



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, Uganda.

# EfOD NW: An Update from Uganda Week 7&8

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

30/09/16

## 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 design 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 Haileybury Youth Trust (HYT) 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 7&8

The fourth pair of volunteers from our group were David Salt (AECOM) and Sara Peters (AECOM). David and Sara flew out to Uganda on the 9th September 2016 with the goal of completing the foundations and slab. Work began on excavating the softer areas of ground within the building area.

These voids were then back filled and compacted. The next step was to pour the columns to the top of floor slab level so future work on the foundations would not interfere with their construction. The blinding layer of compacted hardcore and marram was positioned and compacted next. Health and safety was very important when breaking down the hardcore. This was carried out with sledgehammers therefore the use of safety glasses and gloves was implemented. It was great to observe the workers encouraging each other to use PPE.

At the start of the second week the foreman's wife gave birth to a healthy baby boy (Mark) and to help support his wife he spent two days back at home. On Monday the reinforcement mesh was procured and research was carried out into potential roofing materials for later in the construction programme. During the second week, the hardcore and marram blinding was levelled and a compressible filler board was positioned around the inside edge of the wall at slab level. A compressible filler board was used to accommodate movement of the floor slab and prevent it from loading the wall as it expands and contracts. The damp proof membrane and the reinforcement mesh were positioned and modified as required. In the final few days of the second week, the concrete slab was poured. This was a tremendous effort by the workers on site especially considering that they were mixing the concrete by hand in blistering heat.

In addition to completing the floor slab, a temporary kitchen was built to keep the site cook dry and the food from spoiling during the rapidly approaching rainy season. Soft landscaping of the ground surrounding the building took place whilst the foreman was at home. The number of ISSBs produced to date is approximately 7000.



### Hardcore and marram

Hardcore was placed and broken down to acceptable size, then marram placed above to provide a level surface for the ground floor slab.



### Ground Floor Slab

Ground floor slab poured and levelled with column starter bars protruding.



### Temporary Kitchen Hut

A temporary structure was created to keep the site cook dry during the rapidly-approaching rainy season.