

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH HARPENDEN

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP PROJECT REPORT FOR 2023



How YOU are helping in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Thailand

Thank you for your continued support of the Developing World Group (DWG), Harpenden, through donations, Green Box collections and by attending our social events. This has enabled us to continue to support many small-scale projects in the poorest areas in the world to help the communities build their own pathway out of poverty by nurturing enterprise and developing self-sufficiency.

Here is feedback on the projects that you have made possible:

1	BUDAKA DISTRICT, UGANDA	GOAT LIVELIHOOD SCHEME & VILLAGE LOAN & SAVING SCHEME	DONATED £4,940 PLUS £485
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The Goat Livelihood Scheme was set up in Kakimukoli, by Just Small Change. Our £4,940 donation has helped 30 women who are desperately struggling to support their families. Between them they support 250 people. Only 2 of these families own a bike and only 6 have chickens.

A female goat is given to each household. This is taken to the Goat Keeper for the goat to mate with the male goat 'Buck'. The first-born female goat is given to another household to extend the benefit of this Scheme. The female goat provides a little milk for the family. Any additional goats born can be sold to earn money to provide food for the family, school fees and even a tin roof to replace the thatch. Also, the goat manure helps to improve production in their vegetable gardens.

The women all become members of the Village Loan & Savings Scheme. Our additional £485 donation supports this Scheme which helps the women learn how to: develop their goat rearing and crop growing business, manage their money, save and return their loan. The women of Kakimukoli are so grateful for our support that has improved their income, self-respect, and their mental health.



2	ZAMBIA, AFRICA	DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING & CONSTRUCTION OF WORKSHOPS	DONATED £4,000
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Workaid refurbishes tools, machinery, sewing and knitting machines in Chesham. These are then transported by container to Africa to help with Vocational Training where there is an acute shortage of skilled trades people.

£2,000 helped to train 12 tailoring teachers in sewing machine maintenance and repair.

The additional £2,000 contributed to Workaid’s ‘Big Give’ Campaign. In conjunction with the Vwila Foundation, Workaid’s partner in Zambia, the funds have been used to build Vocational Training workshops at four secondary schools, each with 300 students, in very poor rural areas of Zambia. Each workshop is equipped with machinery and tools for tailoring & design, carpentry, metal fabrication & welding and construction.

This has transformed how the schools are able to teach their students as they can offer quality life-changing vocational training. The money has also helped to refurbish an existing classroom for their tailoring workshop.

Feedback from the Headmaster of Chalabana Secondary School, 50 miles west of Lusaka, is extremely positive. Their workshop has encouraged many school dropouts to return to school to learn a trade. A ‘starter tool kit’ is also given to students who graduate to help them establish their own business. Our contribution is helping to develop their skills and expertise and will have a lasting, positive impact on the local community.



3	KAMPALA, UGANDA	SUPPORT BUILDING AN OPERATING THEATRE	DONATED £2,513 Ongoing
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The Bannabikira Sisters, a Catholic Religious Order in Kampala who run the Kyengera Women’s Hospital, are delighted that the Operating Theatre is nearly fully equipped and operational. The hospital serves a population of 304,000 and is in great need of this Operating Theatre. The general hospital building works and renovation are now complete. Our donated funds enabled Harpenden Rotary to meet their target for the grant application to be made. With the help of Reading Rotary and Rotary International a 7.8 multiple was applied to our donation. Delays have occurred due to the complicated bureaucracy of the Rotary Grant application process.

For more information see: <https://bannabikirasisters.org/index.php>



4 MUWANGA PARISH, UGANDA

SMALL ENTERPRISES FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DISABILITY

DONATED £4,000

Advantage Africa, in partnership with the Single Parents Association of Uganda (SPAU), used our donation to help 65 of the most vulnerable families affected by Epilepsy and Cerebral Palsy in Muwanga Parish who are in desperate need of support.

Sarah Nakazzi, project officer of SPAU, formed 3 groups from 22 villages across the Muwanga Parish to give each group Small Enterprise training. This included: how to manage their small loan, monthly repayment schedules, importance of record keeping and how to save and budget wisely.

Members of the groups have decided to grow maize, potatoes and beans together and some are selling shoes & clothes. Sarah said *“They are now earning a steady income and have been able to take their children back to school, pay for medication and look after their health better”*. This is a unifying factor for all of them as they discover they are not alone. They are so grateful that the Developing World Group made this possible.



Sarah Nakazzi giving Small Enterprise Training

5 MAE SOT, THAILAND

COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

DONATION £2,500

The Star Flower Centre (SFC) is a centre for migrant children with disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down’s Syndrome, hearing impairments and other developmental delays. Our previous project funded a one year training programme for six Special Education teachers focusing on increasing their skills and knowledge so they can better support children with disabilities. The training has been extended to parents with autistic children.

The SFC Community-based Rehabilitation Project focuses on the trained teachers providing weekly physiotherapy and academic support for disabled children in their own home ensuring they and their parents get the support they need. This will reduce the number of children with disabilities being separated from their families. So far 30 children and their families have been supported and this is making a huge and lasting difference to their lives.



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT IN 2023 WITH OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The ongoing generosity of our parishioners, and the wider community of Harpenden, enabled the Developing World Group (DWG) to raise £15,055.77 through the following:

GREEN BOX, MONTHLY AND ONE-OFF DONATIONS*	£7,083.76
HMRC GIFT AID REBATE	£1,491.25
TEA IN THE GARDEN & PLANT SALE	£700.00
BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER DONATION**	£1,000.00
QUIZ NIGHT – led by Ginny St John Glew	£1,197.76
LOLLY IN THE LOFT – donation & auction of pre-loved items***	£3,583.00
TOTAL	£15,055.77

*Should you wish to donate on a one-off basis or by regular standing order and/or register for Gift Aid please see the DWG Finance page on the Parish website or contact Noel Whittle, our treasurer, at noel.whittle@btinternet.com

** A special thanks must be given to the 'Ladies Group' for donating the funds raised from the 'Banish the Blues Supper Night' to the DWG.

*** Tring Market Auctions did a wonderful job auctioning our pre-loved donations 'commission free'.

'TEA IN THE GARDEN' EVENT AND PLANT SALE June 2023

Thank you to Julia and Nigel Roche, our committee members, who hosted another lovely afternoon in their garden. Our team served tea and coffee with cakes and sold a few plants donated by the Parish. We were blessed with lovely weather and the afternoon gave us a chance to socialise with members of the Parish.



We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events in 2024.

Keep a look out in the Parish Newsletter.

And if you are interested in finding out more about the DWG's objectives, projects and how you can help in any way, please contact our chair, Betty Hines elizabeth.hines@gmail.com or view the Parish website.

<https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/community/dwg/>
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