



His Very Own

(Uganda)

One of the partners we have worked with for that last few years has been Fuel Uganda. They are a group based out of the US that works with Ugandan partners to help facilitate discipleship and community development work here. We have worked with them several times and share their enthusiasm for evangelism and church training in Karamoja, they have been helping us over the last year in the process of trying to install a borehole for the community of Lomorucubae.

One of the other projects that Fuel works with in Uganda is focused on resettlement and home construction for Batwa families in Kisoro (SW Uganda). During Fuel's visit to work with us in Karamoja in January, I shared with them the success we were having with rabbit revolving loans with the Batwa in Buhoma, a town near Kisoro.

One project proposal, three months of planning, one wire transfer, and 16 hours of driving later; we were in Kisoro by the last week of April. Together with Rachel and Nathan, our teammate Jennifer, and Kenneth from our church, we visited the homes of all the families that Fuel has been resettling in the Kisoro area. Moving them from the slums in town to dual family properties in the rural farming communities surrounding town gives them the opportunity to work in their own gardens, live in their own houses, restore their dignity, and be discipled by partner churches.

We held the first training as part of the rabbit revolving loan program and left them with the task of planting their forage seedlings and building their rabbit hutches in preparation of receiving their loans. We also conducted a baseline survey of the nine participants and found that only four own any livestock of their own – two had chickens, one had a pig, and one had a pig and two rabbits. In a country where almost every household owns livestock for subsistence or economic stability, this is a great indicator of the vulnerable state of the Batwa communities.

The Batwa participants reported their average meat consumption was six times annually – meaning they have meat to eat at home only once every two months. Three of the 9 participants reported they could only eat meat once a year or less. One of our project goals is to help combat childhood malnutrition through increased protein consumption in Batwa households.

I love working on this project because I love partnering with the Batwa, working with them to look for sustainable solutions to supplement their fragile livelihoods. In February, we completed our work with our rabbit loan group with the Batwa living around Buhoma. I finished their final training and distributed 28 rabbits. We look forward to the reports in the next few months as they begin to pay back their loans and generate income for their families. We were also able to establish community piggery projects at that same time in two Batwa settlements there.



Nathan helping Rachel sort out the forage seedlings before distribution



The participants and the church organizers after completing their training

It hasn't just been rabbits and pigs around here though. In April, I was in Gulu (northern Uganda – Acholi people group) to train a group of vulnerable community members as we establish a goat revolving loan project there at a church in Bobi. With each group that we establish, rabbits or pigs or goats, one of our main objectives is to empower and equip the local church to provide follow-up for the group members.

Please pray for our local partners as they interact regularly with these loan group members. Pray for the process of discipleship during this time of outreach. We pray that all their conversations will be filled with grace, their actions with love, and that Jesus is proclaimed throughout this process.

Pray for our partners in Kisoro – Fuel Uganda and Kisoro Town Baptist Church led by Pastor George Mbonye and working with Pastors Constant, Johnson, Richard, and Joseph.

Pray for our partner in Buhoma – Batwa Development Program (under Church of Uganda) led by Rev. Canon Enos Komunda and working with Sylvia (agriculture department) and Rev. Christopher.

Pray for our partner in Gulu – Church of Uganda, Bobi led by Rev. Canon Jackson Ocan and overseen by Bishop Johnson Gakumba.

Sincerely,
Daniel & Rachel



The community piggery group at Kitariro

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