

UCUK Newsletter

Spring 2021



In January of this year Uganda held its general & local elections and UWCM were thrilled to announce that many of their community members were elected to various local government positions which members attributed to the training and empowerment they had received from UWCM! During one of their monitoring meetings, the Local Council chairman commented that: *"UWCM has proved that the God they worship is real and loving by what they did to the most vulnerable families. People in Bufumbo have never seen such an organisation. Groups have helped in the reduction of Gender Based Violence because wives can now provide for household needs and there is a lot of development in the region".*

UWCM also report that, thankfully, the number of Covid-19 infections in their area remains low and schools have recently re-opened but families are still suffering from the economic effects of lockdown restrictions and there has been an increase in the number of families who lack basic needs such as shelter, food and medical provision.

Community groups caring for the most vulnerable: In the first quarter of this year UWCM have, with our funding, constructed four shelters for very needy families. One was for a 30 year old man, Enosh, who is married with two children and suffers with mental health problems. His wife ran away as she couldn't cope with the extreme poverty plus his illness and Enosh was unable to care for the



children on his own so his father took care of them. Enosh was living in a very basic 'igloo shaped' shelter made from polythene & dry banana leaves but whenever he is able to get casual work he always takes food to the children and their grandfather. The community group constructed a new shelter for Enosh and his family and they are now all living there together and are supported by community members and monitored by UWCM.



Sewing project: As a result of our funding, another six machines were given to six different community groups. The women were very excited and promised to make effective use of the machines by making/altering clothes and also to train young girls to make re-usable sanitary pads. The machines are a really effective way of enabling the groups to earn some money and raise themselves out of poverty.



If you would like to make a one-off or regular donation, full details are on our website or email:
ugandaconcernuk@live.co.uk

For more information & news visit our website
www.ugandaconcernuk.org
Or search for Uganda Concern UK on Facebook

Support with IGA (Income Generating Activity) funds: One of the many challenges that UWCM face is how best to utilise the limited funds when faced with the sheer number of families in need of support .

The following is an extract from UWCM's Q1 report: *The purpose of the IGA fund is to buy a goat which the family should rear and eventually it can become a source of income.*



However, due to the state that some of the families are in, it is hard to buy a goat especially when they have small children with no bedding, washing bowls, pans etc and when families are asked what they would prefer, in most cases they ask for basic items such as these. They always appreciate the idea of a goat and often, due to this basic intervention, they also work

towards getting a goat later on or even start some small IGA by themselves.

We have therefore discovered that, in most cases, it is the 'poverty in the brain' and low self esteem that make these needy families become too vulnerable and when we give them support, especially shelter, their lives become transformed and they become useful people in the community! They even start going to church and count themselves loved and valued.



Lwangoli is a very needy community and this project is having a huge impact on lives but we would love to be able to offer more funding. If you are able to make a one-off or regular donation we would be extremely grateful. See [here](#) for more details of the project

Lwangoli Prayer & Porridge:

UWCM continue to monitor, train and encourage volunteers & church leaders from Lwangoli and carry out home



and school visits to check on families and children. They were able to pay school fees for 8 children and also bought them scholastic materials so they could sit their examinations and they are now eagerly awaiting their results.

Approx 160 children

have club days at the church each Saturday where they receive a cup of nutritional porridge, Bible teaching, games and the older children receive advice and guidance on issues such as personal hygiene, drug addiction etc.

Families are very appreciative of all the support from UWCM with one parent saying: "Who is me to deserve all this? As parents we cannot afford a special budget for these children. Long live UWCM!"



Trustees

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