

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

## Primary Education - Uganda

We are thrilled this month to join hands together to support one of our long-term community partners in Uganda, **ABATO Children's Trust ([www.abato.org](http://www.abato.org))**, in further improving educational facilities and provision for the most vulnerable children in the Mpigi District of Uganda.

### Background

ABATO's mission is to empower vulnerable children in their community through provision of a quality education, development of their talents and abilities, along with giving the children spiritual nourishment as a prerequisite to a brighter future.



ABATO currently supports fully 230 vulnerable children, orphans and those from low income families, with a quality education in ABATO's 2 community schools (a pre-school and a primary school), and more than 400 children have additionally benefitted from ABATO's school materials support program. These 2 schools have been widely recognised for the quality of the education they provide, due to the qualified and motivated teachers that ABATA has successfully attracted and retained.

The High Five Club previously assisted ABATO in 2012 and 2013 with the funds to construct two emergency, temporary classrooms for the pre-school for the youngest children, along with desks and chairs to equip these 2 classrooms.

The two schools are hosted at ABATO's children's centre in Mpigi, which also serves as a rescue and rehabilitation centre for abandoned children and those running away from abuse. This center is also accessible to over 500 children in the area on a daily basis for activities ranging from music trainings, soccer, bible studies and games.

Currently the 230 children at the 2 schools are taught in 7 classes, which at a ratio of 1 teacher to 33 pupils is really good in a country such as Uganda where class sizes often exceed 60. However, the numbers of vulnerable children that need the support of ABATO for their education is increasing daily, and there is a long waiting list for places at the school. Education is the key to ending the cycle of

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poverty in Africa, and those children on the waiting list face an exceeding poor future without access to education.

## High Five Club Support:

ABATO recently purchased 1 acre of land which has afforded them greater self-sustainability as they expand their support more widely in their community. The 2 temporary classrooms that we supported have now shifted to this site and ABATO's monthly overheads have been subsequently reduced as they no longer need to pay land rent. Their ex-landlord increased their rent by 30% at the beginning of the year which was simply not tenable.

In order to provide more school places to vulnerable children on their waiting list, ABATO requested support from the High Five Club to enable them to construct 4 new permanent classrooms on their



recently acquired land. Outreach efforts sensitising local households about education have led ABATO to conclude that about 300 other children in the community don't go to school either because they can't afford school or because the distance is too far. The new classrooms will be located in Kyasanku village which is located conveniently for the children in the areas of Boza, Kizi, and Lwanga where only one government school (with very dilapidated building built by the missionaries in the 1880s) is serving the entire population.

The community and parents hand-moulded and baked 70,000 bricks for the new classrooms. ABATO also agreed that

members of the community who worked at the construction site would be exempt from the Community Fee charged at the school for their child for one year. In this way 20 parents/guardians signed up to serve as labourers. No labour was purchased; ABATO constructed the classrooms entirely using volunteer community labour.



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ABATO also secured £825 through fund-raising efforts in country towards the materials for the build (sand, stones, cement, iron sheets, roofing nails, doors, window frames, etc.). The High Five Club provided a hand up of just £1,080 to enable ABATO to purchase the remaining materials needed for the construction of the 4 classrooms. Additionally, we have supplied £290 for the construction of 6 pit latrine toilets at the school and £526 for the crafting of 40 3-seater desks. Our funds were used for the materials and the community built the toilets and made the desks themselves on site. A real team effort all round!



Including bank transfer fees we awarded this inspiring community £1,926 in total – and this will really transform lives enabling many more vulnerable children to enrol in school and receive a quality education. £600 of this was from monthly membership fees and £1,326 from our long-term 'Educational Projects' supporter Roffey Homes [www.roffeyhomes.com](http://www.roffeyhomes.com)



For further information on this initiative contact Dr Cheryl Mvula on [Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk](mailto:Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk)