



## ***WHAT THE FOUNDER FOUND***



### **Photographs and transcripts of interviews by John Maitland on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Kamuli and Bugaya, Uganda.**

On my brief, possible final, two-week visit to Uganda I returned to the places and the people in the east that Hilary and I knew when we lived there from 1963 to 1976. I visited projects there, including a school supported by the family of Hilary's sister. On my way back to Kampala to see more old friends and discuss some vital issues with staff and Board of Uganda Development Services (Uganda), I had one precious day visiting the 'front line' – the place where UDS gives people the means to climb out of their prison of poverty.

UDS (Uganda) is an autonomous organisation – run by Ugandans for Ugandans and supported by UDS (UK). See the back pages for the staff and Board.

In the UK, Uganda Development Services is Charity No 1040271 & Company No 2952594  
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The main action for UDS takes place in Kamuli where it runs a Development Centre, consisting of a library, computer training, resource centre, computer repairs and a cyber café. From there it goes out to schools and to farmers. I start with library users and then go out to the farmers. The text is all transcribed from my audio tape. So it is "from the horse's mouth" stuff – from the farmers or staff, with translation where necessary. The parts in "quotation marks" are actual spoken words.



PETER MUMBYA

This young man served us in our hotel in Kamuli. He has done O levels and A levels. He did Fine Art, Economics, Chemistry, and Geography at A level. The UDS library, he says, helped him to get good grades. He found "the right books" in the UDS library. Even when he was out of school because of having no school fees, he paid 50p a week to enable him to go on reading in the UDS library. The staff "are my friends – they know me very well".



ALEX CAPO

He is doing his A levels for the first time and is in the UDS library. It is exam time and he is free today, Friday, but has a Physics exam. on Monday. So he is revising his physics. He finds the library quiet and the books are good. "The workers are fine. They provide all the required 'documents' for the students." The books they are required to read are all there. "It is open at 8 in the morning – a quiet time - and they close it at 7. After lunch they open at 2. It is operating well. I have been using the library since I started Senior 5." He is now ending Senior 6.



KAMYA PRIDE

This young lady is revising for her A level Physics. She is also doing history, Economics, Geography, Entrepreneurship. "I like studying here because it is conducive. It is quiet and there are some books here where you can get extra ideas. The books are different from the ones at school, so you can compare the ideas. I come almost every day and have been using the library for almost 5 years."



GEORGE NGOBI



Here is George and his wife, Diasinga and three grandchildren. They also have a water tank, built through a Uganda Development Services project. "Firstly I want to thank UDS for giving me the opportunity to be trained. I

lagged behind. I had nothing that could generate my income. When I got training, after joining UDS, I woke up out of sleep and I came to utilise my piece of land. Now I am able to take a daily income. I have been trained on income-generating activities and sustainable agriculture, growing pineapples and matoke (green banana), passion fruit, water melon and carrots. After we were trained we were taken for a study tour\*. On the tour the demonstration farmer taught us a lot. It was from there that UDS provided pineapple and banana suckers so as to enable us to implement what we had seen and what we had been trained on. My dear guest, I am glad that I am one of the people who got a tank.

By selling pineapples, bananas and suckers, I get 2,000/- Ug Shs (Uganda Shillings) a day\*\*. Before that I was getting some income about every 3 months. My daily expenditure was about 200/- Ug Shs a day (6p) which was not adequate. I got it from selling bananas, coffee and cassava stems. Even the 200/- Ug Shs was not daily, but maybe every 4 days or so. I now get income every day. People come to the house to buy and I also take my produce on a bicycle to sell in the local market.

If there is any other project or opportunity, I am very willing and able to enter into it. I have trained 20 other farmers. UDS taught me and I was able to impart that to other farmers. What I taught them is what has made them love me! I do my best to check on their progress. People admire us and want to join in the UDS project. "

\* This was to a large successful farm in Nkuliaku, Kamuli, from where UDS also obtains its pineapple and banana suckers for distribution.

\*\*ie: 60p or \$1. Absolute poverty is defined as an income below this daily level.

#### GEORGE NGOBI – Pineapples

He was given 400 suckers & bought 600 more, so he had 1,000 pineapple plants. When the pineapple fruit is cut off, any suckers can be removed & used and the plant left to grow another fruit. The suckers are sold or used to enlarge his pineapple fields. He now has about 1,200 plants.





The picture on the left shows suckers at the base of the plant where a pineapple has grown and been harvested. The sucker can be planted to create a new plant and the old plant left to fruit again.



NOTES from UDS staff:

15 farmers were trained in each of Ngandho and Wandago Parishes. The trained farmers in each Parish trained 30 more, making a total of 90 farmers trained in this phase.

Improved varieties of banana suckers were previously only available from a long distance – thus prohibitive for a poor farmer – but now UDS has introduced them, they are easily available locally. Also the fruit – pineapple, water melon, and passion fruit – is now available nearby so a long trip to a market is not necessary to obtain them.

On the whole, there are good relations with those in the local community, so the trained farmers can encourage them to implement what they themselves have learned. A **few** trainees, who have dropped out or have been lazy and uninterested, are being negative about the programme.



## GEORGE NGOBI - BANANAS



The management and the good variety have increased the yield of Bananas. The green bananas, seen on the right, are peeled and steamed as a vegetable. Not only is this an improved variety but they are managed well. People do not normally manage these plants well – until trained by UDS. Well managed good varieties increase the size and health of the plant and also the yield.

George is following exactly what he learned from the UDS training. The hole for planting is 3 feet across – now seen as a shallow depression. This collects the water. He mixed manure with soil to put in this hole before planting a sucker which is about 1 foot tall. He keeps watering it until it is established. He uses discarded pineapple plants to cover the ground to prevent excessive water loss and stop weeds. The plant will produce 5 suckers every month and he leaves only 3. He sells the others or uses them to extend his own plantation. Each sucker is sold for 1,500/- Ug Shs (35p)

He limits the number of suckers allowed to grow. The small ones will be dug out and sold. Allowing fewer suckers to grow results in a stronger and healthier mother plant. Also – not visible – there is a limited removal of the big leaves. Traditionally these are used to wrap the bananas in before steaming, but removing too many weakens the plant.

## GEORGE NGOBI - ONIONS



## George's Onions

This type is not very thirsty – no need to water. There are about 10 small onions (a bit like shallots) clustered in one plant. They sell for 2,000/- Ug Shs (65p) a kilo. = about 5 plants-worth of onions.

## MORE FROM GREGGE'S SMALLHOLDING



George's wife has allowed the carrots to go to seed, hoping these will be viable and saleable – as suggested in the UDS training.



The pigs were bought with income from the cash-crops that he has been growing. Lessons about re-investment have been learned – again part of the UDS training. To say nothing of improved nutrition from an increase in available protein.



His wife is growing a field of passion fruit vines



Maze and beans are grown in alternate rows, as taught by Uganda Development Services



PAUL & BETTY MUMBWE

We held a meeting of some of the farmers in Ngandho Parish at their house. They first showed us their kitchen with smokeless oven which was built by the Uganda Development Services team supported by SOFRA (Smokeless Ovens for Africa).



The stoves are made of a mixture of termite mound – a sticky mud when wet – and cut up straw. This is an excellent insulator.



Compared with the **traditional 3-stone method** the advantages are:

- A chimney takes the smoke from the kitchen
- It uses less than half the fuel - firewood
- It cooks very quickly
- It is safe for children and lowers fire risk
- Food is easily kept warm
- It cooks two pans at a time.

The kitchen is at the back and faces a compound fronted by the house and completed by side walls. There is a rack made of sticks on which the washed up dishes are dried.

Spot the deliberate mistake:

You do not cook while wearing your best dress!!!



## FRED WANDIRA

Uganda Development Services works through volunteers , known as Community Information Exchange Agents (CIEAs), selected by local communities. Fred has been the "Head CIEA" for a few years. He is facilitated with an allowance and a motorbike – which needs a new engine, by the way. This was his speech at the meeting of farmers in Ngandho Parish. [A Civil division, as in the UK]

"Supervision and monitoring by UDS has changed people's attitudes and the way they do things. Even member farmers have begun supervising others and they critique each other. People have started picking up interest in the project when they see what is done – the bananas, they ask for the suckers. Some have a goal of having one acre of bananas and one acre of pineapples within one year. Some of the farmers have already pledged that. They have also benefited from a change in diet as they are eating fruit – pineapples and passion fruit\*. **What you are doing is a lesson to other NGOs.\*\***



They do not call me 'Water Tanks', but they call me 'UDS' because of the water tanks! Some are prepared to make a 50% contribution of the cost of materials and labour for building a water tank. There is a school nearby that is interested in doing that.

Thank you for coming. It is an indicator that you have Bugaya at heart. Thank you for coming. **Don't give up!!!!**"

\* Bananas are not seen as 'fruit' because it is the sort that is picked green, peeled and steamed as a staple vegetable (Like potato is our staple.)

\*\* Non Governmental Organisation. UDS, Uganda, is autonomous and is registered as an indigenous NGO with the Uganda Government.

Observation:

I heard repeatedly from farmers that they really appreciated being taught Section A of the Manual: **Behavioural Development**. This section was taught even when teaching on income-generating crops, which do not feature in the Manual. **“I woke from sleep” said one farmer.**

Session 1: Goal Setting

To enable members to set individual and group targets to be reached in 3 years time

Session 2: Gender and Development

To promote effective participation in development at household level, including the roles of man, wife and children

Session 3: Attitude

To promote a positive outlook to work as a backbone of success and the ability to afford social good

Session 4: Group Dynamics

To enable members to form functional groups

Rita explained that one change of attitude that has been engendered is for them to realise that the training and income generation is not for the benefit of UDS but for **their** benefit.

BETTY MUMBWE

Betty and her husband were hosts for the meeting of farmers. They also presented us with a bunch of Matoke. Betty is a local trainer of farmers. She addressed the meeting after Fred:

“I am happy to have our visitor from the UK who has come to see what he has put into the community. To see that we had not been doing so well when we were only hearing about of some of the projects. So we thank God that our friends from the UK thought about **us**, to come to our assistance. We thank all the people who are working on this programme, right from Kampala, to Kamuli and right to Bugaya.



On behalf of all the farmers, I want to thank you for the way UDS treated us. They do things with a parental kind of spirit. They have been transforming us from the old way of things to the new way of doing things. So that we are now able to sustain ourselves. We are able to get income on a daily basis.

I thank UK for their work in seeing that the farmers are given something small to begin with. As we put it into practice, implement the training, we will be able to uplift our standards. That little we received has been able to transform



peoples' lives. They have learned, and now we have started seeing the value out of this project. We have started selling pineapples and bananas and the children are eating them. We see that the project is helping us as a way of improving our lives.

We continue to ask the UK office even to expand this project to reach most of our families in this community. We have discovered that we can get school fees for our children out of the

things we are planting. When we sell some of this produce we are also able to buy some animals. So we thank you. We have a lot of land, so the issue is to expand our gardens (= cultivated plots). The community of Ngandho has the great example of UDS having done great work

Every day I receive people who are enquiring. They want to be members of UDS. I receive applications and the big question they ask is: "When are you going to train again?" That is the question. The farmers you are seeing are happy and what you see here is replicated elsewhere exactly the same. I want to assure you that the people that you sent to bring us these things, they really do that, and they constantly monitor us."

Questions at the framers' meeting:

- Can we have small loans to pay back slowly? Eg: needs a wheel barrow.
- Can we have more suckers? UDS answer: are you looking after the ones you have? If so, you will be producing more yourself. (A pineapple produces 8 suckers in one year.)
- I have 50 banana plants and plan to expand it to 80 next year. So when you come to monitor next year we will just give you bunches of matoke!!



*We then moved to Wandago Parish and met Byansi who insisted that we go to his house to see his cow!*

*When we arrived, the cow had been taken to a far field to graze, so we did not have time to wait for it to be brought. Regretfully, we never saw the cow. But we do believe it exists!!*

## BYANSI



"I am happy to see you and thank you for the things you gave us. I planted & harvested and got 200,000/= Ug Shs (£60) in one season. I did not spend that money but I bought a cow. I have two aims in mind in getting a cow: 1. To get manure, and 2. To get a calf and to get milk from the cow to provide more income. I also have a plan that, when I get money, I will pay school fees for the children. So I wanted you to come and see my home and have a look at that cow."

## ROBERT LYABA

"I am happy about what UDS has done. You gave us carrot seeds, water melon seeds, pineapple suckers and banana suckers. I planted water melon and carrots and was able to get 800,000/- Ug Shs (£230).

**With that I was able to put up this building. I am very happy and that's why I had to bring you here!**



Because of money I got from water melon, I was able even to expand my garden (= cultivated plots). I now have 3 acres of melon. I sell them in the local markets where traders from as far away as Jinja (50 miles away & the source of the river Nile) come to buy my water melons. The pineapples are also getting on well. I have been able to sell 100 for 1,000/- Ug shs each (35p).

Getting pineapples has enabled me to educate my children, one of whom is in Primary 7 (= most senior Primary class) at a boarding school. I have also expanded my pineapple plots so that I get more income. **I pray that UDS goes on so that we continue to develop."**

## FARMERS' GROUP MEETING IN WANDAGO and YOKANA TENYA

After visiting Robert Lyaba's house, we went to the house of a lady, Scovia. There we held a meeting of farmers from Wandago Parish. It was addressed by Yokana who read a written address in faltering English. (It is going to be typed up.)



There were some questions:

- They are also interested in animal husbandry
- There is a need for spraying by water melon growers (Implied: need sprayers and the material for spraying.)



Yokana Tenya  
Me

Robert Lyaba

Rita Epodoi  
(Executive Director, UDS, Uganda)

With Yokana and his wife

Another farmer closed proceedings by saying:

"Finally, thanks to UDS for coming. We will continue to encourage one another. We hope UDS will continue monitoring us. **Thank you for the information. We will make money out of the information. This village can be a model village in this District"**



BACK AT THE UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN KAMULI

The staff



Cyber Café



Newspaper reporter using cyber cafe





Computer training



Amanda, an American volunteer with the AEGY organisation doing AIDS education, consulting with UDS volunteer Jacqueline Musubika in the Resource Centre

ROBERT SSEBULIA, computer trainer and repairer, in his computer workshop



Driver GEOFFREY BWAYO with one of the UDS minibuses for hire



## THE STAFF OF UDS, UGANDA

### KAMPALA

Rita Epodoi  
Executive Director



Andrew Yiga  
Program Manager

Alice Kuteesa  
Accounts Officer



Happy Mirembe  
Program Assistant in Kampala  
(Front desk)

Grace Ayo Semmy  
Volunteer Assistant  
to Accounts Officer



Charles Lodda  
Security Guard in Kampala

UDS KAMULI DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Geoffrey Namukoye  
Kamuli Centre Manager  
and Program Officer



Robert Ssebuliba  
Project Officer, IT

Michael Mulumba  
Office Assistant  
in Kamuli



Jacqueline Musubika  
Long term volunteer looking after  
the library and  
library extension  
into schools

Sarah Nampeera  
Volunteer placement  
by the Restless Development  
organisation, for one year



Peter Kagoda  
Volunteers at the Centre

(Volunteers work to gain experience and are paid a small allowance)

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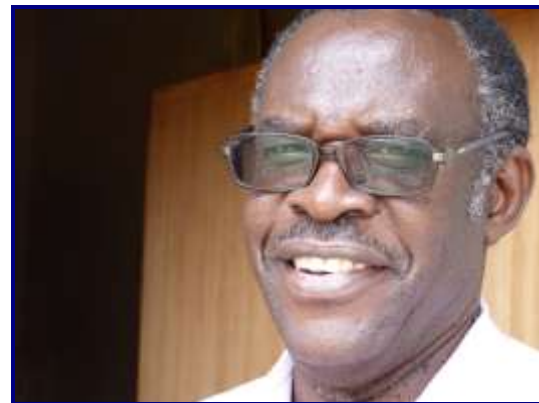
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Works for Community Development  
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BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF AND  
BENEFICIARIES  
FOLLOWING THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
UGANDA DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
SATURDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2010  
AT THE UDS OFFICE, KAMPALA

