

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

## Soccer Academy - Uganda



We are thrilled this month to be able to offer an empowering 'hand up' to one of our long-term community partners in Uganda, the innovative and pioneering children's charity the **ABATO Foundation** ([www.abato.org](http://www.abato.org)).

### **Background**

ABATO is on a mission to help raise and empower orphaned and vulnerable children in the Mpigi District of Uganda, through education, talent development and training, along with spiritual nourishment.

Currently ABATO fully supports 413 children with a quality education in their High Five Club-sponsored community pre-school and primary school. A further 400 children benefit from ABATO's school materials support programme.

ABATO also runs a rescue and rehabilitation centre for abandoned children and those running away from abuse. This Centre caters for over 500 children and uses activities such as play, drama, music, soccer, bible studies and other sports to build children's self-esteem and worth.

Recognising that soccer is a universal language and a great equaliser, ABATO have taken the decision to further develop its soccer club to help rehabilitate and give hope to more vulnerable children in their community – using the power of soccer to empower and uplift these children.

**Charity Registration Number: 1134901**

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ABATO runs three successful children's soccer tournaments each year in partnership with Onside Soccer UK, Pass It on Soccer-Madison and the ABATO Cup. The ABATO Cup brings together 11 schools and an estimated 3000 children. In partnership with Coaches Across Continents ABATO have also organised a coaching course for sports coaches, youth academy coaches and school teachers on various sports for development themes. All the trained



personnel are now passing on the skills learnt to children in their various schools and organisations.

## High Five Club Support

ABATO requested funding from the High Five Club to help them develop their Soccer Academy in Mpigi. This attracts 50-100 children of various ages on a regular, monthly basis.

ABATO purchased land, adjacent to their community Centre and schools, and raised the funds to hire the equipment and machinery needed to grade and level the plot.

High Five Club members and our educational benefactor Roffey Homes ([www.roffeyhomes.com](http://www.roffeyhomes.com)) then joined hands to purchase topsoil, mulch, manure, grass seed, hosepipes for watering, moveable goal posts and fencing & drainage materials, along with paying the transport costs for moving the turf to site. The community at large volunteered their time to prepare the land ready for the construction of the soccer field, and the children themselves planted the grass. A real community effort as can be seen in their wonderful video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFzJTT8yFVM>

The total cost of this initiative was £3,367, including the purchase of the land, of which High Five Club members contributed **£993.26**.

Soccer is such a popular sport that the new ABATO Soccer Academy has already attracted hundreds of vulnerable children from the community to play football and be coached. At the same time the children are able to access different social development activities such as health programmes and education. The soccer fields have been fenced and also act as an open auditorium for various children's development activities through sport. A fantastic initiative you will agree!

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