

SPOTLIGHT NEWS



September 2022
www.hsoa.org.uk

EMERGENCY APPEAL THANK YOU



Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone that donated towards our emergency appeal following the devastating floods in Mbale. Your incredible generosity meant that we hit our £10,000 target, enabling us to respond immediately to help these communities in desperate need after their homes and livelihoods were destroyed.

Our Community Health Promoters (CHPs) went door to door to reach as many people as they could. They visited 398 households handing out relief items including 90 days' worth of water purification tablets and jerry cans for water storage. The CHPs met families who had lost everything, but after being given the aid donations they started to smile again, as such simple gifts like these mean so much when you have nothing; and the realisation that there are people they've never met who care about their welfare, brings them hope.

Christine Alum, our Health Coordinator in Mbale, was interviewed on **Ugandan News** about the emergency aid that Spotlight on Africa was providing. You can watch the full broadcast on You Tube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tvp8Jlp4Qc>

Christine is speaking at 2 minutes and 30 seconds into the video.



Spotlight is run by volunteers, so over 95p of every £1 you donate goes to Uganda.
With Gift Aid it is over £1.21!



In addition to the emergency relief items, staff at the Health Clinic have also been providing psychological help to people that are struggling with trauma caused by the devastation of the floods. Richard Okotel, Executive Director for Spotlight on Africa - Uganda Foundation, told us that *"many girls will miss going back to the college because their family livelihoods have been destroyed, so they see no point of living in this world anymore. Our office gets many of such cases now"*. This is heartbreaking. We will continue to provide emotional support to young people and their parents during this time of deep despair for as long as is needed.

Keep up to date
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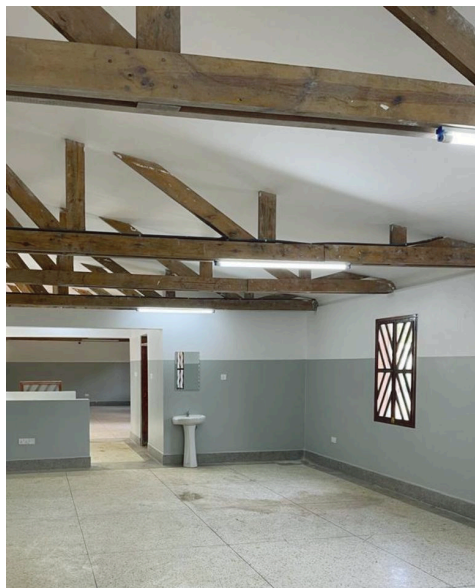
We are always looking for new volunteers if you would like to get involved please email enquiries@hsoa.org.uk

FORGING LINKS - TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

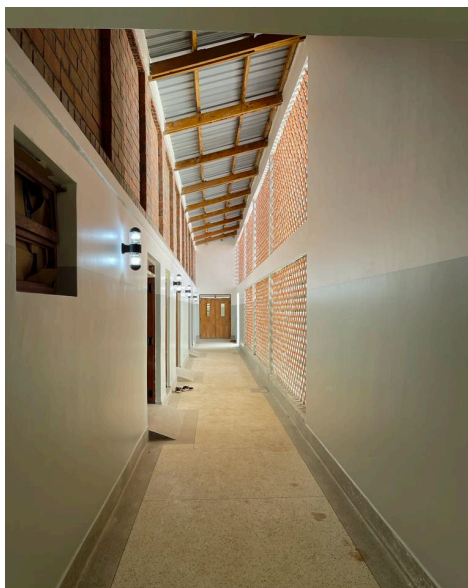
MATERNITY CENTRE

We are incredibly fortunate that none of the Spotlight on Africa buildings or land were affected by the flooding, so we have been able to continue with building works for both the Maternity Centre and the Girls Dormitory.

We're delighted to share the photos below showing the front of the Maternity Centre, the post-natal ward and the internal corridor that leads to the operating theatre.



Standing in front of the new Maternity Centre reception area (right) is Dr Edith Fomum, Clinical Director; Dr Assen, Obstetrician; Dr Ken Mugabe, Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Mbale Referral Hospital; and Dr Johan, Paediatrician. They are working with Spotlight on Africa to operationalise the Maternity Centre. It's a formidable team and we are incredibly grateful to them all for the time, commitment and expertise they are providing.



GIRLS DORMITORY

The girls dormitory building is also progressing well, with the roof having been recently completed. The dormitory will provide a safe and secure environment for 120 girls and housing for an on-site Matron to look after them.

