

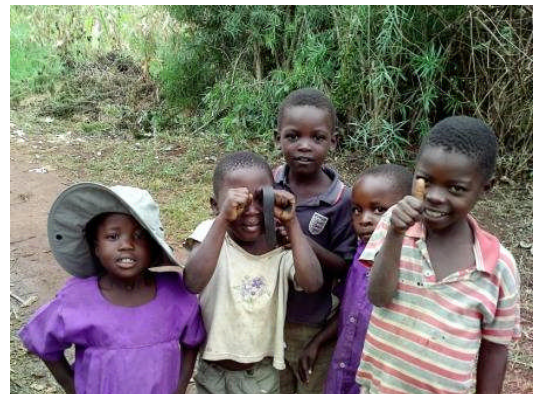


FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF UGANDA

This summer I had the opportunity to visit Uganda for the first time with the other 5 members of the KRDP committee and 8 others, many of whom had been before. It was a very busy 2 weeks where we visited many of the projects in and around Kimaluli-Butta which had been recently funded or receive ongoing funding from KRDP. These trips included visits to the newly established chicken projects, safe motherhood clinics and safe water projects. We also visited the local primary school, which has 6 classrooms provided through support from KRDP.

We were also present at the opening of the (almost completed, nearly ready!) high school science block which was also funded through KRDP. At last I was able to put faces to names and put all the KRDP projects in context which I had heard about over the last few years of being involved with the charity.

Everywhere we went we were greeted by happy Ugandans smiling and waving from near and far. In the village the school children smiled and giggled and followed us everywhere just like the story of the pied piper!! The warm generous hospitality of the local people was extremely humbling but it was their way of saying thank you for the support given by KRDP.



Amongst many other trips, we had the privilege of visiting two very different children's special needs facilities which for me as an occupational therapist were very treasured memories.



Despite the lack of basic resources or specialised equipment to meet their individual physical and learning needs, the children were so happy and gave us such warm hugs. During these short visits it was hard for me not to get into work mode as there was so much potential for helping those special children!!

The stories could go on and on as I saw so much, spoke with many and had lots of thoughts during the time in Uganda and in the weeks since my return. Every photograph I look at is a gentle reminder of our wasteful society as Ugandans have so little and fully utilise everything they have being grateful for the gift of a simple carrier bag.



Overall it was a truly amazing trip for many reasons and no matter what we gave to the people of Uganda, they gave us so much more and I look forward to the day when I have an opportunity to return to such a special place.

Sarah