

busogatrust

water. sanitation. hygiene.

busoga**bugle**



Autumn 2020

From the Editor

It is an amazing privilege to help our fellow human beings enjoy clean water and good sanitation and hygiene, the basic building blocks of life. Every day B.T. is helping to transform the lives of hundreds of people. But this year, 2020, has also been transformative for B.T.. After the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, on 31st March, the President urged all water agencies “to prioritise the repair of non-functioning boreholes”. B.T. immediately launched a borehole rehabilitation programme in April, thanks to the initiative of our Country Manager and the willingness of our dedicated staff.

We soon found ourselves on a journey of discovery. We found that most boreholes were only down because of a short-sighted policy to fit them with parts either made from galvanised iron or from cheap stainless steel. In some countries this may have worked well, but in Uganda's volcanic waters, it was a disaster, for they rusted badly in less than three years (see cover photo).

So what these boreholes need to produce good water is what B.T. provides, good quality stainless steel pipes, rods, and pumps. We renew the concrete aprons and soakaways and add a plastic water tank with hand sanitiser for everyone to practise hand washing. Our Community Development Officers (CDOs) meanwhile promote domestic hygiene and sanitation for all homes. Thus in 3 days most boreholes have come back to life. This is so quick, so effective and such good value that B.T. feels we have struck a rich new seam of WASH gold. Currently, we are rehabilitating 25 boreholes in 5 Districts each month, clean water for over 20,000 people.



*(Cover photo: Rusted water sprays out of a non-functional borehole in Nakabembe village Buyende. Photograph by **Moses Mugabane.**)*

*(Left: Children enjoying clean, safe water from their rehabilitated borehole in Nabitende Namundola Community. Photograph by **Musa Sentongo.**)*

Life After Death

We think of “life after death” as a statement of the divine. In rural Uganda, it describes the here and now. “**naikonto nfu**” – “the borehole is dead” is how people speak of their non-functioning borehole. And that is not just a metaphor. It is a statement of an existential crisis. A dead borehole no longer supplies the lifegiving water upon which we all depend for our very existence. Like the borehole at Bukalimo in Buyende, which had been “dead” for four years. If the water supply is down in the U.K. for just a few hours, that is a major event. But, in rural Uganda, a dead borehole is a disaster with no hope of resurrection. Nobody comes, nobody cares, there is an awful sense of finality. In frustration, the children of Bukalimo, stuffed their borehole full of rubbish.



(A "dead" borehole in Bukalimo, Buyende, down for 4 years.
Photograph by **Hussein Ibanda.**)

Then one day B.T. arrived after a 120km journey across flooded roads, impassable to most vehicles, but not to our Landrovers (this year Uganda has had record rainfall and Lake Victoria has risen higher than ever before). Seven adults were needed to heave the rusty pipes out of Bukalimo’s 200ft borehole. In three days, this dead borehole had come back to life! Now everything glistened in the sunlight: the new stainless-steel pump head and pedestal, all the new stainless-steel rods, cylinders and pipes, the concrete apron smoothly refashioned and the bright blue handwashing water tank glistening too. Yes, in Buyende today, there is life after death!

Atanansi Basalirwa,
Technical Supervisor

(Children celebrating the clean, safe water from the rehabilitated borehole in Bukalimo. Photograph by **Hussein Ibanda.**)



A Buyende Mother's Battle with Water Poverty

38-year-old mother of 5 Nancy Nakayima and her husband keep cattle, sheep and goats as subsistence farmers in the Buyende cattle corridor.

5 years ago, their borehole broke down. Ever since she and her family have trekked 5 miles each way everyday to collect water. Usually, Nancy's 12-year-old daughter leads her siblings in the cool of the evening by foot or by bike. The borehole is always crowded. This takes up hours each day and they must share their precious water with their thirsty animals. "I would rather give it to the animals on time than use it for bathing and other domestic needs", Nancy says knowing how much they depend on their livestock. Such shortages cause

embarrassment when visitors come. But Nancy is so positive and brave. She is a quiet, "can-do" hero. **The good news is B.T. is about to rehabilitate their local borehole!**

Richard Muzaale, Community Dev. Officer & Radio Presenter

(Cows drinking from a traditional water source, which is also used by villagers to collect water. Sharing a water source with animals often leads to sickness. Photograph by Rose Nannozi.)



*(Nancy's children on their 5-mile walk home from collecting water from the nearest functional borehole. Photograph by **Richard Muzaale.**)*



B.T.'s Orphans

HIV AIDS hit B.T. hard in the 1990s. Several of our Ugandan staff tested positive. Still young and otherwise healthy and beautiful, they were part of the generation which had no warning before they began to succumb to this deadly virus. Their last days were saddened by the many children they could no longer assist.

Thanks to two wonderful U.K. donors, B.T. has now seen most of these children through their education and into jobs. Our compassionate Country Manager, Johnson Waibi, has taken a personal interest in each and every orphan. B.T. paid for their school fees, books and uniforms. Some have taken university degrees. Many have got diplomas and qualifications for good jobs. Others could not wait to leave school and start work. Henry, son of Chief Technician Tom Ngobi, joined B.T. as an Outrider, and three daughters of Edward Muyage, recently became volunteer CDOs.

Sadly, some orphans inherited the AIDS virus from their parents. However, their health has been stabilised by successful treatment costing £400 per annum each, which B.T. has funded after they had seen one of the best doctors in Uganda, Dr Stockley. Diagnosis is everything and Dr. Stockley has successfully treated several seriously ill B.T. staff over the years. Bilharzia, leptospirosis, borellia, giardia, desert virus, helicobacter pylori, you name it, he's found it!

Derrick is the son of former Chief Technician, David Mayuge. David was a larger than life character, who died in 2006 from AIDS. Derrick became ill in 2016. He had T.B., back pain and was passing blood. Johnson had him taken from Jinja hospital to see Dr. Stockley in Kampala and B.T.

paid all the bills. "Johnson saved my life", says Derrick, "I am no longer sick". His mother thanked B.T. for educating all David's many children and commented she was so grateful for Johnson's complete honesty.

B.T. has cared for all these orphans without fuss or fanfare thanks to two generous donors both called Mark. Maybe we should blow the Bugle a little for it is a story full of hope and love.

Agnes Birabwa, Bugembe Manager

(Derrick (left) with his mother and aunt.

*Photograph submitted by **Agnes Birabwa.**)* 5



Life Before Death



*(You'd be forgiven for thinking this image is of children playing with water in puddles, when sadly they are collecting water from holes to take home to their family. Photograph by **Moses Mugabane.**)*

There can be few more graphic images of war or natural disaster than that of a child suckling its dead mother's breast. Yet, that is the image presented in Uganda when a child tries to draw water out of a dead borehole. It was the efforts of such a child to draw water which in 1982 inspired the creation of the Busoga Trust. It speaks of how the adult world has failed its own most vulnerable children and fallen down on its sacred responsibility for the transmission of life.

Such images cannot be rationalised or excused. Their only exorcism is prompt action to restore the means of life, a functioning borehole.

Joseph Ssebunya, Outrider & Chief Mitigator

*(A "dead" borehole in Luwero, down for several years, soon to be rehabilitated. Photograph submitted by **Lydia Nakato.**)*



Land Rovers Keep the Show on the Road!

*(Photographs submitted by **Emmy Nsubuga**, Transport Manager, "Many communities thought they could not be reached due to floods and very bad roads in our areas of operation, but our Land Rovers enabled us to reach all places. All thanks to our incredibly supportive transport supremo and super mechanical engineer **David Balmer**, who has built and maintained our fleet of Land Rovers for nearly 20 years".)*



Hope comes to Buyende

When I visited my cousin Najuwa in Buyende the place looked abandoned. Nobody wanted anything to do with it. The people living there were on their own, left to their own devices with no support of any kind.

Yet, somehow, Najuwa had lived in Irundu village all her life. Now married with 5 children, her day begins at 5am with the first of three or four trips of 3km to collect water. But, what kind of water? Stagnant, smelly, gungy water from a swamp which the people share with their animals and in which they wash, swim and fish.

When I stayed for one week, I too suffered diarrhoea and stomach problems like everybody else, especially the children. But now, someone has heard their cries and change is coming to Buyende. Ladies and gentlemen, B.T. has come to the rescue!

You can see the joy in peoples' faces! Cousin Najuwa cannot hide her happiness as she takes her first short walk to collect clean water from the nearby borehole. And she is also so proud to have a cousin who works for the Busoga Trust!

Zahara Kyotawaire, Office Cleaner

(The rehab programme has also benefitted children, especially girls, who can now safely collect water without being attacked on the journey to and from the water source. They can now spend more time in school by taking less time collecting water and fewer sick days due to water borne diseases. Photograph by Joseph Semugula.)



(The rehab programme has brought relief to many women who are now less likely to experience gender-based violence due to fewer delays collecting water, and have more time to spend on income generating activities. Photograph by Suzan Birungi.)



Quotable Quotes

We had many submissions to the Bugle this Autumn from our teams in Uganda and have included some brilliant quotes below:

“Try soap”, says passionate CDO **Ntono Juliet**, “because soap:

SHIELDS from Covid-19

OVERCOMES harmful bacteria

ACCELERATES washing and breastfeeding

PACKS a big hygiene punch!

Plus, in 2020 SOAP conquered the World!”



“Prevention is better than cure!” So says hygiene maestro **Vickie Tumwebaze**, the Luwero Manager. “In the face of many infections and drug resistant pathogens, healthcare experts are calling for a return to the basics of preventing infection by simple hand hygiene. Scientific evidence supports this view and it is re-emphasized by the Covid crisis. The Busoga Trust in Luwero has gone the extra mile and has given out 2,500 small jerry cans with bars of soap for personal hygiene.”



(B.T. provides communities with water tanks and liquid soap for handwashing, & large bars of soap for households as part of our Covid-19 response.

*Top: an older child shows a younger child how to wash their hands. Photograph by **Moses Mugabane**.*

*Middle: A child uses a tippy tap made from locally available materials. Photograph by **Eddie Lukwago**.*

*Bottom: Children queuing to wash their hands before using the borehole. Photographs submitted by **Moses Mugabane**.)*

“No more running home for girls at my school”, says Headteacher of Namasuba Primary School, Mrs. Nakato. “The construction of a washroom for girls gives them privacy for washing and changing. So missing classes due to periods is now history!”

Rose Nannozi, CDO

“It’s time to celebrate the good news!”

so says Jinja Manager **Gabriel Angura**. “Take 12 year old Joy in Kamuli District. Joy says with a captivating smile “We now have clean water in our community, no more long walks for me, and no more missing school!” Joy dreams of becoming an engineer, a dream which may well come true.”

“The least recognised cause of poverty is lack of available clean water. So much time and energy is spent in the chore of struggling to find water.” Zahara Kyowataire.

“Water was never enough until now!” So says B.T. doyen and Luwero Financial Administrator **Kaboyo Winifred**. “The broken boreholes were for me a **nightmare**, especially in this pandemic, leaving me deeply buried in thought! But now, you see the smiling faces of people whose sources have been restored. It's unbelievable! What a ray of hope! Long live our donors!”.

“It used to be a tug of war”, thus Ntale Samuel, Isimba Nabyama Well Chairman, described the collection of well maintenance contributions. “Some users accused us on the committee of “eating their money!” but **now the PBR is building trust**”. WSP Katakawange Fred’s preventative maintenance, ensuring 100% functionality, has brought peace and confidence to the community.

Siima Patricia, CDO

“No passing by on the other side – it’s that simple!” so says Luwero Technical Supervisor, **Ainembabazi Jasper**. Some things you do instinctively, because that’s who you are. **B.T. decided in 2015 to rehabilitate all water sources by all actors** because of the famous story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan. That decision keeps opening up exciting new challenges and possibilities.



*(B.T.'s CDOs train women and girls in menstrual hygiene and making reusable pads. This reduces period stigma, brings people together and saves money too! Photograph by **Harriet Naigaga.**)*



*(A child holds up a big bar of soap, donated by B.T. to her family. Photograph by **Ronald Madaba.**)*

In Uganda, radio is the most used and affordable means of National communication. TVs, computers and newspapers are beyond the rural purse, but every home listens to the radio. B.T. hires slots each week on Kamuli FM Radio in the evening when all the family are at home.

Richard and Baisi are natural communicators, Richard having had professional training and Baisi having made a name for himself for eloquent teaching. They front the Trust's programmes and have found a keen response.

In Buyende, there are now 70 communities with around 70,000 people who have seen their dead boreholes come back to life since April. This has generated much excitement and appreciation. The chief question people keep asking reflects their deepest concerns. It is "how can we ensure that our borehole won't fail again?". Remember that it has been down often for many years and all that time they have suffered many burdens. Especially the burden of trekking every day at least a mile or even several miles to collect clean water from a distant borehole or else make do with open ponds and dirty water. Then they have struggled home, with each jerry can filled with 20 litres of water, weighing 44lbs. So these interactive radio broadcasts touch a nerve. There is so much at stake for these communities and they need to get it right.

Richard Muzaale, Community Development Officer & Radio Presenter



(B.T. sets new trend- masks worn during rehab works in Kiteeso Community. Photograph by Dan Mulaavu.)



(B.T. also rehabilitates non-functional shallow hand dug wells (SHDW) and rainwater harvesting tanks.

*Left: **Before** - Kyoga SHDW, non-functional for 4 years, left community members to collect water from open ponds.*

*Right: **After** - Children collecting water from the rehabilitated well, which now provides enough safe, clean water for the whole community. Photograph by Dan Mulaavu.)*



*(Left: Children celebrating their newly rehabilitated borehole: all rehabs are enrolled onto our PBR programme of sustainable maintenance. Photograph by **Musa Sentongo**.*

*Right: B.T.'s first ever borehole at Pilkington College is testament to B.T.'s commitment to functionality- still functional after 36 years! Photograph by **Immaculate Nannyunja**.*

*Back Cover: Children enjoying clean water in the rain. Photograph by **Jimmy Lubanga.**)*

B.T.'s Progress in 2020

In a year like no other, B.T. is pleased to report that, despite the uncertainties and anxieties faced by the world in general and the charitable sector in particular because of the global pandemic, 2020 has been our best ever year for outputs. We owe this both to our wonderful donors and to our dedicated staff.

Community water sources to the 31st October 2020 total 221, and we hope to achieve 271 by the end of the year. This is more outputs than we have ever done before, clean water for over 150,000 people, all supported by the intensive programme of hygiene and sanitation which accompanies each water source.

This exciting progress is due to the wonderful generosity of our faithful donors and the resourceful and tireless efforts of our Ugandan staff. At a time when most agencies and NGOs shut down in April with the national lockdown, B.T. opened up. Johnson, the Country Manager, obtained the necessary travel permits for all our vehicles to move through the roadblocks and called for volunteers to prioritise the repair of non-functioning boreholes. Although everyone was guaranteed their salary, it was heart-warming that so many volunteered. B.T. have learned that there are officially well over 6,000 boreholes needing rehabilitations across Uganda and in practise there are likely to be many more. This leaves many millions without the clean water they once enjoyed. The excitement among communities who have lost their clean water, often for many years, at the arrival of B.T. and the speed and effectiveness of our work to restore them in a very few days has generated a huge response.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters who have helped to us keep the show on the road over the past 6 months. From tea parties, to fundraising walks and individual donations, from cake sales to running everyday to raise money for Busoga Trust - THANK YOU.

If you would like to do your own fundraising challenge for B.T., get in touch with us using the details below. Your donations can provide:

£3,500 – New Shallow Well

£2,000 – Major Rehabilitation of a Borehole

£1,500 – Major Rehabilitation of a Shallow Well

£800 – Minor Rehabilitation of a Shallow Well

DONATE TODAY

Become a regular – Our regular donors are invaluable. If you would like to become a regular donor, you can do so by using the details below:

Online via our website donate button – www.busogatrust.co.uk

Standing Order – The Busoga Trust, Sort Code **60-07-29**, Acc. No. **39810399**

Cheque – payable to “The Busoga Trust” and sent to our address below

GET IN TOUCH

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