



Welcome to our first biweekly newsletter, keeping you up-to-date on the progress of construction on Kathy's Centre in Uganda.

We are constructing a health centre and kindergarten space for the community of Mayuge, Uganda.

# EfOD NW: An Update from Uganda Week 1

A SUMMARY OF THE LATEST SITE ACTIVITIES AT KATHY'S CENTRE

15/08/16

## Kathy's Centre: An Introduction

We are a charity who deliver projects to improve the health, hygiene, education and self-sufficiency of poverty afflicted communities. These projects are designed and constructed by young professionals from the engineering industry. As the North West branch, we are currently working on Kathy's Centre in partnership with Act4Africa (A4A), who are based in Altrincham and carry out operations in Mayuge District, Eastern Uganda.

Kathy's Centre will be operated by A4A and design and built by EfOD NW volunteers. The centre has been driven by A4A's years of experience operating in the Mayuge District, a region entrenched with poverty and lack of supply side infrastructure, and engagement with local stakeholders to target more acute problems that locals experience. It will look to provide a testing centre where education and information on diseases will be provided along with HIV testing. It will provide a base for Act4Africa's staff at the heart of the affected area allowing them to gain key connections with local authorities and tailor their operations to better suit their needs. It will also provide an education centre with Kindergarten classes for the most vulnerable during the day and a youth centre at night to provide social activities for youths.

EfOD NW members have volunteered their time since August 2014, bringing experience from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds from the built environment. We will oversee the construction of the development, employing local labour and sharing best practices with them, ensuring safer construction into the future.

## Site Progress: Week 1

The first volunteers from our group are Daniel Williams (Nexus Rail) and Sean O'Connor (Morgan Sindall). Dan and Sean flew out to Uganda on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and were responsible for formally commencing the construction work. There was a lot of expectation and pressure on their shoulders.

Thankfully, they were not fazed by the pressure and immediately began to procure materials, survey the site, and communicate any issues back to the team in Manchester. They even got a little hands-on but they weren't able to dig for too long in the Ugandan heat!

On day two, delivery of drainage pipes arrived on the bike of the local merchant. The pipes were used to create drainage runs for the site entrance.

The fourth day marked the beginning of the excavation. To celebrate this, it is traditional Ugandan practice to have a ground breaking ceremony. This involved the local community performing traditional dance, and signing for the EfOD members. The ceremony continued late into the evening with a lot of positive vibes and hope for the future of the build.

Day five was the day that the Interlocking Stabilised Soil Block (ISSB) press was delivered. With this press machine we are able to create 200+ blocks per day.

Thanks to Sean and Dan's meticulous planning and constant communication with the team in the UK, we are now approximately 2 weeks ahead of schedule. We hope to continue this exciting progress and promise to keep you updated throughout.



### Groundbreaking Celebrations

Traditional dance is performed to bless the start of the construction. Members from the community and local officials were present.



### Marram Soil is Delivered

During a prior site investigation we discovered the soil on site was not suitable for ISSB production. Therefore we are importing marram soil which is of sufficient quality.



### Pressing the First ISSB

We will be using ISSBs to form the external and internal walls. Marram soil is combined with cement and water and compressed in a mould to form interlocking bricks.