

# JERSEY OVERSEAS AID COMMISSION TEAM VISITS MIFUMI VLLAGE

JULY- AUGUST 2016



## Literally breaking ground for first-ever Secondary school in Mifumi Village

The year 2016, will remain a historic turning point for the community of Mifumi village in Kirewa sub-county, Tororo district.

Jersey Overseas Aid gave a grant of GBP 85,835 towards the construction of Secondary School Science laboratories and classroom blocks in Mifumi Village.

The news of gift of a secondary school to this village was very well received and celebrated by both community members

Mifumi village is a remote farming community at the extreme end of Kirewa Sub County bordering Nabuyoga. It has a big population whose main activities among others include; rice growing and petty fishing. The village is mainly covered by swamps which are conducive for rice growing.

Kirewa sub-county, where Mifumi Village is located has only one Secondary school which is about 5kms away from Mifumi village. Many children joining secondary school had to walk long distances resulting in some of them dropping out of school.

A team of 12 volunteers headed by Dick Richomme from Jersey Overseas Aid arrived in Uganda on Sunday, the 24th of July, 2016 and for the next three weeks while in Mifumi Village, embarked on rigorous activities in laying the foundation stones and walls to the much anticipated Secondary school laboratory.

## At the construction site:



The volunteers were paired with local villagers who had volunteered to support with this project (a group of 7 women and 3 men from Mifumi village). Later that day, they were introduced to the locally contracted Engineer, Charles Ateker to support and oversee the completion of the project.

The Large Science laboratory block comprising 3 rooms was raised up to the rim beam level in 3 weeks with the collaborative effort of the volunteers and villagers.

The site was a bee hive of all sorts of activities that ranged from bricklaying to making of bracelets for the children and women. This was mainly done after the day's hard work and the time when the volunteers were relaxing. Locals were taught how to make the bracelets.

The volunteers soon became accustomed to the locals (both young and old) gathering at the gate of their residence every morning, waiting to escort them to the construction site.



# Practical support to the villagers

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The team volunteers comprised of individuals from various professions and skills sets. During their free time, the volunteers visited community members and other facilities in the village. They extended practical support to these individuals and facilities. Families received items that ranged from; beddings, bicycles, cows among others. Florence Alweny, a single mother to 5 children was one of the fortunate beneficiaries from this practical support.

Her old mud, wattle and grass thatched house was caving in and at the verge of collapsing. She had started constructing a house for her family years back but failed to bring it to completion as the needs of her growing children increased. She abandoned the house construction project. The JOAC volunteers came to Florence aid by helping her complete her house. She has recently moved in with her family.



The house where Florence lived with her children before JOAC volunteers' support



Florence's new home

# Mifumi Primary School

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Jersey Overseas Aid Commission team of 7 was welcomed with music and dance by the Pupils of Mifumi Primary School. The karate team also demonstrated their skills, which was so amazing seeing young girls show the different defensive skills.

While resident in Mifumi Village, the JOAC team engaged in a number of extra-curricular activities with the pupils. They taught the children how to play Frisbee, football,



Pupils welcome the JOAC team to the school

## Donations to Mifumi Health Centre:

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The Volunteers also paid a visit to the health centre and participated in the cleaning of the facility. The team was concerned when they learned that the facility was operating on a tight budget and therefore could not facilitate operations of units such as the maternity. It is on this background that they made financial donation of Thirteen Million Uganda Shillings towards purchase of some equipment and a brand new motor cycle to the Unit.



THANK YOU VERY  
MUCH INDEED AND OUR  
BEST WISHES TO;

DICK, NICOLE, LISA,  
LUCY, BAZ, KATRINA,  
JO, JULIE, TIM AND  
COLIN.