



# Action in Africa Christmas Newsletter



2022



## Making the most of the rain in Rugu

Father Hans oversaw the completion of the construction of a rainwater harvest tank at Rugu Secondary School, (pictured left) funded by Action in Africa with the help of the Eleanor Rathbone Trust



## Water on tap for our Rugu students



Rugu schoolgirls no longer have to walk miles to collect water, pictured here at a tap with the new water tank in the background. The school would like to us pass on their gratitude!

## Pitch your wits against the brains of Ashtead

Action in Africa would like to invite you to our charity Quiz Night

Saturday 4th February 2022  
7.00pm for 7.30pm start  
St Michael's Church Hall.

Lasagne & Salad Supper  
(Veggie Option Available)  
£17.50 a ticket, ideally teams of 6 – 8 people

Please try and organize a whole team and contact Carolyn Higgs (Treasurer) on 01372 279361  
Strictly limited number of tables available  
BYOB, glasses and nibbles.

## Finally life is getting back to normal...

As Action in Africa celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and we have to thank our Nyaishozi chairman for keeping a steady hand on the Action in Africa ship during the last difficult few years. Father Hans, pictured right with our sponsored students from Ruhinda, has risen to the challenge of overseeing our first construction project since 2015, besides keeping a watchful eye on all of our students. Thank you Father Hans!



## It's all about babies...

This year we are delighted to announce that an incubator for Kibogoizi Dispensary will be a focus of the St Andrew's fundraising for 2023. St. Andrew's Secondary School, Leatherhead has long since been a supporter of Action in Africa and we are so proud and appreciative of this association.

Pictured right are the mothers and babies waiting to be seen by the Kibogoizi midwife. The Kagera region (in which Nyaishozi sits) has the highest level of infant mortality rates, therefore Action in Africa is keen to roll out the incubator initiative to all 6 dispensaries in the region as quickly as possible. It costs £6,000 to purchase an incubator as pictured overleaf. We would like to thank the Oakdale Trust for donating £1,000 to this appeal.



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## A big thank you from our students in Nyaishozi

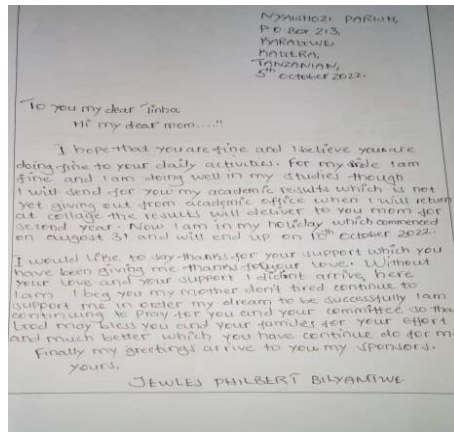


### Father Hans' Helping Hands

It became obvious very quickly that Father Hans would need help if the charity was to flourish after Covid 19. Having just taken over the Nyaishozi Parish, Father Hans was also still working for the Bishop of Kagera. Choosing new trustees was not that difficult. We had wanted to recruit midwife Rebecca Didas, (pictured above second right) former Action in Africa sponsored student, for some time and were delighted when she agreed. Having visited Rugu Secondary School in 2019, we were so impressed with Headmistress Adventina and deputy, Mr Ambruce. (Pictured either side of Rebecca). We are delighted to welcome them officially to Action in Africa.

They have wasted no time since becoming trustees. The desperately needed rainwater harvest tank has already been built at Rugu School and they are now turning their attention, on our behalf, to the needs of other nearby schools.

Rebecca has taken possession of medical equipment off her wish list for Nyaishozi Dispensary. She will now help identify what life saving medical equipment can be sourced for other dispensaries in the region.



Pictured left is a thank you letter from Jewels Philbert, about to start her third year of medical school in Sengerema. Jewels lost both her parents to AIDS and has been a part of the Action in Africa family since 2016. She is being sponsored by an Ashtead resident.

If you would like to see the letter in full, please visit our website [www.actioninafrica.org](http://www.actioninafrica.org) and if you would like to see more about our student sponsorship programme click on 'Sponsor a Student'.

### Nyaishozi Dispensary to expand maternity wing...

Due to the generosity of SMOAT, who are kindly underwriting the cost of an incubator for Nyaishozi Dispensary, Action in Africa has been able to fund other pieces of medical equipment off Rebecca's wish list.

Among these are 6 hospital beds earmarked for the maternity ward. (similar to picture right). We have also been able to fund an examination light, a foetal scope, blood pressure monitor, weighing scales for newborns and a set of digital scales for older infants.



### ...And to receive its first incubator!

Action in Africa is proud to announce that St Mark's Overseas Aid Trust has chosen Action in Africa as their main recipient of funds raised at their Christmas Appeal 2022. SMOAT is the overseas charity arm of St. Mark's Church Reigate and this year they will be raising funds for an incubator (as pictured right) for Nyaishozi Dispensary. With as many as 6 babies being born each week and with a 50% chance that any one of them may be premature or underweight, this vital piece of equipment will save lives.

It will be the first incubator in the region and we are thrilled to be the charity to supply it. We hope that it will be the first of many for all the dispensaries in the area.



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## Christmas Appeal 2022



Registered Charity No.  
1072661



Veronica Exworthy, a staunch supporter of the charity has sadly passed away. Her husband Peter founded Action in Africa and has kindly set up a memorial Justgiving page in her name, where all the proceeds come to the charity. We would like to thank the family for their kindness and send them our condolences at this difficult time. If you would like to pay your respects to Veronica in this way, please go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/veronicaexworthy>

You can get in touch with us at:  
[actioninafrica.ashtead@gmail.com](mailto:actioninafrica.ashtead@gmail.com)

You can follow our news at:



Action in Africa



At this time of year, we always launch our Christmas Appeal at St. Michael's Church Ashtead. This year, Father Hans has asked for funds to be sent to help him buy sugar, oil, tea, milk, soap, sardines, meat and rice. These goods will be distributed to the most needy in the community, such as the family pictured right

## A Special Message from Our Committee

As this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charity, 2022 has been a year of putting the Action back into Action in Africa! We also have new committee members in Nyaishozi who are helping Father Hans achieve the very best for the charity and its supporters here in Ashtead.

It has been a year when we have been overwhelmed by the support we have received not just from individuals, but also from other charities. We have to mention...

The Eleanor Rathbone Trust, whose generous donation enabled the completion of the rainwater harvest tank at Rugu Secondary School.

The SMOAT (St Mark's overseas charity) Christmas Appeal has just been launched and Action in Africa will be its prime beneficiary. The funds raised will be used to purchase an incubator for premature babies born at Nyaishozi Dispensary.

The Oakdale Trust has given us £1,000 towards our second incubator, so desperately needed at Kibogoizi Dispensary. As we go to press, St Andrew's Secondary School has just confirmed that they will also be raising funds throughout 2023 for the incubator for Kibogoizi Dispensary.

And of course, there are our loyal supporters here in Ashtead, who continue to help us carry out our work, regardless of the hardships we are facing ourselves this winter.

We are so very grateful for all the wonderful contributions that have been made this year, big or small, whoever has made them. We promise to continue to put every penny to good use.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, from the Action in Africa Team

