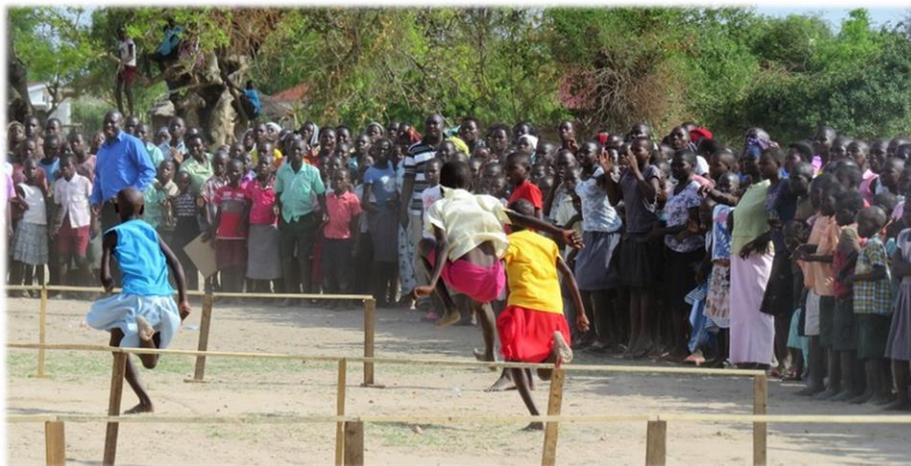


I though we were in for a quieter month – not so!



The Buliisa District government very generously, and immediately, lent us their grader so that we could level the ground to make a playing field for our students. While they were at it, they also levelled out our two main internal roads. This has been a real blessing, and will greatly help with our grounds development.

We have also temporarily employed another ten staff to help with our current lot of brick-making and building. This enables us to get through the work a bit faster (June is rolling around VERY quickly!!), and also gives those men a bit of extra income for their families.



Amari recently participated in the Town Council Athletics Competition and then in the District Athletics Competition. Two of our students, Ronnex and Jovia (above with Teacher David), have made it through to the nationals, and will be completing in June against the rest of Uganda.

Meanwhile end of term testing is in progress (Teacher Joan with Susan), and our P2s are learning about nutrition in the most practical way possible!



Children's Community Medical



This month we have six children going down to Kampala for assessment, reviews and further surgeries. Today Keren (with a deformed arm), Robinah (scar removal from burns) and Macris (leg and bone adjustments) are heading off with their guardians and Rogers from the Amari staff.

Parents/guardians are required to contribute some money towards transportation, CoRSU Hospital (where most of our children go) covers surgeries, and Amari provides for accommodation and incidental costs.

Sadly this last month two children on our medical program passed away, including one who was due to travel down today.

And then there were four

Well, three in this picture (Gerry away for weekend with his father). This month Jeremy (left), one of our medical children, came up to live with us because of some adverse circumstances in his home. And a few days later, I was asked by police and social services to take on foster care of Fausta (middle), while police try and locate her parents. Just as well I have the lovely Oliver helping on the domestic side of things, and other staff who are also chipping in! And Jaz (right) is enjoying the extra company, while learning to adjust to a life in which he no longer features as the one and only!



If you would like to help sponsor Jeremy, Fausta or one of our other children, could you please contact us at: sponsorship@amari.org.au

Praise and Prayer Points

- *Work on our site is progressing well, in all areas, and we are grateful for the cooperative attitude of our local government and community.*
- *Pray for the police as they try to locate Fausta's parents, and for Fausta as she settles into life with us. She only speaks Swahili, which complicates things a little.*

Amari Community Development Organisation

Amari CDO was established in 2008 to help relieve the effects of poverty through the support of education, development and welfare programs conducted in developing countries, principally Uganda. We have 40 acres of land at Kisiabi in Buliisa District. We are registered as an NGO (Non Government Organisation) in Australia and Uganda. Our emphasis is on the education and support of orphaned and vulnerable children. We aim to invest in them educationally and spiritually through quality Christian education.

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Phone: +256 772 442 408
Email: marita.simpson@amari.org.au
Ugandan Reg. No. 7901
Website: www.amari.org.au

For donation, sponsorship and general queries, contact:
Contact: marita.simpson@amari.org.au
Or: sponsorship@amari.org.au
Church Affiliation: Life Ministry Centre
www.lmc.org.au
Australian Reg. . ABN: 88 366 425 013

SPONSORSHIP Donations

Bank of Melbourne

Amari Community Development Organisation

BSB Number: 193 879

ACCT Number: 411041958

CAPITAL AND GENERAL Donations

Bank of Melbourne

Amari Community Development Organisation

BSB Number: 193 879

ACCT Number: 410281010

Tax-Deductible Donations can be made directly online at www.amari.org.au

We gratefully acknowledge the support and partnership of: AUSTRALIA HOPE INTERNATIONAL

Website: www.ahi.org.au

Email: hope@ahi.org.au

Australia HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

“The widespread drought that Uganda experienced in 2016 will likely lead to widespread famine in 2017”

Unfortunately this is now the reality. Last year drought conditions began impacting north and north-eastern Uganda. Throw in an enormous influx of Southern Sudanese refugees (around 500,000 in 2016, and another estimated 2800 a day in March alone this year), and people are facing appalling conditions.

Buliisa is beginning to feel the famine pinch, with many of our families going from 2 meals a day down to 1. (Traditionally most Ugandans don't eat breakfast, but take porridge or food at morning break). This is particularly impacting our families who do not own their own gardening land, as the price of food is rapidly inflating. And even for those that do own gardens, the crops are not enough to sustain entire families.

(Heading quote, Daily Monitor 28th Dec, 2016, Statistics from The Guardian, 3rd April, 2017)



Sponsoring an Amari child means on school days they are getting maize porridge for morning break, and beans and cassava for lunch, so we know our children are having one substantial meal a day. We are also supplementing, when we can get them, with greens and fruit.

Staff are in the process of identifying families and children that are particularly struggling, and we will be topping them up during the school holidays, starting next week. We have already identified about 50 of our children who are already being impacted by drought and changes to the food supplies at home.

In addition to the impact on our own families in Buliisa, we are seeing firsthand the desperation of parents and guardians from the North and North-East, unable to provide for their families.



Two weeks ago I was called to the police station, introduced to Fausta, and asked if we could look after her while authorities try to locate her mother and/or other guardians. Her language indicates she is probably from a north/north-eastern region, and she is suffering from malnutrition.

We had her checked out medically from Hoima (our nearest 'big town'), and have her on a nutrient-dense diet. It is heartbreaking, though, as she is just one of so many being impacted.

We have also had a number of reports of Sudanese children being dropped off at nearby districts and villages and 'being given to any Ugandan who can look after them'.

AMARI CRISIS CARE

With the current food shortage situation, and with Amari getting more involved with some emergency care of local children in crisis, we are creating a Crisis Fund, specifically addressing the needs of children in crisis, and, in the present drought conditions, extra dietary support for our sponsored students.

Contributions can be made directly to Amari, or through our Partner Organisation Australia Hope International if you require tax deductability.

Direct Donations

Bank of Melbourne

Amari Community Development Organisation

BSB Number: 193 879

ACCT Number: 410281010

(Reference it Amari Crisis Care)

Tax Deductible Donations

Please go online to www.amari.org.au and follow the 'donate' link to go through our partner organisation Australia Hope International
(Reference it Amari Crisis Care)

We would love you to consider helping a child through our sponsorship programme.

Having a school sponsorship program means we can help support the child academically, and with food, medical and other socioeconomic assistance. This enables us to be able to input into the child's life, but allows them (which is feasible in most cases) to stay within their family unit. Keeping the child with his or her family where possible, rather than institutionalizing them, is in line with current Ugandan government policy, and supported by international trends.

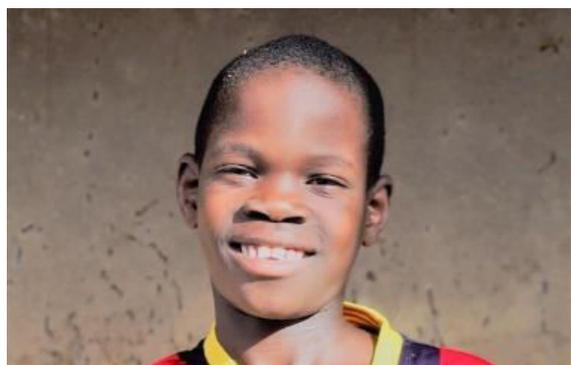
We currently have about 30 children in school on our sponsorship program, who are not yet sponsored. (Two are residential – see below) We would love it if you would consider helping with one of these children.



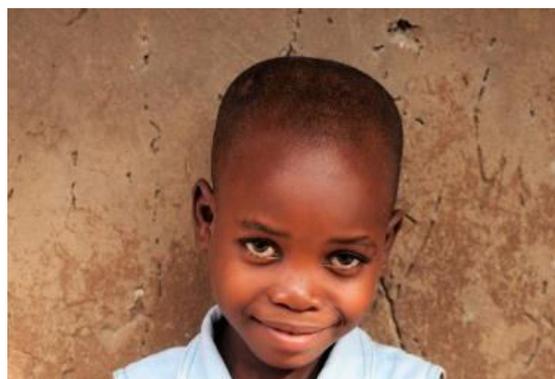
Little Samuel was sent home from school on Friday due to illness. He came back to school Tuesday, and was still very sick. Amari staff took him to be assessed at our local health centre (he had malaria), and contacted his grandmother, who is his primary carer. His father is unable to walk due to a back injury, and his mother abandoned the family when Samuel was a baby. His grandmother had no idea he was sick, as he was being cared for by a 15 year old relative while she worked in the garden. Amari is encouraging his grandmother to maintain telephone contact with her family even if she is absent overnight or working in her garden. (#160)



Godfrey is one of our newest intake of students, and his family is one of those immediately feeling the effects of the recent drought. He lives with his mother and 4 siblings. His father passed away, and his mother is HIV+. She cultivates half an acre of land for food and sells water to try and support her family. She struggles, however, due to her illness, and this year the garden is producing very little food. Godfrey is one of the students Amari will be giving extra food assistance to while the school holidays are on. (#189)



Jeremy came to live with us about three weeks ago. He has been on our medical programme for the past three years, and been having surgery and rehabilitation on one of his legs. Circumstances in his home situation were upsetting him, and he made his way to our property one night. After consultation with the District Probation Officer, his father and his local village chairman, it has been agreed it is in his best interest to live onsite with us for the time being. (#193)



Fausta is one of three children who live onsite with us. Two weeks ago she was found in a neighbouring village, and bought to the police. Amari was asked by the District Probation Officer and police if we could look after her while authorities try to locate her relatives. We believe she comes from North-eastern Uganda, and is possibly a casualty of the famine conditions now plaguing much of Uganda. (#194)



Naziri is living with his parents and six siblings. His father is also caring for another family and other orphaned relatives, so sometimes struggles to provide. (#174)



Niran is living with his mother, father, aunt, grandmother and 11 siblings and half-siblings. His father is also caring for three other orphans. (#172)



Gilbert is the 4th of five children, living with parents, who are also looking after elderly relatives. Gilbert's father fishes, but struggles to provide. His hut recently collapsed. (#165)



Allan's mother passed away in 2012, and his father is not around. He is being cared for by an uncle, who has 12 children of his own, and two other orphans. (#171)



Rogers lives with his parents, six siblings and another cousin. His family gets food from fishing and cultivation, but they struggle as his father is elderly and has medical issues. (#167)



Patricia is living with her parents, siblings and extended family. Her father fishes, and her mother sells firewood to help provide for the family. (#175)



Kayenyi is the 6th of 7 children, all living with their parents. Her father is a fisherman, but as the fishing industry is unstable, he struggles to care for his family. (#160)



Christina lives with her parents and five other siblings. Her sister is paralyzed, and her father is elderly. Her mother works in the garden to try and raise some income. (#178)

How children are selected:

Children are generally referred to us by word of mouth, and local staff who know the area will visit the families, or advise on their circumstances. Then will then, often in consultation with other community leaders, recommend if we should offer sponsorship. We do not have onsite accommodation (except in a couple of special instances), so our children all come from our immediate surrounding villages. In most cases we will only take in two children from each family.

Sponsorship:

A full sponsorship is AUD\$90 a month.

As the costs of education will increase as the child gets older, we keep 20% of this in a separate bank account in Australia, that will be used when the child reaches secondary school. The balance goes directly to Uganda, and covers ongoing operational costs such as staff salaries, food, uniforms, and scholastic requirements etc.

Sponsors can choose to fully sponsor a child (\$90), or share sponsorship (\$30 or \$45)

If you would like to help sponsor a child, could you please look at the sponsorship information on our website at www.amari.org.au, or contact Deb Hunt directly on 0402 882 320.