

CRISIS NEWSLETTER

For donkey's years, we Trustees have insisted our Newsletter *is* a NEWS letter, *not* a begging letter! Then this happens...



NOTDEC's nearest town is Kasese on the river Nyamwamba. On 7th September, the river burst its banks for the second time this year.

NOTDEC Farm Manager Gabriel lives in Kasese. He and his neighbours have been ordered to vacate their homes by April 2025 to make way for drainage channels to prevent future flooding.

In NOTDEC's early days, the sad story would have ended there – with all the children safe and sound miles away in the orphanage village at Kabirizi.



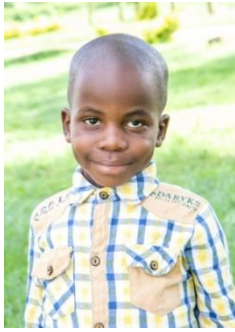
But, since 2018, the Ugandan Government has cut back orphanages – licensing us to care for children initially only for 3 years. Then, we must look for extended family willing & able to care for them, and eventually manage their relocation.

So now, most children over 6 live with family, scattered throughout surrounding areas, up in the hills, **and in Kasese.**

The facts, then, have changed. All NOTDEC children are no longer safe and sound – one is homeless. NOTDEC's Farm Manager & family are affected too. And climate change means it could get worse!
So we have changed our minds. THIS Newsletter is undeniably an APPEAL – an appeal to YOU.

If you are able, please help.

Lawrence Needs Your Help



Lawrence – age 9 – has had a dramatic life. When his mother was harvesting coffee, he was a baby in his big sister’s arms. The family group was struck by lightning. Only Lawrence survived – his left side burnt. Later, he had a cataract removed from his left eye. Care at NOTDEC followed. But, to comply with Government policy, Lawrence went to live with his aunt and uncle in Kasese when he was 7. Now, he is **homeless** – their house, literally washed away in floods in April 2024. Amidst continuing chaos, the family are doing what they can. They’ve bought some land, but building a new house is a tall order - £5,500 tall!

So Too do Gabriel & his Family



Gabriel’s family’s home is behind the wall (above). By April 2025, they too will be homeless. NOTDEC Uganda staff are considering how they can support the family! In Uganda, compensation is unlikely – even for quitting your home to make way for huge new drainage channels to prevent future floods! Work might start years late; but the proximity of flooding shows the risks of raising a family here with climate change inexorably making matters worse.

“It never rains... but it pours!” Reports from our social workers show that a few NOTDEC children now live with families whose housing is appalling. We rebuilt one of the worst recently – but for the floods there’d be pictures here to prove it! The Lord gives us eyes to see, and we cannot ignore *what* we see. So, in addition to flood relief, NOTDEC UK Trustees believe we should strive to improve the family homes of the few NOTDEC children living in the very worst housing.

Our Appeal

Can you help NOTDEC to help Lawrence & Gabriel – and NOTDEC children living in the worst conditions? If all gifts were Gift Aided, we’d need to raise only £4,400 for a £5,500 house!

If you would like to help ... please pay your gift into NOTDEC's account at CAF Bank:

Sort Code:	40 52 40	Account number:	00096601
Account name:	NOTDEC UK	Reference:	Housing Fund

Gifts will be used to rehouse Lawrence & family, and then (at the discretion to NOTDEC UK Trustees) to help rehouse Gabriel & family and/or to improve the family housing of NOTDEC children living in poor conditions.

Of Course Life at NOTDEC Goes On

Resettlement

As Ugandan law requires, NOTDEC seeks to resettle children with any known extended family able and willing to look after them properly. This December, taking their belonging (+ new bedding) with them, the seven children below will go to live with members of their wider family.



Aphofia (7) Cornelius (6) Davis (5) & his twin Simon Mary (6) Naume K (7) Naume M (6)

In Uganda, children “belong” to their father, so most will join their paternal family. This was Impossible for Davis & Simon, who will live with their *maternal* grandfather (& grandmother!)



A New Social Worker

NOTDEC Uganda has just appointed a 29th staff member.

Lillian has a degree in social work. She has wide experience in research and organisational roles – focusing on girls & young women, social issues like gender-based violence, community health, children & young people. But, with a third child on the way, she knows about childcare too.

We wish Lillian the very best in her new role.

Dan Progressing



November 2023 Dan – smiling! Now

To correct his knock knees, Dan is on **guided growth surgery treatment**. In Nov 2023, metal plates were **implanted** on the inner side of each knee, inhibiting growth in that direction. The outer side of each knee was free to grow normally.

So, as he’s grown, his legs have straightened. Magic! But slowly.

A final review in September 2024 confirmed that he’s made the necessary progress. So now Dan must go back to the CoRSU hospital, Kampala on 23rd October for a second operation – to remove the plates. He should be there for just a few days. Let’s pray that it all goes well.

New Sponsors Needed

2024 has been tough – and not just in Uganda. Sponsors too have felt the pressure. So 3 children now need sponsors. **Aron** is our usual new-born – his picture taken in August 2024 when he was in the incubator at Kagando Hospital. **Cornelius** (soon off to live with his family) and **Jonan** were both sponsored until recently. But their sponsors have withdrawn for financial reasons. We hope new sponsors can be found who will see them through education and onward into independent adult life



Aron (2 months)

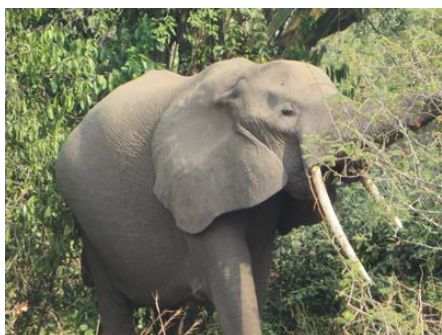


Cornelius (6)



Jonan (7)

Security Matters



The terrorist attack on tourists in the adjacent QE Game Park in October 2023, and the threat of elephant intrusion inevitably make NOTDEC staff nervous. How much should we spend on security - and **how** should we spend it? NOTDEC's site & farm cover a huge area, so solar lighting & razor wire fences would cost a bomb, and NOTDEC would still not be 100% secure. But gunfire should deter potential intruders and has scared-off elephants – the latter quite recently! So we now employ two army guards at night at 800,000 UGX (£165) per month. Local advice says that is reasonable and proportionate

Can UK Trustees Now Visit NOTDEC?

Since the 2023 terrorist attack, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office has advised against non-essential travel to western Uganda. That makes obtaining travel insurance difficult.

Hard Work – and Triumph?



Planning the Newsletter, **this** was our sure-fire “happy ending”! NOTDEC's NGO status & childcare Licence were up for 5-year renewal. Director Editor & Accountant Annah had beavered away sorting out all the paperwork, and Editor was in Kampala to see things through.

That was presumption! Sadly, over a fortnight later, Editor STILL has her back to the wall!

NOTDEC Uganda's original licence was in the name of a Company – now lapsed because on-going taxes & stamp duty were not paid. To complete the licence renewal, the authorities want lots of additional information – including the dates of birth of all company officers (or dates of death of any now deceased.)

Please pray that the Lord will shepherd Editor through all this bureaucracy, and on to victory!

NOTDEC Trustees