

Sponsorship News Spring 2024

Greetings from Potter's village. The trustees have just had a successful trip out to Kisoro to see how the project is running. We are delighted to be able to report that it is recovering from Covid and now thriving. Last year we faced great financial anxiety, as we had to open a third baby room in the Crisis centre to accommodate the extra babies coming our way, resulting from the pandemic. (The reason for this was not entirely clear, but probably relating to intense instability in the job market. Many businesses went to the wall, and this played out as an increase in the number of abandoned babies.) This resulted in outgoings which would have been unsustainable over the long term. Things have now returned to normal, we have been able to close one of the baby rooms, and outgoings have returned to the pre pandemic level, a great answer to prayer.

We now have around 15 babies in the crisis centre, and most are doing well and developing normally. Many will return eventually to extended family, and in some cases to their own young mothers, which is particularly pleasing. There are also around 40 babies now being cared for in the community, up to the age of five, with support from Potter's. They are monitored monthly at a clinic held in the grounds, and those that can't make it are monitored on home visits. We visited several while there. It is always humbling to meet the carers, often grandparents, raising them in conditions of heart breaking poverty. The norm, for living quarters, is a small hut with an earth floor, and two rooms, with barely a stick of furniture in them and nothing else. Cooking is done outside over an open fire in a single pot. No toys , or indeed clothes, are in evidence. However, our social worker Festo does take both food and clothes when visiting the poorest families, and we took gifts of rice and sugar, which they were touchingly pleased to receive. The lady in the photo below is a grandmother to three children, and also fosters two of ours, despite being unsupported herself ! She has done a very good job, and our little boy is almost ready to return to his extended family. You can see our dedicated social worker, Festo, beside her.





The medical centre is adjusting to being run by clinical officers, without a doctor on site (our CMS link mission partner, Nicci Maxwell, moved on last May). This has been an adjustment but seems to be working reasonably well, with very experienced clinical officers in charge and we are exploring the possibility of getting doctors in training, on rotation from a nearby hospital. The government is also in process of setting up an HIV clinic, to support both children and adults with HIV, on the site. This is at an early stage but we are hopeful that it will become a useful source of income and medical support. We are continuing to offer invaluable service to malnourished children, immunisation clinics, and a physiotherapy support service for disabled children- the only one available locally- which is proving very popular. We also offer ante and post natal services and have the occasional delivery- a member of the Batwa (pygmy) community delivered a daughter while we were there!

All of this is only possible because of your sacrificial , regular support. The families always thank us from the bottom of their hearts, and I want to pass that on to you, who make it all possible. You are helping some of the poorest people on earth. May God bless you all, and thanks from all the trustees at Friends of Potter's village.

Rosy Martin.

Sponsorship Liaison Officer

Friends of Potter's Village

PS If you don't get our regular newsletter, do click on the link on our website and sign up for it-it comes out three times per year and is a fund of information !

