



Welcome to our 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 in Uganda.

EfOD NW: An Update from Uganda Week 4-6

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

15/09/16

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 redesign and built by EfOD NW volunteers. 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.

A major objective of the project is to empower and educate the local community in modern construction technology. To achieve this, we have teamed up with HYT (Haileybury Youth Trust) who work in Uganda to build better futures for the people. Our collaboration will ensure a quality building is constructed whilst simultaneously educating the local community.

Site Progress: Week 4-6

For the fourth week we had no representatives from EFOD Manchester, but Hannah Rowland (Arup) stepped in to supervise the works. Hannah is currently on secondment from the office volunteering on various charitable projects in Uganda. We knew that with Hannah's experience the site

was in safe hands. She spent a week with the previous group familiarising herself with the design and practices. During the 4th week she immediately got hands-on by digging the remaining strip footings and levelling the ground for the floor slab. 9.5m long reinforcement cages were lifted into the footings and bars tied together, including column starter bars. Concrete blocks were cast in strips and broken to make spacer blocks.

Unfortunately a malfunction caused the ISSB press to break and stopped ISSB production, essential for the walls of the structure. To reduce the time impact of this, the press was taken to be repaired in Kampala, Uganda's capital. Luckily the repair work was successful and ISSB production has now been restarted in earnest.

In the fifth week, Matthew Jack (Jacobs) and Andy Banks (4way Consulting) arrived in Mayuge. They oversaw the casting of the concrete foundations which was done in sections and finished with a fuel driven poker.

The guys reported that the conditions were very hot and dry, with no rain since they arrived. This makes site work even more demanding, and to make matters worse a damaged water main shut off water to the site. The workers were forced to fill barrels of water from a hole in an adjacent cow field, which is owned by the parents of one of the workers. Luckily within 2 days it was reconnected. The team are trying to source barrels of water to store on site in case this occurs again.

So far the local workforce have excelled themselves, especially on physical tasks. They are becoming proficient in new skills under the supervision of the EFOD and HYT teams. The skilled staff from HYT have been invaluable in ensuring quality for technical tasks and promoting health and safety.



Substructure reinforcement

The reinforcement cages were in place with starter bars for the columns.



Strip footings

The footings indicate the extent of the building. ISSB walls will be laid on top, with columns at regular centres. The building is divided by a central wall which aids stability.



Beginning the superstructure

The first few courses of the wall are being formed with concrete blocks. Before mortaring, the team checked the block arrangement around columns, which will act as permanent formwork when the concrete is poured.