

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends

We pray that you are safe and well and enjoying life despite all the challenges we have faced during this pandemic. As we tentatively look forward to a life after lockdown we are acutely aware of the desperate situation in Uganda. In June President Yoweri Museveni had to re-impose another lockdown due to rising coronavirus cases. Sadly all schools and churches are closed again and public and private transport is banned. When this news was announced many people fled from Kampala and other large towns back to their rural villages in a bid to beat the travel ban. The hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed and the recorded death rate is increasing.

We thank God that all the children and families that we support in the rural area of Rukungiri have to date remained free from the virus. They rely heavily on the generous support you give which enables BOHCM to provide food, hygiene materials and meet other essential needs and because of your sacrificial giving and prayers many lives have been saved. These are very difficult times for the families and we can't thank you enough for your commitment to care for some of the poorest children in Uganda. We simply couldn't do it without you.

## Vocational training changes lives

We are very pleased to report that prior to the recent lockdown several of our Vocational Students were able to complete their courses. Two students, having gained practical experience on site, have now completed their carpentry courses and are skilled to follow their chosen career path. Three other students completed their tailoring courses and are already making saleable garments in the local community. All these students have used their vocational opportunity well and are now able to use their skills to support their families. When a student successfully graduates from their vocational course they are provided with the basic tools required to earn their own income. For example this could be a sewing machine, a set of tools, craft materials or a small grant to rent their own shop.

We are also waiting to hear the results of our student who has just completed her Primary teaching course, she is very confident that she has done well.



## Child sponsorship

There was plenty for the children and families to celebrate in May when they not only received their monthly support from their sponsor but also an additional gift of food and soap. Several families also received a young goat to help them provide an income in the future, whilst others were given access to urgent medical care. BOHCM has always welcomed support requests from families who care for a disabled child and recently







we were able to build a latrine for a widowed father who is caring for his children including a young son with Cerebral Palsy. The change in this family has been remarkable as the father is far more confident that he can care for his family now he has BOHCM encouragement and support. Recently our manager delivered a mattress and blanket for the child and he was so happy to at last have some comfortable bedding to sleep on.



### Bridge of Hope children's village

Our access road from the main highway has at last been repaired and vehicles can safely use this route. Our manager Ben



has been granted permission to continue to drive the BOHCM truck to take food and other requirements to the Children's Village. He is only allowed to carry one other passenger in the truck and all journeys must be essential. The 24 children living in the two BOHCM homes are busy gardening, caring for their goats and learning craft skills. Thankfully permission has also been granted for one of our teachers to visit the children daily to maintain their educational progress, whilst our two House Mothers and two Aunts continue to provide a loving and safe home for all the children.

### Bridge of Hope nursery and primary school

Currently along with all schools in Uganda we have had to comply with closure. However because of your generosity we have sufficient funding to support our teachers on half pay during this lockdown and provide food to the families that are struggling to feed their children. When the school is open all our children receive a free lunch but it is not possible to safely provide this during lockdown.

### News

Recently we received the sad news that the Rt. Rev. Benon Magezi the Bishop of North Kigezi Diocese in Rukungiri passed away in hospital a week after testing positive for Covid 19 virus. Please remember his widow and five children in your prayers.

**Water Shortage** – Currently our rain water harvesters at the Children's Village and School are dry. Locating sufficient water is again a problem and many people's crops have dried up leaving them without the food they expected to harvest.

**Clothing Collection** – Please continue to keep any unwanted clothes bags and shoes as we are planning a clothing collection on **18<sup>th</sup> September** more details and confirmation will be sent to you before this event.

### Prayer points

- Give thanks for the students that have graduated in their Vocational Training
- Give thanks that to date our children and staff are all well
- Pray for more vaccine to be available across the country
- Pray for the doctors and nurses who are struggling to cope
- Pray that we can safely resume our mission trips

### 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

