



**Ursula Knox posing with the children who received their school bags for the first time.**

Our plan for this visit was to speak to parents of all of the 60 families that we support, as a group, and distribute flyers in their own local language of various documents that had been interpreted for us previously at such group meetings. The reason for this was that everyone would now have a document in their own language of what we hoped to achieve and what their role and responsibility as well as their children’s would be. We completed this on our first weekend in a local hall we hired and we had Wilson Bulwa, a former employee of World Vision Uganda, translate for us.



**Harry and Wilson addressing a group of parents**



**Distribution of documents translated into local language**

We have also set ourselves the task with meeting each child individually, and for the younger ones accompanied by their mother or father, so that we could review their most recent end of term report to see what their attendance, conduct and effort was as well as to get an idea of their level of ability and to see if there was any further support we could offer to the child. As there were just over 200 children to meet you will not be surprised to learn that it took 8 full days of work. Ursula conducted a brief reading test and some writing activities where appropriate. She found out the interests of many of the children who wanted to improve their English and we will bring some appropriated books and magazines with us on our next visit.





During the interviews with the children, Wilson observed that those from two of our families were suffering from “jiggers”. This is an invasive parasite that enters the body through the soft skin at the side of toe nails and finger nails and if untreated can lead to permanent deformities in both the feet and hands. It is caused by poor hygiene and because most of the families we help do not wear any footwear it is easily picked up and spread to others. Wilson purchased a knapsack and chemicals in Kampala to spray everything within their huts as well as the outside and all around their compound as well as solutions to soak and wash the hands, feet and heads of parents and children, John Kennedy will follow up with this procedure until the infestation is eliminated. We were also able to pay for treatment for adults and children who had neglected injuries and septic sores.



John and Wilson soak feet, hands, and heads as treatment for the “jiggers” and John sprays the house and surrounds.

Our next planned tasks were to visit the hut of each of the families we were sponsoring since February last and assess the children’s need for a mattress and /or blanket. As there was more than 20 families to visit and meet with this took the best part of 2 full days because we missed some parents who were still at work when we called the first time. We had been asked by a particular donor to buy some mattresses and blankets for the children of families we had turned down for support due to lack of funds on our previous visit. We did this and as Trustees we decided to take some of these families fully into the programme and to pay their school fees for them.



These photographs are of some of the new families we accepted into the project. The children want to go to school.

We buy the mattresses and blankets locally to support the community. There was great celebration when the mothers, fathers and children came to collect their mattresses and blankets to bring home.







**Harry and Ursula visit a class in one of the schools**



**Distribution of exercise copies and writing materials**

We also visited some of first families we had accepted into the programme to see how they were getting on and also to check that they still had the mattresses and blankets we originally purchased for them. Finally, we had planned a simple part for the children where we give some sweets and balloons to each of those who showed up and we also gave a bag of clothes for the mother and her children who we had taken on board on our last visit.



**A typical home and yard or compound when dry**



**Torrential rain means water is everywhere.**

As a result of interviewing the children and looking at their exercise books we decided to buy a rucksack which would be used as a school bag for all children who were beyond infant level. We think this will help keep the books in better condition and protect them from the rain and from the red dust that is in the air and is picked up by everything. John always distributes the writing materials before a new term begins and so this time we were present for the distribution of exercise copies and biros and pencils as well as the handing out of the school bags.



**John allocates the number of copies both hard and soft cover based on the class and whether the students are in Primary or Secondary School. Some of the older boys and girls can be seen in the middle photograph. They can return to John throughout the term when they come to show them that a particular exercise copy is full of notes or used up.**



We spend a day going through the originals of all invoices paid and receipted since our previous visit. As we had already receives copies of all of the paperwork from John Kennedy sending them by WhatsApp to us in advance of our visit, this was a relatively straightforward task. We also travelled to the bank to pick up an original copy of all bank statements. Because the printer/copier we had provided from John had broken down, we decided to bring all the original school reports home to photocopy and to bring them back on our next visit



Here are some nice photographs of women with their children securely attached and carried on their backs. Many of these great mothers can be seen digging land either for themselves or for others between 7.00 a.m. and noon each day. The babies are carried like this while working..They get approximately 1 euro for a morning’s digging.



Minding the goat.	Washing the clothes – a daily routine	Collecting kindling	Ursula holding the baby!
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**Mothers receiving their bags of clothes & jerseys**



**Children getting balloons and sweets.**