

Discover Newsletter

November 2020



Overcoming crises

Our tireless Discover partners have had their hands full this year. Not only have they had to cope with the COVID crisis, but many regions have suffered terrible flooding and even plagues of locusts.



In Kasese District, Uganda, severe flooding in May and October cost 30 people their lives. Many families lost their homes and crops. On each occasion Discover responded with an appeal. On the second occasion, generous donors in the UK supported the Discover Kasese Network team with about £3300. Then, after distributing mattresses and building materials to more than 40 families, Robert Bwambale, our local, highly dedicated partner, became aware of two more families in desperate need. The houses and gardens of both were

completely destroyed. The picture on the left above shows one of the families: Mbindule Florence, a widow with her eight children.

The second picture shows a flood victim, Kabugho Gevina, with seedlings of *Prunus Africana*. She will help many other women to plant trees as well.

Discover is supporting a much bigger tree planting programme which will help to stabilise the soil and enable heavy rains to soak into the ground. The trees will also provide food, medicines, timber and habitat for insects and birds. Robert Bwambale writes, *"All those who are getting help from the money you sent us are also asking for trees to plant, because now they know the importance of trees"*.



Rehema gives mucuna powder to each participant at tea break in Katakwi – mucuna bean tea helps to relieve stress and to reduce high blood pressure. Mucuna is a useful leguminous cover crop.

Also with the aim of helping people to be able to cope with future crises, Rehema Namyalo trained a group of people for three days in Katakwi, an area in north-east Uganda with good soils and lots of potential but which has also suffered from floods and where the knowledge of successful farming methods has been lost.

The training focussed on food security and included an introduction to organic farming principles and practices, production of herbal and washing bar soap, artemisia cultivation and its use to treat malaria and other diseases, production of medicinal oils and ointments and healing massage and exercise. The group Vumbula (Discover) Katakwi was formed and committed themselves to put their learning into practice.

The Uganda national training team led by Rehema Namyalo will run an intensive week-long training seminar during the week beginning 22 February next year for a community in Wakiso. If you have links with a grassroots project in Uganda, then please think about sponsoring a local project worker to attend. See [here](#) for more details.

From 14 to 18 December in northwest Uganda Christopher Nyakuni will provide training in the Punit community where instruction in productive farming methods, natural healthcare and tree planting is - as almost everywhere in the country - very urgently needed. He and his local colleague in Punit have already helped the community with hygiene measures and in the local production of facemasks.



Christopher was already in Punit earlier this year. Here he is showing the group how to propagate *Artemisia annua* by taking cuttings



Gideon Obaikol in Soroti, Uganda, has trained a further 5 “street boys” in carpentry and awarded them with their certificates today on 7 December. The graduates of the first cohort are already beginning to stand on their own feet by making chairs and tables.

In conclusion let me express my very grateful thanks to all our friends and supporters for your moral and financial support. It is quite extraordinary how our partners make even a little money go a long way!

You may contribute to our appeal for the victims of floods in Kasese District here, <https://tinyurl.com/y6mw8db5> and support our ongoing programme of training and tree planting via the Stewardship Trust (www.stewardship.org.uk) or Afrinspire (via Mandy Boulton ufund.afrinspire@gmail.com) – each time making it clear that your donation is for Discover.

We wish you a blessed Advent.

Keith Lindsey and the Discover-Team