

Welcome to the fourth Kumi Courier of 2025

This is the fourth Kumi Courier of 2025. Team 2 had a fantastic trip and built well on the foundations laid by Team 1 at Easter. The progress is remarkable. (see page 2) As well as the project at Wiggins Primary School, the repairs to some of the teachers' existing homes have been completed, fixing the leaky roofs and replacing windows and doors which provided too much ventilation! They no longer fear the rain. Team 3, the Kumi "Express" team arrives in Kumi in just under two weeks' time.

The encouraging news for 2026, is that there are volunteers already signed up on all teams.

Chicken Feed (no, much bigger than that)

The Chicken Programme, run by Atutur PAG, with funding from St Albans Diocese Harvest Appeal from 2023, continues to be implemented. We hope to continue the support for about another year, following which, it should be able to continue on a self-supporting basis. We thought it is time to look at the success of this partnership.



Here are the February trainees, receiving their chickens at the end of their day training, from the PAG team and the vet retained by the project. To July 2025, seven hundred and sixty-five people, have received training and received over three thousand chickens between them. Most beneficiaries have taken time to grow their flock, before the benefits of eggs and chicken sales accrue. However, the success stories are amazing, with people now investing in more land, alternative crops and other livestock. All this is in addition to school fees paid, medical costs met and improved nutrition which brings about health benefits.

One of the benefits, is that other people are being employed to cultivate the additional crops and with money being spent locally, the project is starting to have a multiplier benefit to the local economy.

Rearing chickens is not without problems, with wild animals being a threat to chickens; also, the colder wet weather can lead to rotting eggs and heavy rain, brings a high mortality to chicks that are caught unprotected. However, the benefits far outweigh the problems. (turn to page 3)

Update from Wiggins Primary School

Here are the pictures at start and end of team two, showing the amazing progress the team made.



CAMON 30 Pro 5G

25mm f/1.88 1/1326s ISO51



The project is to construct four new homes for teachers currently living in classrooms, is the largest single building we have constructed in Kumi, so there are many bricks and the familiar cry of “mortar, mortar” was heard frequently.



Joseph and his team shared their skills generously and all the team were quick learners. Laurie did need some supervision from Jamie and encouragement from Alex. We had four teachers on the team, but all of them got their gloves on and enjoyed the building experience. It provided a change from their time in the classrooms. If you are more interested in classrooms, lessons, and teaching, then there is plenty of opportunity for that. If you prefer chalk to trowels, then let us know in advance and we can make the arrangements.



Here are the timbers delivered to site this week and the contractors will assemble, erect and cover the roof before Team 3 (the Kumi Express) arrive. Expect training as plasterers!

The project will release more classrooms for the children, reducing class sizes and enabling streaming.

www.justgiving.com/campaign/wigginsprimarykumi

More Chicken Feed

The following is lifted directly from the quarterly report, which Atatur PAG provide.

Success stories

However, most beneficiaries sold their chicken and used the money to grow their savings; i.e., besides taking their children to school and meeting basic family needs.

- ❖ *They have managed to join Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAS) where each member saves 1,000 - 10,000= per week and the savings cycle runs for a year (52 weeks). When they divide the money, each member gets a profit. For example, if a person saved 500,000=, she can get between 800,000= and 1,000,000=. This is roughly a profit of between 300,000= to 500,000= at the end of the cycle.*
- ❖ *Some of them have gone an extra mile to buy live stock like pigs and goats which also they aim at selling at end of the year.*
- ❖ *Some from their sales bought 3 sheep. Case point is Ajulang Loyce, who sold her chicken and bought 3 sheep for rearing.*
- ❖ *Some of them have increased their crop production level. this is because they are able to hire more land for planting and also hire labor from people to help them work in their gardens unlike the time, they had not started this project.*
- ❖ *Also, the nutrition in the families has improved. This is because they eat chicken.*

This project has caused a multiplier effect in the households of these women and also in the community extra monies that are used to do other profitable enterprises so as to invest for the future to avoid the syndrome of hand to mouth.

Mothers Union

Everything we do in Kumi is in support of partners and their projects. Kumi Mothers Union has a heart for supporting the isolated elderly, who often struggle without family or any form of support. Hopefully, just a few times a year, we are able to bring some more resource, which makes their mission just a little easier. This year, as well as supplying food support for those who are able, we have also provided seeds and chickens. Hopefully this will enable some degree of self-sufficiency and sustainability.



Team Dates for 2026

What we need more than anything is, for volunteers to come to Kumi for the adventure of a lifetime. It is a friendly place, to show your love for others and receive blessing you cannot imagine.

Find out what this means and contact Jackie Johnston 01582720056

<https://missiondirect.org/apply-for-your-mission-trip/>

<https://missiondirect.wetravel.com/.../uganda-kumi-2025...>

2026

Team 1 Saturday 21 March to Saturday 4 April

Team 2 Saturday 25 July to Saturday 8 August

Team 3 Monday 21 September to Wednesday 30 September Kumi Express

Please Pray For

- For safe travel and a trip full of blessings for Team 3 who fly out on 22 September
- For the P7 candidate classes as they take their Primary Leaving Exams (PLE's) in November. For successful study and good results.
- For funds to complete the Project in 2025 at Wiggins Primary School and refurbish the vacated classrooms over the Christmas and New Year break
- For the continuation and funding of the Porridge feeding programme at four schools
- For Kumi Mothers Union and the Elderly and forgotten, that their families will remember them.
- For the Climate Change initiatives at Ngora and Oningo, especially as the trees face the challenge of the dry season

The World



One of seven world maps issued to schools by a volunteer on Team 2. It just got me to thinking it is a big world, and we are just such a small part. Our role? Remain faithful, bring your loaves and your fish, give them to God and **watch the miracles happen.**

Watch this space.

In the next Kumi Courier – maybe a report on Team 3, certainly on the project status and possibly on the environmental / climate change initiatives

Keep up to date is on the Kumi Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/MDugandaKumi/>

Or you can contact Jan or me, we would love to hear from you.

richard.bacon@missiondirect.org janet.bacon@missiondirect.org

Project donations www.justgiving.com/campaign/wigginsprimarykumi

Partner donations www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kumipartnerfund