

Discover Newsletter

July 2020



Emergency relief

However badly we have been limited in our activities because of the COVID-19 crisis this year, few of us have been wondering where the next meal is coming from. Tragically, the suffering in sub-Saharan Africa is much worse.

This month, Oxfam's Interim Executive Director Chema Vera said:



Masika Jane, 45 years old with 9 children was one of the flood victims whose house collapsed. She received 15 iron sheets for roofing a new house. Masika is one of many women in this region who were abandoned by a totally irresponsible man. Family planning and gender issues play an increasing role in Discover training seminars.

*"COVID-19 is the last straw for millions of people already struggling with the impacts of conflict, climate change, inequality and a broken food system that has impoverished millions of food producers and workers. Meanwhile, those at the top are continuing to make a profit: **eight of the biggest food and drink companies paid out over \$18 billion to shareholders since January even as the pandemic was spreading across the globe – ten times more than the UN says is needed to stop people going hungry.**"*

This is the world we live in. We cannot help all the people who are suffering, but we are proud that we have been able to help some to avoid starvation as they cope with drought, flooding and COVID-19.

On behalf of all our partners, particularly in Uganda, we thank you very sincerely for your generous financial support. We have continued to help many people in desperate circumstances. A UK based appeal raised over £3500 for victims of the floods in Kasese District. Read the reports by Robert Bwambale and

Emanuel Masereka [here](#) and [here](#).

Thankfully, the floods in Kasese District did not destroy the fish tanks that Kenja Thomas and his team have been constructing. There was great joy in the community this month when the first mature fish were harvested – for consumption and for sale.

Donations received here in Germany have enabled us to support our partners with 9000 Euro to provide emergency food aid and seeds for people in desperate need. In addition, we are holding 2000 Euro in reserve to provide training in food security in two communities that have been suffering hunger as soon as the lockdown is



relaxed. Helping communities to improve their food security so that they can better cope during the crises of climate and pandemic is now a priority for Discover.

Christopher Nyakuni and his community group in Nyirivu village found that many villagers had only one very poor source of water. They organised a team, bought the necessary materials and provided the community with a reliable source of clean water. Read this report too on our homepage [here](#). They will now conduct a major sensitisation programme in the area, provide the community with essential seeds and the knowledge of how to care for them.

We were delighted that the Erbacher Stiftung agreed to support a continuation of the work of Eric Kihuluka and the Mikwano Project in Kaliro District. In spite of the current crisis, Mikwano has continued to train local farmers and to further develop the Farmer Field School.

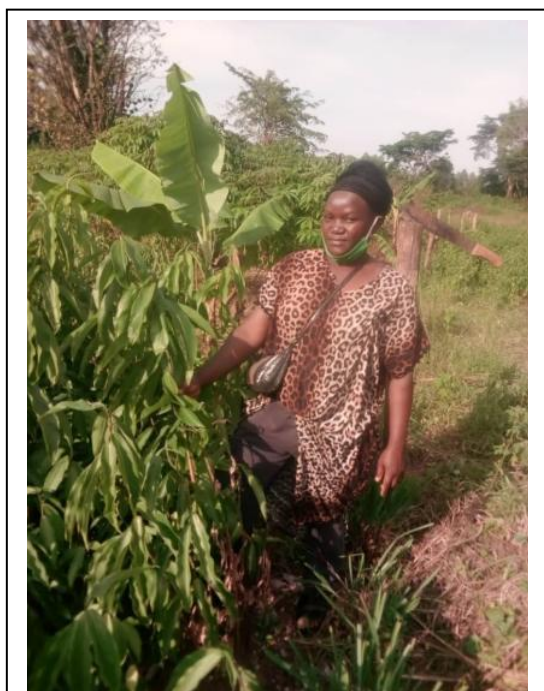


Food security: Training of local farmers in good, organic agriculture and animal fodder production continues at the Farmer Field School in Kaliro District

Meanwhile, our tree-planting initiative continues. Two Discover projects are listed under “Plant for the Planet”, see [here](#). We have applied for a local grant from Rems-Murr-Kreis to support the Kasese Network in planting 10,000 trees – but, even if we are successful, we must find another 40% to the sum we receive.

Our outstanding needs are:

1. Rehema Namyalo has the vision of a herbal clinic, training centre and demonstration farm. This will be a major contribution to food security through the training seminars she conducts for people from all over Uganda. Many people she has already trained are surviving the COVID-19 crisis because of the produce from their own gardens. Rehema’s new garden is already very productive with many vegetables, herbs, fruit trees and indigenous agroforestry trees. We have committed ourselves to helping her to make the first step – to build her own home on this site. This will enable her to move away from the abuse she still receives from her former husband, and to supervise on site the further developments. Our total target is £6400, we have raised £3400 but still require £3000.



Rehema in her new demonstration garden

2. Christopher Nyakuni wishes to provide further training for a very poor community he first trained several years ago in the village of Pumit near the River Nile. The training will include soap making, tippy-tap construction, simple natural medicine, water purification and organic gardening. For this we are seeking £3500.

All contributions, however small, are VERY welcome!

Take care!

Keith Lindsey and the Discover team