

Turning challenges into opportunities for transformation

Over the last year it's been a privilege to travel to different parts of the developing world, and gain first hand experience of our work. I have met many people who live on less than 30 pence a day, children who are forced to work rather than go to school, illiterate women feeling helpless in the face of natural disasters and families who have given up trying to care for each other.

Besides dire poverty I have also witnessed seeds of hope for a better future and the potential within these communities for overcoming poverty with prayer, education and practical assistance. I have seen our field staff and volunteers nourish those seeds of hope in people's lives. As a result of your gifts and prayers our staff are enabling thousands of poor people to become catalysts of godly transformation in dusty villages and overcrowded towns around the world.

In the UK, one of the questions we have been wrestling with is which Fh projects we should be supporting across the world. We decided that we will continue all our existing projects, in particular Nkunga in Kenya, and to expand our activities in five other locations.

I am convinced these projects have the possibilities to lift thousands of families out of poverty. My hope is that our supporters will share in this passion for this vital work. Together we can be salt and light in a world that is in desperate need of hope, love, and physical and spiritual restoration.

As you read through our newsletter, my hope is that you will feel encouraged that your support is taking the message of Jesus's love and unlocking the God-given potential of some of the poorest communities of the world.

Sincerely,



Paul Cornelius, Fh UK

www.uk.fhi.net
tel: 01494 674 898
Charity number: 328273

47 Burgess Wood Road South,
Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1EL

Five projects to release thousands from poverty

With so many needs in the world it is difficult to choose which countries to help. For a number of reasons we believe we should focus our efforts in five areas. The communications for these projects will be undertaken by five team members. We will be the bridges between our teams and these communities in the developing world and their supporters in the UK. A very brief summary of these projects is given below, we will be sharing more about these projects in future newsletters.

All of these projects need advocates - people who can share about the needs in these countries and inspire others in their churches or community to get involved. If you would like to know more about any of these projects and how you can support them, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us via the details on the cover or the email addresses beside each project.



NEW HOPE, Uganda

For 20 years the people of Yepa were the victims of armed conflict bringing death, child abduction and the uprooting of their whole community. The coming of peace has given us the opportunity to bring new hope and restoration to this community. We will be focusing our support on the most vulnerable young people.

Annual project cost: £25,000

To find out more please Steve: scanham@fhi.net



CHANGING LIFE IN THE SLUMS, Bolivia

El Alto is a rapidly growing inner-city shanty-town neighbouring La Paz, with a population of over 500,000. We are undertaking a development project within this very needy community. The project will work through local church organisations, training and energizing them to drive social development and change.

Annual project cost: £25,000

To find out more please contact Nigel: nbicknell@fhi.net



WOMEN OF ACTION, Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, millions of oppressed women are trapped in poverty and unable to protect themselves or their children from hunger, disease and exploitation. Through providing learning opportunities, we are already helping some of the poorest women in Bangladesh to discover potential and lift their families out of poverty. By 2010 we are aiming to support transformation in 3 disadvantaged communities by empowering over 1,800 women.

Annual project cost: £65,000

To find out more please contact Charlene: chayden@fhi.net



A NEW BEGINNING, Burundi

The after-effects of war are devastating on any community and in a village like Mwumba which was already suffering from extreme poverty the impact is difficult to imagine. We are planning to work alongside the people in this village as they rebuild their lives. We will be starting by helping 350 of the neediest children.

Annual project cost: £25,000

To find out more please contact Paul: pcorneilius@fhi.net

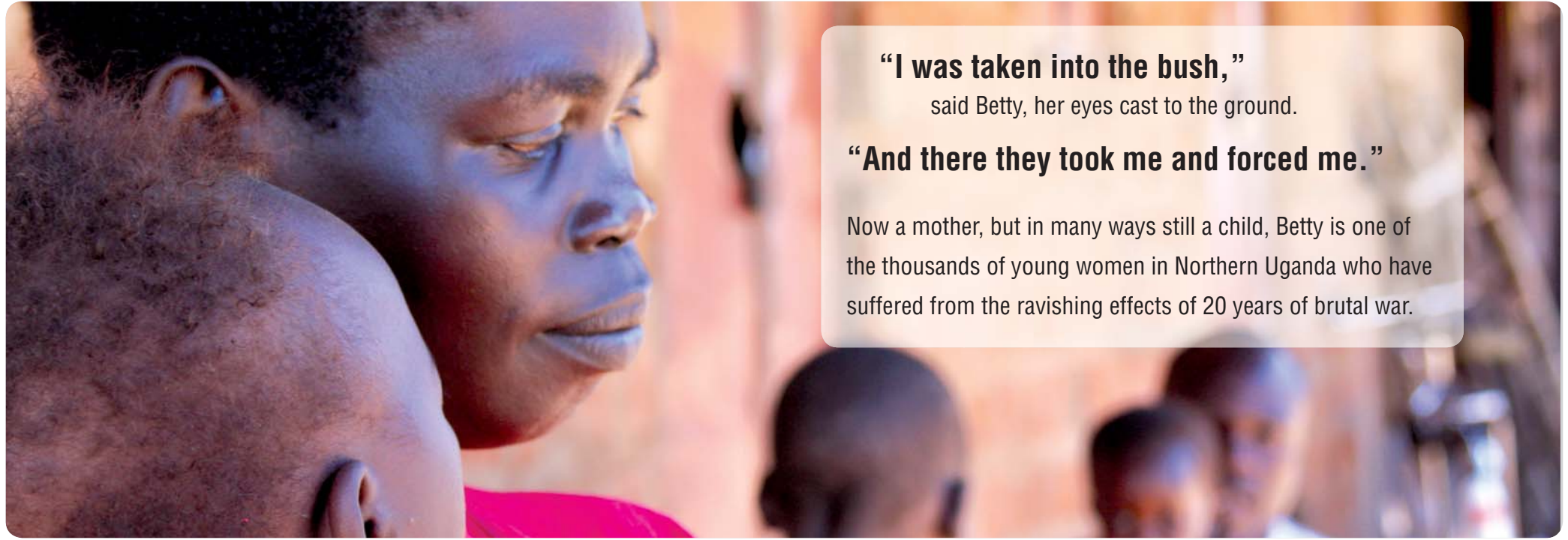


CHILDREN OF POTENTIAL, Kenya

We are working in the arid community of Maisha Bora to respond to the abject level of poverty. Focusing on 350 children left orphaned by HIV/AIDS or impoverished by the high levels of unemployment and disease, local staff are bringing hope in the areas of education, health and employment

Annual project cost: £25,000

To find out more please contact David: dfinlay@fhi.



“I was taken into the bush,”
said Betty, her eyes cast to the ground.

“And there they took me and forced me.”

Now a mother, but in many ways still a child, Betty is one of the thousands of young women in Northern Uganda who have suffered from the ravishing effects of 20 years of brutal war.

Sharing God’s love and mending broken lives in Uganda

Betty is a child mother who was forced to become a “wife” to a Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) soldier. Today she is free from the LRA but the wounds received still remain. Brave but broken, Betty labours hard under the searing Ugandan sun trying to build a future for herself and her child.

And Betty is not alone in this task. She is one of hundreds of young women who with help from Food for the Hungry (Fh) are slowly mending their broken lives. Through our New Hope programme we are helping girls like Betty by offering them Christian counselling, income

generating skills training and literacy classes. These girls are slowly growing in confidence and have hope for the future again.

Scattered throughout several internally displaced person’s (IDP) camps outside of Kitgum, (Northern Uganda) are dozens of our trained Christian counsellors. Working in the most challenging of situations, many of them are faithful volunteers.

Thanks to the generous support from individuals and organisations we have trained 74 Northern Ugandans in Christian counselling in the

past three years. Today these counsellors live alongside these displaced young people.

Through a process of listening, loving, praying and, with severe cases, referring them to our live-in rehabilitation programme, they build relationships that offer space and opportunities for healing.

Another key aspect of our New Hope programme is caring for war orphans and victims of HIV/AIDS. In 2007, we served 200 people living with HIV/AIDS and 150 orphans and vulnerable children.



This is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Whilst all the stories in this newsletter are true, names and photos may have been changed to protect the identity of individuals.

Understanding the complexities of HIV prevention



‘Listening to the concerns of the people we are trying to help and working out together the best way forward is one of the hallmarks of our activities here in Burundi ‘

Anne Stordy of Fh UK.

Photo: Seconded staff Anne and Steve Stordy

One of the issues we are wrestling with in Burundi is finding effective ways to help people, especially women, to deal with HIV/AIDS. However, unlike other agencies which rush in with solutions before understanding the problems, our staff are making time to speak to Burundian women to find out what they know about HIV/AIDS and to get their views on what could be done to help prevent its spread.

Recently, Anne Stordy met up with a group of mums at one of the schools to find out what they knew about HIV/AIDS.

Here are some of their replies -

‘It’s a bad disease’.

‘There is no medicine to cure it’.

‘It affects people who do not have self-control’.

‘We women might be faithful, but men sleep around’.

‘Women might be raped and be infected with the disease’.

These were quite telling comments. Most of the mums said that they had received some education on the subject and they knew where to go for a free HIV test. But Anne and her colleague realized that there is so much more to the problem than what has been already addressed.

‘The comments made by these mothers’ said Ann, ‘will help us in our planning of future training to address some of the issues they raised.’

‘And, what’s more important, they reminded us of the importance of talking to communities and listening to people before launching a new programme that we think it will be helpful to them.’

Taking the lead on finding positive solutions to the food crisis



As awareness of the global food crisis increased earlier this year we recognised that the sheer scope and complexity of this increasing problem required joint thinking and efforts by different charities working to help the poor.

Our staff in Kenya, concerned about the effects of this crisis on the farmers and poor communities in which they work, took the initiative and called a forum to address this global problem.

Since no forum existed to address this issue, they called representatives of several NGOs and donors in the country to discuss the causes, effects and needed responses to the food crisis

in the context of Kenya. One of the positive outcomes of this forum was the creation of a special task force “to raise awareness of the impact of the global food crisis in Kenya and advocate for and act on priority responses to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable.”

The result was that this task force became a focal point for discussions with international agencies by providing useful recommendations on how they can help Kenyans overcome this crisis. Advocacy forums such as this one provide a positive response to the global food crisis.

Thank you for your gifts, time and prayers!

Whether responding to injustice in Bangladesh, offering counselling to young mothers in Uganda or providing school materials for children in Rwanda – the simple truth is that we can not facilitate this work without you. Because of your gifts, our staff are able to share their knowledge and expertise with the poor around the world. They are able to offer practical assistance to different communities and help thousands of people reach their God-given potential.

To find out more about our new project in Burundi please contact Paul at: pcornelius@fhi.net

Hand made cards from Rwanda

We have been active within the Southern region of Rwanda promoting new business ideas and training local rural communities to implement them. Through this scheme we have built up relationships with a large number of communities who are involved in a wide range of income generating activities. One of our seconded staff, Tom MacGregor, has been coordinating the making of hand made cards. He is currently working with two groups of young people who design and make the cards.

The young people who undertook the training to make these cards had been identified as some of the most vulnerable in the communities as they were either orphans or from very poor families.

One of the groups is in Muhanga and is called 'Abakundamurimo' (which roughly translated means 'the people who love to work'). This group is made up of young women. Initially two of the women went away to be trained and then they came back and began training others.

There are now more than nine young women in this group and if there is adequate demand for the cards they will continue to train others in their area.

These artists use small pieces of banana leaf to create a variety of traditional Rwandan images, and a range of Christmas scenes. All proceeds will go directly to our work in Rwanda.

These beautifully crafted banana leaf cards are a unique ethical choice for Christmas. To order some cards and help these young Rwandan people to grow in confidence and earn a living please call us or visit our website.



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Tel: 01494 674 898