

April 2023

“The opposite of poverty is not wealth .

“The opposite of poverty is enough” (Dr. Wess Stafford)

Hello,

Our last newsletter was in February 2023 in which we outlined our work in three livelihood support interventions in the villages around Mbale, Uganda.

We outlined the programmes and informed you what work was to be implemented until April 2023. It is with great joy and encouragement that we can share what has been achieved and give you feedback from some of the beneficiaries.

Goat livelihood programme

This programme is aimed at widows and orphan – headed households chosen by their community but checked by our partner.

Four schemes have now been established and the beneficiaries (120 women) have received their female goats as well as training.

In each of the 4 villages (Kameruka, Lyama, Katira & Mugiti) there is a goat keeper who provides continued support and oversight and the services of two rams which live in a purpose built “buck shed”.



Goat keeper (Bumba) in Katira village.



Ladies in Mugiti village with their goats



Family members watching progress

Please refer to the Uganda page on our website to view two video links :

<https://www.justsmallchange.org.uk/uganda> Then click on the words **Katira** and **Mugiti** under Goat breeding groups to view each video message.

These videos are examples of the grateful feedback received from the ladies whom you have supported.

As we gather more details during the next six months, we will be able to report back on the expansion (numbers of goat kids born etc,) and the impact of this goat programme.

During the year a further 4 goat livelihood schemes will be established.

Village Savings & Loan Scheme



Newly formed savings group for women in Kameruka



Continuous training for group members

There are **8** Village Savings & Loan groups that have now been established with 30 members in each group. Every group has been given full training and the trainers will continue to support and oversee the group's activity especially during the next 12 months.

Any female beneficiary of the goat programme will also be a member of a Village Savings & Loan Scheme. This will create cohesion and empower the female participants in their livelihoods.

During the year a further 8 Village Savings and Loan groups will be established

Community Health Programme



District health centre in Budaka

This is an ongoing programme with 66 volunteers from their respective villages receiving training to become Community Health Promoters. The training will be provided by local qualified clinic staff.

As we mentioned previously, an important step on the road to improving livelihoods is improving people's basic health and the most effective way of reaching and educating communities in good healthcare practices is through their own people.

Currently 18 new members have received their training and the remaining 48 members will be instructed during 2023.

It is worth noting that although it was not part of our programme, we have funded some community latrines in the villages where the goat / savings schemes are established. In response to a request from the villagers, we have funded this activity as we understand it will clearly contribute to the improvement in community health. The latrines will be situated near to the location where the villagers assemble for community gatherings / meetings.

It is an exciting time as the programmes develop. The gratitude, appreciation and happiness of the villagers is overwhelming as your support is making such a positive impact in their lives.

Thank you.

Peter & Jane