



The roof is on!

Wow, now you can see the school starting to look complete... because the new roof is on!

Contractors have been beavering away — you can see in one of the pictures that Health & Safety isn't really something they know about... no hard hats or safety harnesses and wearing flip-flops — but it's finished.

Primary headteacher Mike said today: "We are very happy because our building is almost coming to an end and all our children and the community are excited about this. We have been using some temporary structures which were always affected by weather and soon we can move into the top floor.

"It is a very big move forward for the school and the community at large — Namatala has never had such a building before. God bless everyone who has donated towards the building of our school, oh thank you!"

So, what's next? Well, now the roof is on, we can start fitting out the top (third) level classrooms and offices with doors, walls, electrics, plastering, etc... starting with safety rails for the corridor to stop anyone falling off!



Water: Too much ... too little!

In Uganda much is governed by the weather, and traditionally we see two rainy seasons and two dry seasons each year. When it's dry, everything is covered in a thin layer of red dust, whereas when it's wet... we are all covered in mud!

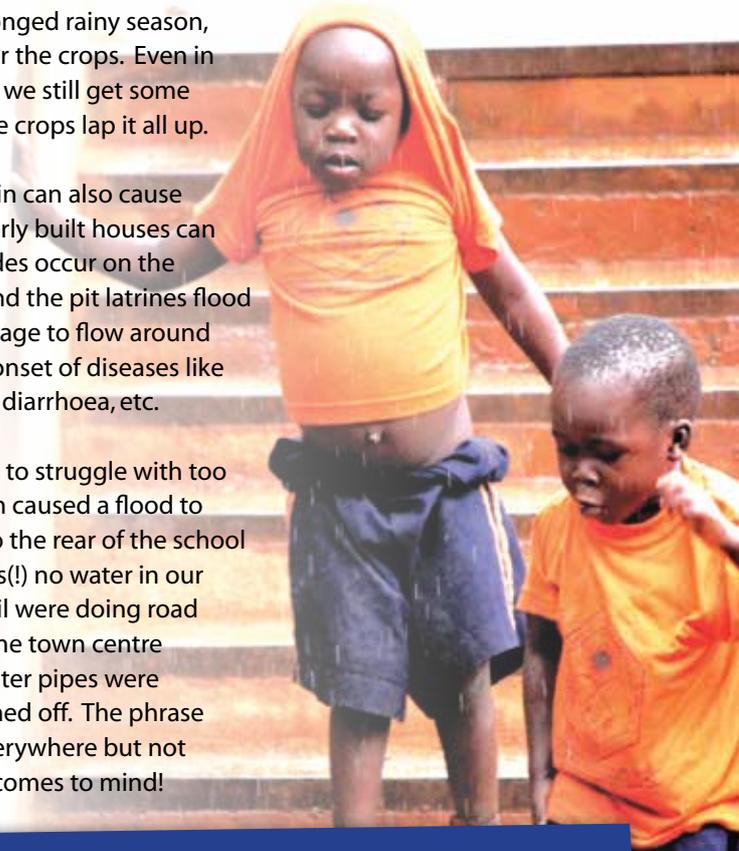
These seasons help our crops to grow — we can get two harvests in one year if we work hard. Problems come if the dry seasons go on longer than anticipated. Prices of staple food go sky high and the poorest struggle to feed their families. In addition, the mains water supply gets switched off and families have to start looking for other sources of water: streams and rivers.

It's easy to take water for granted and forget how much we use it for: bathing our bodies, washing our clothes, cleaning our homes and kitchen utensils, cooking food, and, of course, drinking. At the moment

we are in a prolonged rainy season, which is good for the crops. Even in the rainy season we still get some sunshine and the crops lap it all up.

But too much rain can also cause problems... poorly built houses can collapse, landslides occur on the mountainside and the pit latrines flood causing raw sewage to flow around homes and the onset of diseases like typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea, etc.

Recently we had to struggle with too much rain, which caused a flood to come right up to the rear of the school building, but alas(!) no water in our taps! The council were doing road repairs around the town centre which meant water pipes were broken or switched off. The phrase 'Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink' comes to mind!



Stationery, moving us forward!

The start of a school term is always exciting — a new beginning, a fresh start and new supplies of stationery!

Those of you who are still at school (and those of you who can remember that far back!) know it's quite exciting selecting a new pen, perhaps some new colouring pencils, and an assortment of rubbers, rulers, sharpeners, etc for the start of a new term. It's the same here, except the children at Child of Hope cannot afford to buy their stationery themselves. Instead, we buy it in bulk from the local suppliers and have it delivered all in one go at the school.

The various items (pens, pencils, exercise books, etc) are then sorted into classes and handed out to the children. It's always nice to start the first page in a brand new

exercise book! The teachers are not left out, and are given a plentiful supply of chalk, notebooks and the dreaded 'red pens' for marking children's work!

A huge thank you to all the supporters and sponsors of Child of Hope who make such purchases possible.



VIP Help for Mums

Betty Atebo is mother to one of the Child of Hope school children. She wanted to start her own business, so she joined our IGA (Income Generation Activity) group. After completing some training she obtained a small grant to start a business selling cassava flour.

Betty buys dried cassava, similar to potato/parsnip, and then grinds it herself into flour. She sells this for a profit to her customers, who make pancakes and other goodies with it.

She was recently faced with a crisis when her pit latrine collapsed. There are no such thing as mains sewage pipes in Mbale, so all homes have to have their own cess pits. Thankfully, Betty has been able to build a super duper new toilet for her family with the profits from her business! Her new facilities mean she is now safely helping to keep her home and community environment hygienic.

Thank you for continuing to support our IGAs and helping to make a difference.



When Quinine Injections Go Wrong

Little Afwa (aged 7) started at Child of Hope in 2013. She was selected for registration with us because of her disability — often children with disabilities are not taken to school by their parents as they are seen as not being worth helping. However, here at COH we think everyone deserves a chance!

Afwa's story is a sad but very common case: when she was a baby she contracted severe malaria and was treated with quinine. Quinine does cure malaria, but if the injection is given in the wrong place it can cause permanent weakness and paralysis in the leg. This is what happened to Afwa and, with the aid of crutches, she has always struggled to walk.

Recently an occupational therapist volunteered with us and when she saw Afwa she felt that her condition could be improved. We took her to the physio department at CURE hospital, which is an

amazing establishment that helps children with hydrocephalus and other conditions. When Julie, the physio, saw Afwa she immediately felt that something could be done to improve her walking.

There was still some good mobility in the leg, but her foot's position needed to be straightened. A series of plaster casts have been used and then removed after a couple of weeks to gradually straighten her foot. At first Afwa was very scared... she had once been to the regional hospital where the nurse had threatened to chop off her leg if she cried — so understandably she was very nervous. However, she was reassured that nobody would chop her leg off and after that she behaved beautifully!



Her father has been wonderful in supporting Afwa and is delighted with her progress. She is still undergoing treatment but it's clear to see that her foot is now much straighter and we are very hopeful that in the future her walking will be improved, perhaps even reducing her need to use crutches.

Sponsorship Queen!



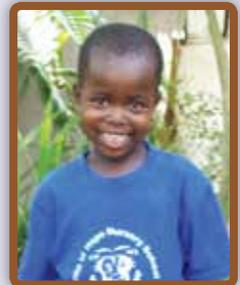
Here are just a few Child of Hope children who need your help! Would you consider becoming a sponsor and help make a difference?



Blessed



Eric



Blessing



Rose



Sharon

You may be wondering how this 'sponsorship' thing works when you decide to sponsor a child, so we want to introduce Tracy to you! She is our sponsorship co-ordinator and does her best to ensure smooth communication between our children and their sponsors.

Tracy first started working for us in 2009, and with a diploma in business administration she started getting our office organised straight away! She has an incredible memory for names and dates, knowing which child is sponsored by whom from which date without even having to look it up!

Towards the end of each term, she ensures that every sponsored child writes to his or her sponsor, and she also collates all the end of term reports to make sure that the sponsor receives an up-to-date progress report on how their child is doing academically. Once per year the mammoth photography session takes place where we take a photo of every sponsored child to send to their sponsor. After taking the

photos, Tracy sits down with Bex in front of the computer to make sure each photo file is named properly.

Sometimes sponsors want their child to have a birthday present and send extra money, so Tracy works hard to find out what the child really wants or needs and then goes into town with the exact money to find something special for them. She's well known at Child of Hope for finding a bargain and seems to have an amazing eye for getting sizes correct for clothes and shoes! When she's not doing her sponsorship work she's busy assisting Bex with various administrative matters and often saves the day when Bex's memory falls short!

A Big 'Thank You'

What began as an innovative café based in a small infants school in Wiltshire is not only having a big impact on the local community, but also helping Child of Hope in the process.

Parents from Wyndham Park Infants, aided and abetted by St Marks Junior and Exeter House Schools, man the kettles and provide parents and kids with a welcome cuppa and a plentiful supplies of cakes and snacks at the beginning and end of the school day. Ali Smith, Headmistress from Wyndham Park, told us the scheme has provided a great place for parents to chat and find parenting information and support — whilst making a profit — and the children have had fun developing their cake making skills and learning about enterprise. Some of the parent volunteers have found regained confidence and have even gone on to gain paid employment as a result of their experience.

The scheme has been so successful that it has now expanded to provide 'The Barrow' — a space available daily to sell items such as allotment veggies and homemade goodies or charity bits and bobs — and also 'The Shelter' which provides a meeting space for the community to use.

Profits raised from both The Cafe and The Barrow have gone to Child of Hope, as well as towards much needed funds for the schools involved and other charities of the children's choice.



We think this is a brilliant scheme which really does help everyone involved, and we would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to Ali and all who are involved for working so hard and providing long term support to COH. **It would be great to see this idea rolled out to other schools where possible — do you work in a school or know somewhere this could work? Maybe put it forward at your next PTA meeting!**

The last leg!

There is much excitement here at the school as the last phase of the building project is nearly complete! We now need to fit it out with equipment to finally make it usable. Can you help us?

Item	Item cost	Qty	Total
Teacher desks	£50 per desk	5	£250.00
Teacher chairs	£18.75 per chair	5	£93.75
Stacking tables (pupils)	£37.50 per table	24	£900.00
Stacking benches (pupils)	£18.75 per bench	48	£900.00
Moveable blackboards	62.50 per board	3	£187.50
Blackboard frame		1	£18.75
Library shelves	£37.50 per unit	4	£150.00
Metal cabinets	£125 per cabin	10	£1,250.00
Quiet corners (soft play per room)	£187.50 per room	7	£1,312.50



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I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO CHILD OF HOPE BY STANDING ORDER:

Please ensure you complete your address details above and bank details below.

£ _____ per month for (please circle): *Child sponsorship (£15)/ Teacher's salary (£60)/ Welfare worker's salary (£25 full sponsorship, £10 part sponsorship)/ Food (£5)/ Healthcare (£7)/ General funds.*

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Child of Hope is run in Uganda by husband and wife team Moses & Bex Okotel (pictured) and a staff of 36. In the UK and Ireland it is headed by a team of trustees and 28 volunteers, who make possible the life-changing social impact we provide for the children of the Namatala slum. *If you would like to join the team, please see the UK Volunteers page on our website.*



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