



Making plans for the future

## Setting our objectives

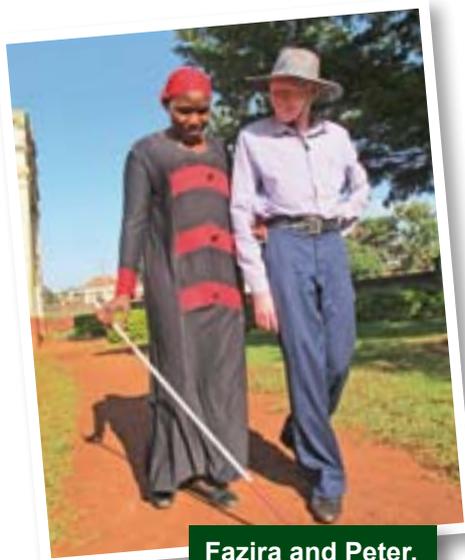
**W**orking in Uganda earlier this month, I met hundreds of vulnerable people benefitting from our projects. They showed me safe water in their communities and farming enterprises meeting their families' basic needs. They told me about the improved health and confidence they'd gained through their partnership with Advantage Africa. They said 'Advantage Africa has kept its promise. The plans we made have actually happened'. What a joy it was to see the real and practical life-changing **impact** on their families.

We work with amazing people whose passion to improve the lives of those facing extreme poverty never fails to inspire me. It's only three years since Peter Ogik and Fazira Kawuma started an organisation to stop the persecution of people with albinism. Advantage Africa's support to their fledgling group helped them establish a team of committed volunteers across ten Districts and begin



Advantage Africa has helped Evelyn to have a sustainable source of income for her family by keeping poultry.

providing vital information, training, and protection from skin cancer to over 300 people with albinism. The skills we've shared working with Peter and Fazira have increased their **capacity** to the point where they recently reached over 10 million people with a message about the human rights of people



Fazira and Peter.

with albinism on national radio and TV. Sarah Nakazzi, from another of our partners in Uganda simply told me that 'working with Advantage Africa has empowered us'.

Although I met many people in desperate need in Uganda, not one of them wanted a handout. Instead, they told me about their ideas and plans to provide for their families and how, with a little equipment, working capital and training, they could find a way out of poverty that was **sustainable**.

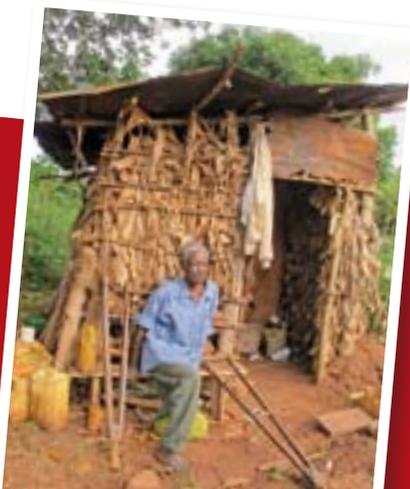
**Greater impact, capacity and sustainability** form the objectives of Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2018. In this newsletter we give examples of how we're working, with your help, to fulfil them – and so transform the lives of vulnerable people.

Andrew Betts, Director

View the full Strategic Plan on [www.advantageafrica.org/strategicplan](http://www.advantageafrica.org/strategicplan)

Charles lives in Kirondo, Uganda, sleeping in this shack he built on borrowed land. His leg was amputated following a tractor accident and he struggles with a health problem that requires surgery he can't afford. Despite his

circumstances, Charles displays no self pity and dreams of overcoming poverty by trading dried fish in the local market. Advantage Africa is fundraising to improve the lives of elderly and disabled people like him in Kirondo (more on back page).



# Greater impact and reach

Advantage Africa's grassroots work with disabled people recently gave us the opportunity to make recommendations about preventing sexual abuse against them at the Afri-CAN international disability conference in Nairobi. We persuaded the organisers to make sexual violence a theme

of the week-long event and brought people from poor communities, including a victim of abuse, to make the case for justice. It all caused quite a stir and nearly 300 delegates visited our stand to find out more about our project.



Advantage Africa presented its research into the sexual abuse of disabled people through a series of striking posters and presentations.

On 13th June, Advantage Africa supported its partner the Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism to celebrate the first ever International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) in Jinja, Uganda. Over 1,000 people, including representatives

of government and NGOs attended the event which included speeches about albinism and human rights, singing, dancing, a football match and distribution of hats and long-sleeved shirts to 350 people with albinism. The celebration was widely covered in the media and

was the top news item on three national TV stations, reaching millions of people with a message that albinism is a genetic condition, not caused by witchcraft, and that those affected should be treated with dignity and respect.

IAAD has helped more people with albinism to come forward and benefit from our education and cancer prevention services. 'It was beyond our expectations, we have never had such a national event before' said one attendee.



Friendship, solidarity and joy were shared at the IAAD.

Advantage Africa's increased impact will largely come from practical projects among vulnerable people. But we'll also take opportunities to use the lessons learned in those projects to advocate for justice and wider change so we continue to be 'a small charity making a big difference'.

## Sustainability

Over the last year, Advantage Africa has helped 80 single-parent families in Katente, Uganda, to start rearing chickens and pigs to meet their basic needs. 'We're so grateful for the change' says Betty Nalongo, 'I reared chicks and made money from the eggs to help send my children to school'.

Martin says 'Before I didn't know how to rear livestock. But now I have used the

skills I learned to earn money from my pigs to build a small house to shelter my children. Our standard of living is really improving fast'.

Pig rearing helps vulnerable families in Uganda to meet their basic needs.



The Katente water point is managed by the community for the community.



With their new-found skills, these single parents have discovered a sustainable way to provide for their families. They also pass on some of the first offspring of their breeding livestock to other vulnerable families so the project's benefits multiply in the community. Child malnutrition has decreased by 80%, school attendance has risen and the

# Increased Partners' Capacity

Advantage Africa's partnership with Mitaboni Primary School in Kenya has seen more than 100 disabled children benefit from a safe, nurturing, learning environment. The project is building the skills and capacity of the staff at the school to make a lasting difference in the lives of many young disabled people. We recently started a vocational

class and curriculum to teach older children practical skills to aid their successful transition from school into work. They now learn how to cook, sew, do woodwork, look after chickens and grow their own food.



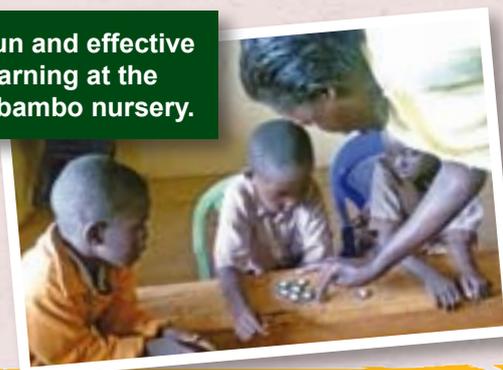
**Mitaboni Head teacher Samson Musau congratulates two of the new dormitory assistants, taking on additional responsibility for the daily care of their peers while developing their own independence skills.**

The nursery school built by the community and Advantage Africa in Obambo, western Kenya provides quality education for around 80 pre-school children, many of them orphans. Advantage Africa's Programme Manager Charlotte Cashman, an experienced early years

teacher, is supporting the teachers, Millicent and Lavender, to complement the traditional posters and 'chalk and talk' used in East Africa with more play-based activities. Charlotte recently trained them to use old bottle tops and locally-dug clay in their maths and

creative art lessons. Millicent and Lavender's teaching is becoming more interactive, fun and effective as they take on the new methods based on sound evidence of how children learn.

**Fun and effective learning at the Obambo nursery.**



**To build our partners' capacity, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan includes support to design, run and monitor effective projects as well as formal training in a wide range of topics (everything from accounting to epilepsy).**

**£10 can buy a hat, long-sleeved shirt and sunscreen to protect a person with albinism from skin cancer.**

**£50 can provide training and resources for a family to start rearing poultry or pigs.**

**£300 can train a nursery school teacher in early childhood care and education.**

single parents have made supportive friendships.

Sustainability is built in to all the project activities in Katente, including the safe water supply installed earlier this year. A small charge is made for each jerry can filled to cover the running costs of the water point. When the pump broke recently, money was available to pay for the repairs.

Another single parents' group in Uganda, in the Kampala slum of Ggaba, has shown how long-term sustainability

can be achieved. Six years on from our support to help them start making and selling crafts, the group is still going strong. Their jewellery, bags and shoes provide the members with a regular income to meet their basic needs.

**Income generation to overcome poverty is a key element of Advantage Africa's strategic goal for sustainability. We'll also help our partner organisations to fundraise locally and work to ensure our own financial growth.**

**Some of the products made by the Ggaba Single Parents' Group.**



# Funding News and Needs

## Could you?

Advantage Africa can only meet its goals for increased impact, capacity and sustainability with the help of new supporters. Could you:

- Talk to your employer, church or school about supporting Advantage Africa? *We urgently need to replace a corporate partnership that has now concluded.*
- Help vulnerable people to become self-reliant by making a regular monthly donation? *Just £10 per month could provide regular physiotherapy for a disabled child.*



Children at Kents Hill School in Milton Keynes display the £204 they raised on a big map of Africa.

- Consider including Advantage Africa in your will? *Please contact us to request a copy of our 'Legacy for Life' leaflet.*

## Sponsored events

Working with Let Yourself Trust, the charity started by our Patron Martyn Joseph, we're fundraising for our albinism project in Uganda through the Lancaster Castle 10k on Sunday 20th September. Please see [www.advantageafrica.org/lancaster10k](http://www.advantageafrica.org/lancaster10k) for details.

Creative supporter Sue Robinson is donating the money she usually spends on colouring her hair to Advantage Africa - and she's planning to stay grey until she's raised £1,500! You can hasten her return to brunette at: [www.justgiving.com/Susan-Robinson3](http://www.justgiving.com/Susan-Robinson3)

Hiking more your thing? Why not join our team taking on the Yorkshire Three Peaks on 26th September? Find out more at: [www.advantageafrica.org/y3p](http://www.advantageafrica.org/y3p)



## Fundraise for Advantage Africa - simply by shopping at Sainsbury's

Shop in store using an Everyday Shopping Card and Sainsbury's will donate 4% of your spend to **Advantage Africa** for free.

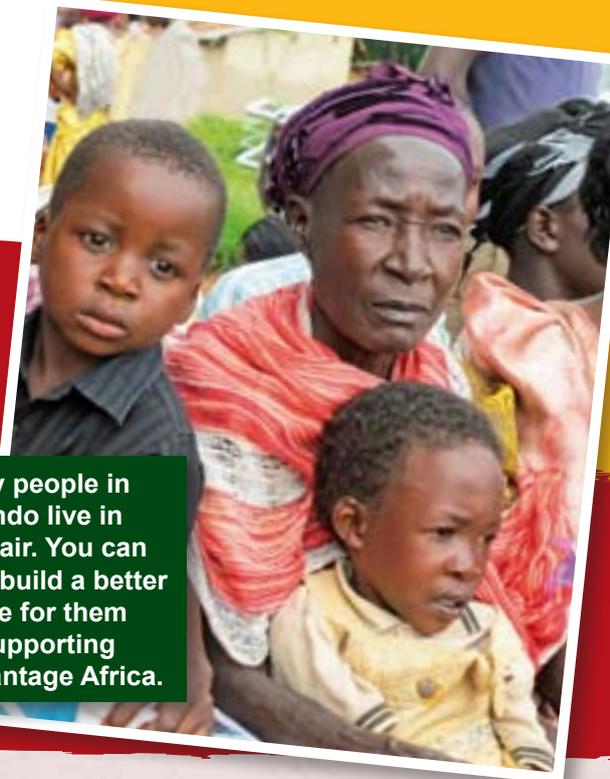
You can sign up for a card at: [www.raisewithsainsburys.com/charity/advantageafrica](http://www.raisewithsainsburys.com/charity/advantageafrica)

## Fighting Poverty in Kirondo

However you support Advantage Africa, we'll use your donations to help vulnerable families like those in Kirondo, Uganda, currently living in poverty without safe water or services for disabled and elderly

people. Their priority is the means to earn an income and they say 'fighting poverty will help us develop ourselves and make sure that everything else, including our health, is provided for.'

Many people in Kirondo live in despair. You can help build a better future for them by supporting Advantage Africa.



*Milestones* is published by Advantage Africa, who support people affected by poverty, disability and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our work helps people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities.

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