



Latest News

Continuing to Transform Children's Lives

Having opened the new girls' dormitory at St Matia Mulumba in November 2018, our thoughts turned to the need for a similar facility for the boys, in order to move them out of the classroom where they had been sleeping. We were extremely fortunate to receive a large personal donation which covered the costs involved and, enabled us to begin work, on 27th April this year



Good solid foundations were essential in order to withstand the extremes of drought and torrential downpours.



The quality of workmanship was regularly inspected by the Masakan Diocesan Inspectors and, in particular, Father Bonny Kalyesubulla, who 'doesn't miss much'.

We have now reached roof level and completion is set for the end of this month. Work left to do includes plastering, painting, electrics, more toilets and washing facilities and the provision of beds. It is hoped it will be ready for the boys to move in by the end of September.



Recently, land adjacent to the large classroom block was levelled, in readiness for building a new five classroom facility, which will contain an IT suite and vocational training workshops. Money has already been sent for the first two stages of building and, the plan is to begin construction later this month, before the onset of the rainy season.

Although the school now has a solar powered water pump and water storage tanks, we are planning to supplement these with rainwater collection equipment and more storage tanks, so that the school has a plentiful supply of water throughout the year. This is particularly important in order that the children have fresh drinking water, as well as water for use in food preparation, bathing and clothes washing. The latter is a labour intensive and time consuming exercise, as mattresses, bedding and clothes all have to be washed by hand, so that everything is clean for the children at all times.

In 2019, so that good hygiene habits could be fostered, the school began a regime of regular hand washing and, hand washing stations were installed near toilets and dining facilities, These routines have become even more important with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Clothes, mattresses and bedding, drying in the sun.

'Learning the ropes' - a simple water dispenser and plenty of soap.



Current Situation in Uganda



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Uganda were put into lockdown in the middle of March this year. The President said that all children were to be sent home and, at present, he has not given permission for schools to reopen. Our team in Uganda is, where possible, keeping in touch with our sponsored children, either by visiting them or by phone. Teaching materials have been taken to those it has been possible to reach and, in some cases, where food has been short, this has been provided. As yet, it is unclear if schools will reopen this month for the final term of the school year. Schools have been given guidelines of the things which need to be in place in order for them to reopen and, at

present, they are busy implementing these instructions. Any changes to the situation are being published on the EVC website and you can follow them there.

Sending Gifts to Uganda

We are very grateful to all those sponsors who returned responses to our recent survey.

One question which was frequently asked was what might be an appropriate gift to send to a sponsored child. The following are some suggestions:

- clothing for when children are at home in the holidays - shorts, t-shirt, dress, skirt, nightwear, socks and underwear, also cardigan, hoodie or sweater, as the weather can be cold when the rains come
- bracelet or necklace for the girls.
- wind-up torch
- simple story books eg Usborne easy readers
- inflatable footballs and smaller balls for other games.

Please bear in mind the cost of postage, which can be considerable. A package of 1 kg can cost around £10. Latest prices can be found at <https://www.royalmail.com>.

Some sponsors have chosen to send additional money, over and above sponsorship, with instructions to the team in Uganda as to what to buy. Typical amounts sent have been in the range £10-£25.

Recognising that it might be several months from the sending of a gift to receiving an acknowledgment of receipt from the sponsored child, with effect from October 1st 2020, we will introduce a voluntary tracking system.

To register the fact that you have sent a gift to a child, please send an email to giftregister@evcuganda.org specifying the name of the child who should receive it and the date you posted it. Our team in Uganda will register the date of receipt of the gift, let our UK team know it has arrived and they will then email a reply to your email, confirming receipt.

In Brief

- In future, when we hold an email address for donors, we will be sending our Newsletter electronically. However, hard copies will continue to be sent to those who have not provided an email address. If you prefer to receive a hard copy by post, please contact us to let us know and we will amend our records accordingly.
- We are looking to increase the number of EVC UK Trustees. If you are interested in serving as a Trustee and believe you have skills which would benefit the charity, please contact our Chairman, Ted Fawcett, by phone or email, using the contact details below.
- EVC Uganda continues to receive donations from Amazon Smile. If you are looking ahead to Christmas and are using Amazon for purchases, if you access smile.amazon.co.uk you can select EVC Uganda as the charity you wish to benefit.

For enquiries : Chapel Corner, 1 Church Road, Willington, Beds MK44 3QD Tel : 01234 838134

email : info@evcuganda.org Website : www.evcuganda.org

Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda, Registered Charity Number 1158189