



# Kumi Community Foundation

Helping others to help themselves

[www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk)

 @kumicommunityfoundationuganda

Autumn 2020



## COVID UPDATE

The pandemic reached Uganda in March 2020 when the first case was confirmed on March 22.

As a precautionary measure, President Yoweri Museveni banned all incoming and outgoing travel to specified highly affected countries, schools were closed and public gatherings banned. By early August Uganda had 5 reported deaths with 1186 positive cases. Lock down is slowly easing, with shopping arcades and salons being allowed to reopen, and the Boda Boda taxi drivers have been allowed to resume their business. However, churches and schools remain closed, and the opening of schools is an ongoing debate as it is in other countries. E-Learning has been offered through radio and television but many communities have no access to this method of communication. President Museveni has promised to make his final decision as to whether to open schools in September. We wait to see whether the children will return to school this Autumn or whether the lock down will continue to affect them.

## WELCOME!

Kumi Community Foundation funds and promotes initiatives to help people living with disabilities in Kumi, Eastern Uganda. Founded in 2002, the foundation supports many individuals with disabilities and malnourishment who are living in extreme poverty in remote areas of the bush.



There is no easing off for the Ugandan team on the ground as they continue to help families in need. On 12 August, they set off with the vehicle stocked with posho, beans, sugar, salt and soap (all very much the basic foods and definitely no goodies) as well as two new infrared thermometers for checking people. It was to be a busy day with 173 patients assessed and a treatment plan worked out whenever possible. With any ideas of returning to Kumi later in the year diminishing, it is comforting to know the work continues and for this we are deeply grateful.

For more information on the work of KCF and how you can help support please visit

[www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk)

# MEET THE TEAM!

## ALUKA HARRIET

The Kumi Community Foundation would like to introduce you to Aluka Harriet, our Team Leader in Uganda. Harriet graduated from Mbale Islamic University in Social Work. She is married to Henry and has two boys called Robinson (named after Elspeth's husband!) and Carl.

Harriet is the king pin in the whole foundation. She manages the finances both incoming and outgoing by liaising with KCF Trustees, paying the hospital bills of patients sponsored by KCF, and has close contact with wheelchair, tricycle and Afripads providers. She also ensures school fees are paid direct to the school, transports children to and from school when needed and purchases their equipment as required. As well as all this - she arranges visits for us, WFTW, Interplast UK and other agencies, from arriving at the airport to leaving and manages our home visits and clinics .

Here Harriet explains how she became involved with the charity...

*' I met with Elspeth Robinson in November 2006 when I had just started to work at Kumi Hospital. In 2010 I started working closely with her, being a team leader.*

*Her (Elspeth's) interest is on community based rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. For them to lead a holistic life through surgery, provision of assistive devices, income generation activities, provision of houses and Afripads to girl, with the support from partner organisations like Wheels for the World, Interplast UK and individual donors with the support of Elspeth, they have helped the children.'*

Elspeth writes -

*"Aluka Harriet is a very special person in my life - my daughter, sister, friend, work mate. She is dedicated to her hospital work in her role as a Social Worker working with the rehab team to help the disadvantaged people. We have helped each other over the years which has strengthened our bond and now I am English grandmother to her two children, Robinson and Carl."*



Aluka Harriet



Aluka Harriet and baby Carl

# MEET MIRIAM

Miriam lost her leg when she suffered gun shot wounds during the Lord's Resistance Army's rebel activities. These wounds became infected and it became necessary for her to have her leg amputated above the knee. She had been attending school where she managed to pass her Primary School Leaving Exams followed by secondary school but then her hopes of completing her education were shattered following her surgery.

During our outreach fieldwork, we came across Miriam and asked her if she had ever had an artificial limb which she had not and would she like to be given one. Of course, she was happy and we arranged for her to visit Kumi Hospital where she would be seen by the Orthopaedic Workshop team who took her measurements. By the next morning, her prosthesis was made and ready for fitting and she was given walking training from the physiotherapist. Forwards, backwards, sideways; she managed well and so she was discharged with a pair of crutches to use until she was confident without.

We had funding for a prosthesis from a UK donor and so, before leaving the hospital, she sat down to write a thank you letter and to tell the donor that she would be able to continue with her education. She was grateful for the support which completely changed her life.

## Funding Facts

- The price of a child's below knee limb is approximately £75
- An adult below knee limb is £100
- A child's above knee limb is £100
- An adults above knee limb is £150.
- The cost of independence and mobility is priceless!

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help KCF - either by supporting their outreach work, funding a prosthetic limb, funding a child's education, or helping with hospital expenses ... contact [kumicomfound@yahoo.com](mailto:kumicomfound@yahoo.com) or visit [www.kumicomcommunityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.kumicomcommunityfoundation.co.uk)



Miriam before receiving her new leg



Miriam learning to use her new leg with Rabson the physio



Miriam writes to her sponsor