

NOTDEC UK



CHANGING LIVES

**Together, and with God's help,
partnering NOTDEC Uganda,
we are moving mountains!**

Moving Home

Ugandan Government policy is – whenever possible – for children over 3 to live in “the community”, not in an institution. So, in December, 16 NOTDEC children aged 4-11 moved to live with their extended family. All are still sponsored, with fees paid to their new schools before they start in February. However well planned, changes like that can be tough.

Joshua, older brother Godwin & their grandmother.



The place where granny and Godwin were living was wholly unsuitable. So NOTDEC UK (NUK) had to fund and NOTDEC Uganda (NUG) had to build the house in the picture before Joshua could join them.

Now, young Joshua has a word for you. It is “**Kinyangole.**” Yes “**Kinyangole.**” Please try to remember it. “Kinyangole.”

NOTDEC’s local language is Lukonzo. Where Joshua’s granny lives, it is Kinyangole. *You* have one new word to remember; *Joshua* has a whole new language to learn.

Living in the community may be good for the child’s socialization, but it comes at a price. And some pay more than others.

Kezia (in red) with her family and resettlement package



The family's housing is very poor and it is questionable whether Kezia should have been resettled before significant improvements to the toilet and kitchen facilities.

And, as the picture shows, Kezia arrived with a new bed, mattress, blankets and mosquito net – far better than the bedding of her father, step mother and step-sister, all of whom must share the same bedroom. Other accommodation options are now being considered.

Family life may be better than living in an institution; but sharing your bed with a half-sibling takes some adjustment!

Moving Experiences

A “Spiritual Camp” was held just before Christmas for all NOTDEC children aged over ten. 71 of the 74 attended and all said they enjoyed it.



The Camp combined lots of fun and games with serious Bible teaching.

The session shown here was on sexual purity. During the course of the Camp, 24 children gave their lives to Christ.



Moving On

In December, three of our young people took their Secondary 4 external exams (think GCSEs). When they get their results in late February, they will be able to choose their two year vocational course. But, like youngsters here, they already know where they want to go!



Masika Joy (18) hopes to study **Nursing**: Kagando 30 mins away



Asinja Masika Edlyne (18) **Accountancy**: Mbarara 6 hours

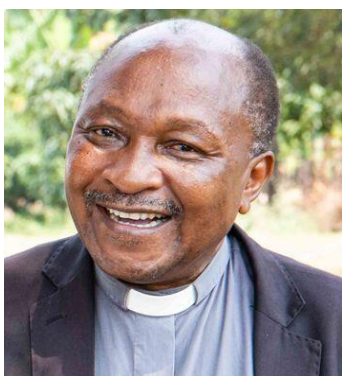


Mumbere Edinas (20) going for **Teaching**: wherever will work!

Changing Times

NOTDEC Uganda has produced its first 5 Year Plan! But most strategic plans are long, boring – and ignored: so do we care? Well NOTDEC's "orphanage" village was built for 100 kids; and many now live with family, leaving the "NOTDEC centre" under-utilised with only 42 children.

The 5 Year Plan says the space could be re-purposed for new activities – for careers advice & business training, or for residential camps to support the spiritual and social wellbeing of the young people. It's great to see NUG management sizing up the opportunities, and working out how best to use them to meet the children's future needs. After all, that's their job!



Changing Leadership

The contract of NUG's current Director, Canon Jehoshaphat, expires in June 2023, and the NUG Board has started looking for a suitable replacement.

However, Canon J will be a hard act to follow, so the Board has already asked him to consider extending his contract by 6 months to ensure an effective and fruitful transition. Over the years, Canon J has been a hugely loyal and willing friend to NOTDEC and we all hope that he will agree.

Changing Gear?

Now also seems to be the right time to encourage NUG to rely rather less on advice and other inputs from NOTDEC UK. This may mean looking for new Director with wider skills and experience to take NUG in a more genuinely independent direction.

Want to Help Change Another Life?



If you want to help change another little life – likely to be a new-born whose mother died giving birth – contact [Janet Johnston](#) now, and ask her to add you to our list of would-be donors.

Pictured left is NOTDEC's latest arrival – Jonnan. His mother, Mary, died aged 32 giving birth to him. When I started writing, Jonnan had no sponsor. Happily, he's now covered – by an established sponsor whose child no longer needs sponsoring.

But there are always babies coming to NOTDEC, and it is invaluable to know anyone who might be willing to provide sponsorship when there is a child in need. For details of what is involved (without commitment), please do get [in touch](#).

Want to Help?

A group of five (including 3 Trustees) plan to visit NOTDEC Uganda from 21st April for three weeks. Anything less like a holiday you could not imagine! Please pray for our party, for the children, for NOTDEC Uganda staff, and for all we try to do while we are there.

Want to Know More?

If you'd like to hear more about what NOTDEC's up to, log into our Zoom Meeting. The date is not yet fixed but you will be notified nearer the time. The meeting will be after the return of UK Trustees from NOTDEC Uganda, so the news you get should be hot off the press.

THANK YOU!

Please remember that all this only works because of **you**.

NOTDEC UK Trustees may try to ask the right questions – find out what's happening, what each child needs, and what else might help – and then keep you up-to-date. But none of that would be worth a fig if you didn't also care about the children, and if – when push comes to shove – you weren't willing to help in any way you can.

These are *our* children. On behalf of them all, thank you for your loyal support.

Janet Johnston
on behalf of NOTDEC UK Trustees