Wamono, a longstanding committed staff member, has been promoted to Programmes Manager. UWCM’s founder, Edith Wakumire, continues to work regularly to support the organisation.



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