



The Mityana Charity

Registered charity no. [1064825](#)



NEWSLETTER October 2014

Sponsorship

A reminder that sponsorship renewal is due early November. Don't forget to increase your standing orders if your child is transferring to secondary school.

Primary £125 and secondary £250

We do have a couple of children whose primary sponsors are stopping funding them so if you know of anyone who could take these children on we would be grateful.

Christmas presents

If you are wanting to send money via us to buy a present for your sponsored child please can we have your monies by beginning of November. Also if you order off our gift list for your child please kindly send to Jean or Jo and not Penny.

Cards and gifts can be posted to:

Name of child c/o Mrs G Musaasizi
PO Box 289, Mityana, Uganda,
East Africa

New buildings at Nabukenya Primary School

We are glad to report that, following the receipt of a grant from the Medicor Foundation, a contract has been awarded to a local builder to construct the following three new buildings at Nabukenya Primary School:

- Nursery Unit for Pre-school Classes
- Kitchen and Store Room
- Dormitory Unit with two Staff Flats attached.

These three buildings are progressing well, and are already up to the top of the walls. There is currently a slight delay, due to unusually heavy rains, but we hope that they will be complete by the end of September. See the

A VERY grateful grandma

A family from Bracknell, who support a Mityana grandmother, received a request from her in a letter asking if they could do anything towards getting her roof fixed which was in a very bad state. The house was first inspected by the local Mityana charity reps and they arranged that a builder be sent to look at the roof. The builder concluded that the existing mud walls would not support or survive the building of a new roof and that the best option would be to rebuild the house and quoted a cost of £480 to do the work.



This was no small sum, but the family decided it would be impossible to refuse to build a new home which would house grandma and her seven grandchildren.

"We live in such comfort here. Solid walls, roofs and running water. When someone asks a favour from the other side of the world how could we say no. And it is not like giving money to a large faceless charity, we know exactly who we are helping and where that money will go."

So the charity arranged for the work to commence and inspected afterwards to make sure that the building work had been done properly.



More clean drinking water

I am glad to report that in the last 12 months Mityana Charity has installed seven new water tanks. The last two tanks were paid for by two local Churches, the Parish of Finchampstead and California, and the Parish of St Sebastian's Nine Mile Ride. These two tanks have been installed at Buwaata Clinic and the other at Lulagala Clinic. Thank you to all whose generous donations have allowed us to install all these tanks.



There are many more water tanks needed however, one perhaps for St Mary's School for the Deaf, some at other schools and clinics. I shall be visiting the possible locations during my time in Mityana later this year. If individuals, or your organisation, or your Church, would like to sponsor a water tank, they cost about £1,300 each.

I am also glad to report that a bore hole has been supplied by the Uganda Government at Kasoolo Secondary School. (This is where we are currently trying to raise money to build more classrooms and a new clinic!) But it is time we put in another bore hole ourselves, and we plan to provide one at Mpirigwa Primary School, when we have enough money to do so.

The Drinking Water Filters that we provided last year seem to be much appreciated at the 19 clinics and one school, where they were allocated. In the next 12 months we hope to make these available to schools. They cost us about £ 50 each, if you would like to sponsor one!

attached picture of the new Dormitory Unit with the roof going up.



Once these three buildings are completed an addition latrine will be provided for the Nursery Unit, and two of the existing Staff Flats will be converted into a second dormitory. Local regulations require that boys and girls dormitories are in separate buildings.

I am visiting Mityana this month and when I am there I will go and inspect the new buildings.

Hugh Wakeling.

Speech by the UK High Commissioner supports Uganda's universal bed net campaign

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/british-high-commissioner-to-uganda-on-universal-bednet-campaign>

Malaria kills six hundred thousand children and adults in sub-Saharan Africa every year, and Uganda is one of the countries worst affected. Uganda has one of the highest prevalence rates of malaria in children in the world. And the vast majority of deaths from malaria are children under five.

That is a tragedy for those children and their families, and for Uganda as a nation. But we know that we can do something about it. Proper use of treated bednets has been shown to reduce significantly the number of deaths, and cases of malaria more generally.

Can we provide nets for families to have more than 1 net????

See our gift list

"We were so overwhelmed when we saw the new house. We were very pleased we were able to help and it felt really good knowing that we had not only made grandma feel more secure now, but we hope it will give her comfort knowing her grandchildren will have a solid roof over their heads when she has gone. It gave us all a very warm feeling inside."

Life for children is very hard

Most homes, in Mityana, do not have piped water or electricity. Children have to collect firewood and water. They walk twice a day to collect water. Even those who we wouldn't let out of our sight can walk up to 2 km or more each way.



These children were walking back from the spring by the trees!



Whilst driving along the road we spotted these 2 little ones, who had been to the spring to wash the pots and plates and collect water in the kettle. Cooking is done out of doors. This is the maize flour porridge school children have if they pay for it.



Unfortunately, due to man power in Mityana, we are not collecting glasses anymore.

Looking for an unusual Christmas present? Look no further

http://mityanacharity.org/donations_gifts.html

Order form attached
Please kindly **write the date of any special occasion** on the form

Also we are collecting money to equip the new nursery classrooms at Nabukenya Primary school and also the new dormitory block.

A plea from our treasurer

We have had several CAF donations into our bank but they never come with a name and so we cannot thank you nor know which project they are for. Can you please email us enquiry@mityanacharity.org if you deposit a CAF cheque or kindly send them to our treasurer?

We are looking at succession planning.

As the committee are mainly retired, we do realise that we need to have younger people who are interested in becoming involved in the charity for its continuation. Please contact us if you are interested in helping Mityana Charity to continue in the years ahead.

Are you a tax payer? If so please complete a gift aid form.

http://mityanacharity.org/form_ga.doc

Interested in leaving Mityana Charity a legacy? Further info

http://mityanacharity.org/donations_legacy.html

Contact:

enquiry@mityanacharity.org
<http://www.mityanacharity.org>

The Secretary, 6 Tanglely Drive, Wokingham, RG41 2NY, Berks

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Samia Khatun, a Hilden Charity Trustee visited the projects they have supported.

- 1) Attendance at a community legal sensitisation meeting
- 2) A visit to Mityana Prison
- 3) Nabukenya Primary School & Lwankuba coffee Farm

I attended the charity's Ugandan board meeting with Jean Ajin. They gave their thanks to Hilden Charity for all the support we had given them.

I then attended the community legal sensitisation meeting on gender-based violence and was organised by the legal aid project team. The sensitisation meeting was the second of its kind: the first one had taken place a few weeks before on the issue of inheritance and land rights. Approximately 100-120 women were in attendance at the community legal sensitisation meeting (several women sat outside due to a lack of space), which was held in collaboration with the Mityana Police Service. The Community Affairs Officer and Family and Welfare Officer were present at the meeting. I was invited to speak about the Hilden Charitable Fund, which I did, resulting in a chorus of claps from the audience.

I then visited Mityana prison where we were shown around by one of the prison wardens. Having previous experience of prisons in the UK (I have previously visited HMP Ford for Hilden and HMP Wandsworth for my work with Media for Development) could not prepare me in any way for what I was to see at Mityana Prison. We were shown a dingy cell, which housed 30 male prisoners (in the UK the space would most probably house 2-3 inmates). There were no beds or bedding and inmates were required to sleep on the concrete floor. The cell had no electricity and the walls were bare except on one wall where there hung a picture of the present king of Buganda. We were shown another male cell, which was as dreary as the first; this one instead of having a photo on the wall had an inscription in the local language, which translated into "you will never escape".



This was followed by a visit to the female cell where there were 12 women, many of them with children (I counted 7). There was one female inmate who had twins and was put in prison with all her family members because their neighbour had been murdered and the police had arrested the whole family without any evidence just because the two families had been involved in a feud in the past. The family was still waiting for the hearing and had already been in prison for several months. Following the tour of the cells we were invited to visit the main hall where we were able to share various gift items with the prisoners.

I was interested to learn that Irene and Susan had also recently secured the release of a number of prisoners by conducting meetings between the prisoner and those responsible for having the prisoner put in prison in the first place! Additionally, I was very impressed to hear they had spent two days visiting the African Prisons Project (supported by Hilden in 2011/2012) to learn from their experience and knowledge. African Prisons Project was established in 2004 so has been around much longer than the Legal Aid Project. At the end of the day I had a meeting with Irene and Susan who informed me of the following:

- They were keen to conduct more sensitisation workshops on rights so that they could reach as many people as possible as they were currently not able to support all individual cases
- They were also keen to provide more information about rights through the Mbona FM radio station to again increase knowledge.
- They were exploring the option of providing support to prisoners so they could represent themselves in court and informed me that one prisoner they had recently worked with had successfully represented themselves.
- Another idea that they were considering was to train prison guards to help with the completion of remand forms etc. to reduce the need for legal assistance.

Finally, they were interested in setting up Child's Rights Clubs at schools starting with Nabukenya Primary School as they wanted to sensitise young children to their rights at a young age.

Nabukenya Primary School was established in 2005 with support from Wellington College who continue to support the school through fundraising and volunteering. The Hilden Charitable Fund has supported the school on numerous occasions, supporting teachers' salaries, which remains the biggest challenge for the School.

We arrived at the school and met with the Headmaster who took us on a guided tour of the school, we visited the teachers' houses, the outside kitchen, the vegetable fields and each class one-by-one from P1 to P7. We were warmly welcomed by the class teacher and the students. All of the students at the school receive free education through the Mityana charity. The school was no different to other Primary Schools in Africa, although the garden was much better maintained and they had the new Chapel (which is also used as an assembly and dining hall). The school has made provisions to rent out the space during school holidays and weekends as an additional source of income to help pay teachers' salaries and other running costs at the school. The school is also hoping that profits from Lwankuba Coffee Farm could help to make the school self-sufficient in the coming years.

Lwankuba Coffee Farm is situated next to Nabukenya Primary School. We were met by the Farm Manager and taken on a guided tour of the site. He has vast experience having spent many years working at Kaweri Coffee Plantation (largest single producer of coffee in Uganda). Geoffrey, the Mityana Charity Project Coordinator, informed us that there had been many developments over the last year. Having sorted out the squatter problem the farm now stretched to 76 acres (although not all of it was yet being used to grow coffee: approximately 60 acres were in use). Geoffrey spoke about the coffee growing process and explained that at the farm they were using both dry and wet farming processes and were planning to focus more on wet processing with the aim of moving 100% to wet processed crops in the future. Wet processed coffee is of higher quality and therefore fetches a premium on the market.

I learnt a lot more about coffee than I could have ever imagined and that there was so much more to coffee than just the £2.50 cup of coffee at Costa!