



## NEWSLETTER - November 2014

*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.*

### **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 2014. This includes those of you who asked for donations to UCUK in lieu of special birthdays/anniversaries and others for whom we have no address to thank you personally - thank you all!*



*Every donation, whether regular or one-off, is gratefully received and passed on **without deduction** to UWCM.*

### **Facts about Uganda**



- Uganda currently has the world's youngest population according to the 2014 World Bank report. 50% of the 37 million population is under the age of 15 years and with high fertility rates, the population is growing rapidly
- Youth (aged 15—24) unemployment is extremely high at 83%
- The prevalence of AIDS remains at about 7.2% and has risen again slightly in recent years. The number of AIDS-related orphans is estimated to be 1 million. HIV-related stigma continues to be a problem.
- Life expectancy at birth is 56 years for males and 58 for females.

### **UWCM Children's Conference, 12th –16th January 2015**

The facts highlighted above confirm the ongoing need to reach out to the numerous needy children in the communities in which UWCM work. Next January's Children's Conference will be the 10th year that Uganda Concern UK has funded this event and over these years we are grateful to many people for their generosity towards this particular work. It is held in January during Uganda's longest school holiday and UWCM staff continue to confirm that it is a very beneficial time for the children.



Please pray for all aspects of January's event; for Robert at UWCM who has responsibility for organising it, for the UK visitors, but most of all for the 70+ children who will be invited - that they will really enjoy themselves whilst developing new friendships, taking part in the games and craft activities and absorbing the depth of God's love for them.

## How UWCM is transforming lives.....

### Reports from Uganda Women Concern Ministry

UWCM staff submit quarterly reports giving feedback on the work carried out. Extracts from these reports are indicated below in italics.

#### *Sarah's Shelters*



A specific fund set up by UCUK for the building of traditional homes for families in need. When funds are available, members from the local Community Mobilisation Team (CMT) identify a local family that is struggling with very difficult living conditions. The money sent out buys the wooden poles, nails, door and corrugated roof sheets. The mud is usually dug from around the construction site and the volunteers donate a few days of labour and love.

*“This shelter was constructed to Mr. Nathan Wamukota of Namabya. Nathan has had three wives. When the first wife died, she left behind five children which made him get the second one because he could not take care of small children. The second wife got four children and she also died. This man was devastated and overwhelmed with a lot of challenges. After some time he could not cope with the problems and he fell sick to an extent of not even standing up. This therefore forced the poor man to get the third wife who is now taking care of him and the children. She also has two children making a total of 11 children. Last year, due to too much rainfall, Nathan’s house was destroyed by a strong wind and since he was very sick, the CMTs (community volunteer group) identified him as a needy family and they rented for him a small room within the area so he desperately needed a shelter. “*

In some of the poorer areas there is not enough soil for the construction of a strong shelter and so the soil has to be bought and transported. It is hard to imagine the extent of this lady’s suffering but UWCM will assist her in every way they can, including emotional and spiritual support.



*“We came across this lady Joaninah Nagundi, 53 years old who we found her eating dry roasted maize for her lunch and we got concerned. After interviewing her she disclosed that she is HIV positive and that her only son keeps beating her demanding for money yet she is the one who takes care of his children. Joaninah’s story was very touching and therefore this quarter we decided to construct for her a shelter. We have been waiting for rains to reduce so that we can buy for her soil for construction.”*

*“This is Edwards’s house which was constructed last year under Bunambutye CMT but the mud is now falling off. This is because in this region, there is no proper soil for constructing houses and incase one wants an intact house then soil has to be purchased. Therefore, this family needs some 4-5 trips of soil in order for this house to be firm without falling off. The good news is that this family’s hygiene and health has improved greatly and also their lives have changed since they accepted Christ as their Saviour.”*



## Women's groups

UWCM currently offers support to 13 groups across a wide geographical area around Mbale by teaching them effective group management and encouraging them to set up income generating projects using locally available resources. They also encourage new groups to learn from the more experienced and effective groups. The felling of trees for firewood is a real concern in this hilly region because they have already suffered from devastating mud slides after heavy rains in recent years.

*"Each group member has planted at least 30 trees to ensure that they have enough firewood security to use for their energy saving stoves. Opposite is one of the members displaying their well constructed 5 pot stove with enough firewood. This was a big lesson learnt by the other groups that visited."*



## Sakiya Prayer & Porridge Project

This busy project was initiated by a remarkable lady called Sarah who, despite being affected by HIV in the early 1990s, was so concerned about the orphaned and vulnerable children in her community that she began to show them God's love in a very practical way by feeding them whenever she could. In time, the local church pastor and other Christians assisted her and now, many years later, the project continues to offer hope, practical support, counselling, prayer, nutritional food, games & activities plus help with school fees, scholastic materials and medical support whenever possible to approximately 120 children. The children attend on Saturdays and also on Wednesdays during school holidays.



*"The continuous support of nutrition items like maize flour, sugar and snacks to the project has encouraged children to come for centre activities where there is knowing God through reading his word, praising and worshiping God, learning every today aspects of life and playing among others. The children enjoy and feel good when taking a cup of porridge meal which has in one way or the other improved on health of these children. The program is doing great work in the lives of children."*

During UCUK's last visit, discussions were held about whether any local residents could spare some maize after harvesting their crops to support this valuable project. We were encouraged to receive this latest report:

*"A meeting was conducted with Sakiya leaders to establish on the progress of local contribution in terms of maize seeds for children's porridge meal. Some efforts have been made and about 80 Kgs were collected which can support the children for at least two months."*

In the summer, UCUK received a request for funds to buy more plastic cups which the children use to drink their porridge. Apparently some hungry rats had chewed and damaged a large number of cups and so £26 was sent in the next quarterly transfer to replace them!



When funds permit, support is given to a few of the older children in terms of school or training fees:

*"These children are happy and grateful for the assistance which has enabled to make and take them to such a level which some had never expected. For example Catherine who is on a hair dressing course stopped in Primary and went and worked as a house girl. But house girls in Uganda suffer many challenges right from very little pay and other sorts of exploitation. So Catherine decided to come back home and when this opportunity found her, she was excited and to date she is very happy together with her family."*

## Fundraising events



The very popular 'Open Garden & Cream Tea' event in Clevedon raised £682 towards the 2015 Annual Children's Camp. Over 100 people enjoyed strolling around Jo & David Sims' beautiful gardens followed by a traditional clotted cream tea & homemade cakes. Jo had taken lots of cuttings which were also on sale and we were, once again, very lucky with the weather.

### North Downs Way

Abbie and Bridget Withell walked (and sometimes hobbled!) 126 miles from Farnham, Surrey to Dover, Kent during a beautiful sunny week in June and are grateful to so many generous supporters. Abbie visited UWCM for the first time last January and was inspired by her experiences. Approximately £1263 was raised for general UWCM funds.



### 10k run in 2 Continents

On 12th October 2014, supporters Keith Ketchum and Maz Brown ran 10k in Nairobi, Kenya at the same time as Stuart & Ruth Fitch and Sarah Staveley ran the Ashford 10k and raised an amazing £900 plus gift aid towards the next children's conference. Thank you to all the runners for 'going the extra mile'!



**Other fundraising events** included a Plant Sale at Christchurch, Clevedon (raising £250), the annual Twydall Trekkers walk / ploughman's lunch (over £300), a local Pizza company (Pizza Magic) in Clevedon donated a percentage of sales one evening and raised over £100 (enough to buy about 20 pairs of Wellingtons for volunteers); various office cake sales/profit from the sale of Traidcraft and loose change collection boxes have also raised over £300 so far this year (enough to buy some bicycles to help volunteers visit the families they support).

A New Year's Eve Ceilidh is to be held in Christchurch, Clevedon to welcome in 2015.

### *Don't forget to Everyclick!*



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Uganda Concern UK is registered with Everyclick.com and supporters can raise extra funds without it costing them a penny.

Simply nominate the site as your homepage and default search engine and then enter 'Uganda Concern UK' as your chosen charity. **Every time you search the web, trade on Ebay or shop on-line (Give as you Live) you will raise funds for Uganda Concern UK.**

Since May 2010 we have raised approx. £385 simply by people searching or shopping.

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If you would like your details to be removed from our mailing list, please contact one of the Trustees.

**"Working to support Uganda Women Concern Ministry" - UK Charity Number 1133440**  
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