

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

BkB is a non-government organisation registered in 1998. We aim to offer support to some of the 2.5 million Uganda orphans who often live in extreme poverty. They are prone to sickness, many are malnourished. BkB manages six linked projects which have been put in place to bring about a positive change in the lives of these children, their carers and the communities in which they live

### **EDUCATION**

Some of the children we started sponsoring in 1999 for their Nursery Education are now at the end of their secondary education or in colleges of further education. Others are now working. This year five students have completed their studies and are now employed. Three are teachers, one is a mechanic and one works in catering. At present we have 122 children who are sponsored.

### **Challenges;**

- Continued increment in tuition fees.
- Children attend schools scattered over large areas which makes it hard to monitor progress (see page 6).
- The majority of the children are in villages where schools have few resources and a low standard of education.
- Extreme poverty at home and food shortages lessen a child's ability to learn.

### **WATER**

Over the past 10 years the number of people with access to safe water and sanitation has improved in Uganda. According to the report from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, safe water coverage is at 65%. Some of the protected springs, bore holes and water pipes that have been in existence for years in many areas



are not working. There are many communities (both rural and urban) still relying on contaminated water sources such as streams and open wells. In villages access to safe water is greatly lacking. The water sources that do exist are often severely contaminated leading to illnesses and premature deaths. In Uganda 17% of deaths in children under the age of five are due to water borne diseases.

We thank those who have helped construct bore holes, protect springs and build water tanks. In the year 2013-2014 BkB has protected nine springs which serve over 15 villages.



## PROTECTED SPRINGS 2013-2014

	Spring Name	Village	Parish	Sub county	District
1	Samantha's	Nkoge-Maziba	Mpigi TC	Mpigi TC	Mpigi
2	Joanna's	Bozza	Bumozzi	Mpigi TC	Mpigi
3	Mary Ann's	Kamunye	Mako	Kasanje	Wakiso
4	Wee Betty's	Bumozzi B	Musale	Mpigi TC	Mpigi
5	John & Irene Danford's	Luggo	Seetabweya	Kalamba	Butambala
6	Ben's	Kalagala	Mpigi TC	Mpigi TC	Mpigi
7	Evie's	Luggo	Seetabweya	Kalamba	Butambala
8	Jean & John Winter's	Kikalaala	Sokolo	Kasanje	Wakiso
9	Elke & Ted's	Koba	Kasanje	Kasanje	Wakiso

### Challenges

- We need funds to provide safe, reliable, accessible water to more people. Our target for 2014-2015 is to build at least 20 village wells.
- The roads to the villages are in such bad shape they are almost impassable.
- Long dry seasons lead to some protected springs drying up. People have to walk long distances to other communities to fetch water.



### HEALTH

The BkB Mobile Clinic continues to operate in over 45 villages in Wakiso District. Malaria is still the cause of the highest number of deaths among children in Uganda. Other diseases that affect children and adults are diarrhoea, anaemia, urinary tract infection, intestinal worms and coughs. Immaculate, one of the nurses, had this to say:



*"We have registered a great improvement in health and a dramatic lowering in diseases in the different villages that we have visited often. When the clinic had just started, intestinal worms were very rampant in children and even adults but now there are fewer cases reported at the clinic. The Rapid Diagnosis tests (RDT) that we started using last year have enabled us to accurately diagnose malaria in patients so that we can prescribe the correct*

*medicine for children suffering from malaria. However, cough and flu continue to be rampant among the children and usually the medicine available in the clinic is not enough for all our patients.*



The number of patients increases, medicines are insufficient. This year, 2013-2014, there were 17,000 patients compared to last year's 14,112. We continue carrying out home visits to families with large numbers of sick orphans and vulnerable children. Our home visitor supported over 1,200 families in Wakiso District

### Challenges:

- People continue to ask for family planning services which currently are not provided.
- The health team sometimes has to endure the hot sun and the rain and even sit on the ground as they don't have shade or chairs. We hope to buy folding chairs and portable canopies for shelter.
- Funds are needed to enable the clinic to offer more services. Last year the charity ran out of money. We suspended the mobile clinic for several months. We hope to prevent this from happening again.



### DEMONSTRATION FARM

#### The livestock unit:

- Expansion of the breeding stock for pigs: seven more sows added to the existing three.
- Introduction of Mubende goats. The male will cross breed with retained female goats to produce a good stock.
- Mother Ordry (the elder cow) is in calf and currently undergoes drying off. Junior Ordry has a male calf and is in her lactating stage with an average yield of 13-15 liters per day.
- A water tank has been placed at the poultry shed to store more water.
- We took the first harvest from the bee hives.

Gerald, farm manager,  
teaching school children



#### Crops:

- Re-assembly of the gravitational/piped irrigation system is complete. This has been done to retain water.
- We have established more plant varieties.
- Compost site is in place.
- A nursery site and vegetable beds are operational including one for supporting the green house.
- The Musizi tree was removed to make way for the expansion of yellow bananas and pastures. It yielded £119 plus wood which was used at the farm.
- Blocking bananas by their variety is almost 90% complete. This aims at establishing bananas of the same variety with similar growth habits in the same plot for easy growth and demonstration purposes.

## Visitors to the Farm ending 2013

CATEGORY OF VISITORS	No OF VISITORS
Adult males	124
Adult females	195
Children below 18 years	142
Teachers	13
Tertiary and university students	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493</b>



In the greenhouse

### New developments include the following:

- Construction of an incinerator.
- Pesticides of natural origin are now available.
- Reduced dependence on off-farm inputs such as seeds.
- Expansion of the poultry unit.

### Our challenges include:

- Unreliable labourers due to frequent labour turn over.
- Shortage of irrigation water. Harvesting of surface run off can be a viable option.
- Frequent pest and disease outbreaks; more so from the neighbours who seem to pay less attention to vector/disease management.

## NUTRITION

The Nutrition department comprises the demonstration kitchen with its five different methods of cooking foods: ovens and, for want of a better word, 'hobs': traditional (burning wood), local oven (clay), the clay 'hob', the biogas hob, a gas stove.

Different activities are carried out to improve standards in both **nutrition** and **hygiene**: construction of kitchen gardens, education in nutrition, demonstrations in food preparation, food storage and preservation.

Education to improve hygiene includes construction and use of rubbish pits, pit latrines, dish racks and tip-tap for washing hands after visiting the toilet.

Work has begun on taking the lessons on food and nutrition further afield to villages the clinic visits. Mothers are more than pleased to be given help in feeding their children well and ask that these demonstrations continue.

Marea, nutritionist, demonstrating the tip-tap



## Challenges

- The long dry season has greatly affected the establishment of the demonstration kitchen garden.
- Most households grow food for sale rather than home consumption.
- Inadequate kitchen equipment in our demonstration kitchen.
- Difficulty in teaching some individuals about nutrition. This is a real challenge as some foods are not easily accessed; due to large families it is difficult to buy food that is enough for the family; lack of enough land for people to plant sufficient food crops.



## **Towards self-sufficiency: CHILDREN'S PLAY CENTRE**

In an effort to have the charity financially support itself, we thought of an income-generating project that is in line with our mission of improving the lives of orphans and empowering the communities in which they live. Several income-generating projects were presented and discussed in depth and we



finally zeroed in on one that will directly benefit the children in the area and those from far away villages. At the same time it will act as a good source of revenue for the charity. A children's play centre was the project we agreed to set up. The need for a children's play centre was obvious since the nearest centre to Kisubi is over 12 miles away and in a class of its own. For that reason very few parents can afford their gate fees. We already had the land which is the biggest part of

the capital needed for the project. For over 10 years BKB's land at Kisubi along the busy Kampala-Entebbe road has not been used to its fullest potential. A plan was drafted and professionals were contracted to design and process all the necessary documents as required by the government before the construction began. Our building plan was approved. We are particularly grateful to the Moyra Ness Trust, Sam Guo and the Denzle Trust and many other donors for the funds that have enabled us to start construction. Currently we have leveled the ground and building is in progress. (See photograph of the library, kitchen and dining area walls.)

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**A big thank you to all our donors, supporters and everyone who has had a hand in ensuring that the objectives of BkB are accomplished.**

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