

# UCUK Newsletter

## April 2026



**Trustee visit to Uganda:** Bridget, Steve and Terry had a very worthwhile visit in January and were able to visit several projects which bore witness to the continued effectiveness of UWCM's work. We visited many households to see for ourselves what a huge impact the water filters are having on their health and general well being, and we visited two families to find out how their lives had changed as a result of having a new home (shelter) built from our 'Sarah's Shelters' fund.

We also had very useful meetings with the leaders and members of the churches at both Prayer & Porridge projects and encouraged them to take more ownership of these projects. As a result, they are now involving more church members and have promised to have a 'basket' (regular collection) for this work which will allow them to become more self-sustaining.

But we all agreed that our visit to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp was the hardest day of the trip and you can read more about this below plus there are videos and photos on our [website](#) and also on our Facebook page.

**Bunambutye IDP camp:** After leaving the main road, we could see far in the



distance the large, dusty white tents in a flat, dry, treeless and desolate area. This was home to about 1,500 people who had previously lived as subsistence farmers in the beautiful hills around Mt Elgon, with its fertile soil and lush vegetation until a devastating mudslide in November 2024. The people had endured so many losses – their homes,



You can earn money for UCUK simply by shopping online via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and choosing Uganda Concern UK as your charity. Each time you purchase goods from over 2,000 companies including booking.com, Argos, John Lewis, a small percentage of the cost will be donated to UCUK. It's free to sign up and if you shop online, it's an easy way to raise funds for us!



land, crops, animals in addition to the loss of family members, friends and neighbours who died during the disaster.

We were warmly welcomed and taken to visit their tents. The heat was intense and even the wind was hot as we walked around. The camp seemed well organised but the separation of men from their wives and children caused a lot of stress for families.

The women and children's accommodation was particularly crowded with 70-80 sleeping per tent. This resulted in a lack of privacy and limited space to keep any possessions. Most of them just slept on mats on the ground tarpaulin. There were only 3 latrines for women, and 3 for men plus nowhere private to wash. The 'bathing areas' that had been constructed with tarpaulin 'walls' suspended from wooden poles were no longer functional since the relentless wind had shredded the tarpaulins.



Maize flour, dried beans and firewood are supplied by the government and this was cooked communally twice daily in huge pans, stirred by large wooden 'oars'. There were no schools for the children and nothing for them to do. Two churches had been constructed and we were inspired by their faith in God and their patience as they continue to wait for further government help and a brighter future. When asked what they needed most, their requests were very humble – soap, cooking oil, rice, sugar, footballs, sewing machines and bibles! Thanks to some financial donations that we left with UWCM, they have been able to deliver a number of these requested items but please pray that these patient people will soon have the opportunity to start new lives, together as families again in their own homes.

land, crops, animals in addition to the loss of family members, friends and neighbours who died during the disaster.

## 'Sarah's Shelters': update on Richard and Jesca's family featured in our last newsletter

We were very happy to be able to visit Richard and Jesca and to see how much their lives have changed since having a new shelter constructed for them by the local Women's Group. Their home had partially collapsed due to heavy rains last year (photo on left) and they, and their 6 children, were desperate.



When we visited in January the new shelter was being constructed and UWCM have recently sent us this photo showing the shelter is nearly completed. Using some of the money we had been given from supporters, UWCM were also able to deliver 2 x beds, sheets, household items plus a selection of

clothes, knitted items and underwear we had left with staff to distribute to needy families. Richard and Jesca said 'it was a miracle' and they had never expected to receive such things and sent their appreciation to UCUK and all our supporters.



**Education fees:** we continue to support a small number of young people through their education at primary, secondary and further education levels and we are always really encouraged when we hear how well they are doing.

Fred, who we first met in Jan 25 and who has been deaf from birth, has truly blossomed since he has been attending a specialist school for the deaf. His recent report showed that he came 2nd out of a class of 30 scoring 574/600 in total and, as a result, he has moved from Primary 1 to Primary 3 which is amazing. He now communicates fluently in sign language and has gained so much confidence.

Joan is a 23 year old young lady whose desire was to do a secretarial course to enable her to help support her family and so we have been funding her through a 2 year course. Joan is continuing to do well, scoring a 'Second Class Upper' score in her latest report and is due to complete her course at the end of this year.

**Water Filters:** By the end of last year, WaterMatters had provided UWCM with 120 filters with each filter, on average, providing safe water to 12 people ie 1,440 people now have access to safe water which is AMAZING! WaterMatters have committed to provide 150 x filters each quarter during 2026 for which we are extremely grateful. UWCM are taking 30 filters to Bunambutye camp and the remaining 120 will be given to 3 x women's groups. UWCM will ensure that each household receives training and follow ups to ensure the filters are used and maintained properly so that they can provide clean, safe water for 20+ years. It was wonderful to visit families in January and to hear for ourselves how they no longer get typhoid or other water borne diseases and that their general health has greatly improved. See our [website](#) for more photos and videos.

UWCM are going through a period of transition as Esther, their Programmes Director, is due to retire in May and we are in close communication with UWCM and their Board of Directors as they seek the way forward. Esther has been with UWCM since 2012, firstly as a Women's Project Officer, then in 2017 she was promoted to Women's Programmes Co-ordinator before taking on her current role in 2024 and she will be greatly missed by us all. Please pray for the staff of UWCM during this time of uncertainty and for wisdom and guidance for all those concerned in the decision making process.

### Trustees

Terry & Terry Game  
Keith Ketchum  
Steve & Bridget Withell  
e-mail:  
[ugandaconcernuk@live.co.uk](mailto:ugandaconcernuk@live.co.uk)

If you would like any further information or would like your details to be removed from our mailing list, please contact one of the Trustees.

Click [here](#) for ways to donate to Uganda Concern UK

All photographs in this newsletter have been taken by UWCM staff or UCUK Trustees

UK Charity Number 1133440 [www.ugandaconcernuk.org](http://www.ugandaconcernuk.org)