



Our vision

For people and communities across Uganda to be whole and thriving.

Our mission

Together with our local partner, we create lasting solutions to poverty and hunger in Uganda.

What we do

Amigos supports Ugandans to work their way out of poverty with dignity by providing them with the tools that they need to flourish. This integrated approach spans across communities; by providing access to education, vocational training, life-skills, clean water and power, these communities can achieve remarkable, sustainable change.

Welcome to this very special edition of our Annual Review. Not only do we come of age this year, but our founder and CEO, Phil, is stepping back so that he and his family can enjoy some well-earned rest and time together.

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Greetings Amigos!

Welcome to our 21st Birthday Annual Review. In this special edition we're taking a little look back at where we have come from, and a glimpse forward to where we are going.

If you're anything like me, 2020 gave you the time to take stock, re-evaluate your life and take an awful lot of unnecessary items to the local recycling centre. Our car is now garaged after 30 years!

2020 also gave me time to re-evaluate Amigos, and what the future might hold. Promising my wife Ann that I would slow down a little, giving her and our grandchildren more time now I'm in my late sixties, and with the support of the trustees, we all concluded that 2021 would be the perfect time to start handing the mantle to a younger CEO.

“
As Amigos comes of age, it is remarkable to think of the journey we have taken together and the precious people that we have had the privilege to meet along the way.”

After lots of interviews and much deliberation, in January we welcomed Tim Monger to become Amigos new CEO. Tim brings with him the same heart and vision, with practical hands-on experience and a faith that will ensure Amigos will flourish for many years to come. I will still be working away in the background with our great little UK team, but as a volunteer and fundraiser.

As Amigos comes of age, it is remarkable to think of the journey we have taken together and the precious people that we have had the privilege to meet along the way. As those of you who have read my book, "How NOT to Start a Charity" will know, there have been plenty of twists and turns on this amazing voyage, and I thank God for guiding our every step.

I saw a Specsavers advert the other day saying: '2020. Well, We Didn't See That Coming'. Despite the incredible challenges we have all faced, we've battled on both here and in Uganda. Our Ugandan team overcame many obstacles, and at least 20,748 lives were changed in 2020 thanks to their dedication and hard work.

Our ongoing impact through Uganda's lockdown, curfews, travel restrictions and social distancing testifies to the benefits of working with local

communities; it has highlighted our many strengths and given our team the opportunity to consolidate their knowledge, adapt their skills and learn how to 'overcome' in everchanging circumstances.

Despite having a few wobbles mid-year, everyone's amazing and miraculous response to our Christmas Appeal means that we're still here, in very good shape and with Tim onboard, raring to go for many more years to come.



Phil Pugsley, Founder



Hello from Uganda!



I hope that you remain safe and well despite the many challenges that people across the globe have faced this year. Through our programmes, Amigos has continued to bring hope and relief to the people in the districts of Gulu, Lira, Kitgum, Kaliro, Wakiso and Masindi. It has been our honour to witness great transformations in the lives of individuals, their families and broader communities.

Thanks to your generous support, this year our child sponsorship programme supported 461 children to access education and provided educational resources for home learning and much needed food parcels throughout the nation's lockdown. We have trained 1,050 adults and 60 youths in conservation farming, improving food security for them and their families. In January 2020, we welcomed a new cohort of trainees to Kira Farm. Due to the nationwide closure of educational facilities in March, they returned to their communities. Fast forward to January 2021, and the gates of Kira swung wide once again to welcome 49 young people back to resume their training.

With funding from organisations and the incredible efforts of individual fundraisers, this year we installed 7 boreholes, bringing fresh water and hygiene training to 11,606. None of this would have been possible without your ongoing support and so on behalf of my team and my country, I extend my deepest gratitude.



It has been our honour to witness great transformations in the lives of individuals, their families and broader communities."

We have seen many changes over the years, but Phil, our founder and CEO has remained a constant throughout. It is therefore with sadness (for us) and joy (for him and his family!) that we will say "au revoir" to him as our CEO, though not "goodbye". Phil is more than Amigos' CEO, he is our father, our friend and a symbol of love and hope to all of us and we thank God for bringing Phil and his family to us. We are very much looking forward to working with Tim and are excited about the future of Amigos.

Thank you for continuing to stand by the people of Uganda – you are transforming lives.

With blessings,

Godwin Ssesazi, Director of Operations

Moving Forward Together

It is a wonderful privilege and joy for me to become part of the Amigos team and unfolding story. I am excited to join Amigos after living in Africa and working in community development for the last 10 years. My family and I were enriched, learning far more than we ever taught. We began with a fuel-efficient stoves project, immersing ourselves in village life, cooking outside on a wood-burning stove and lining up with the other villagers at the tap to fill our buckets with water. Our eyes were opened to the struggles of the rural poor and yet to their beauty, kindness and resilience too. Later, we and our team worked regionally and nationally in conservation agriculture, beekeeping, tree-planting, community health education, entrepreneurship and women's empowerment. We were amazed to see people lifted up, inspired and renewed, being transformed in ways we had not imagined. Now that we are back in the UK, it is a thrill for me to remain connected with Africa.

Amigos has indeed enjoyed a remarkable journey so far and made a significant impact in the lives of Ugandans. And yet I have felt no sense from anyone that we have arrived. What impresses me is that Amigos is vision-led, undergirded with passion, togetherness and innovation, served by committed staff in Uganda and the UK and facilitated by generous supporters who enable

us to deliver. It has been a journey of faith, believing for big things. I have seen a hunger to learn, improve and be more effective. Amigos is continually seeking to adapt to be relevant in a changing world and therefore touch more people.

“
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I am delighted that our founder, Phil Pugsley, will still be an integral part of the team and we will be enriched by his wisdom and ideas as together we move forward.

May I add my thanks to you all for your support and generosity so that even through the difficulty of COVID-19 in 2020 Amigos continued to reach the poorest communities and see them truly blessed.

Tim

Tim Monger, CEO





Since Amigos was established in
2000, together we have reached

136,920
precious people!

For those we
have equipped,
they have the skills
and self-belief to
transform their lives.

Our 21-year Journey

2000

Amigos is established to support Makindye Pearls orphanage in Uganda

2005

We start our own Amigos child sponsorship programme

This is a busy year! Phil and the team also buy the land that later becomes known as "Kira Farm Development Centre"

2009

Joss Stone visits Kira Farm for the second time to preside over the opening ceremony

2008

Kira Farm welcomes its first 15 trainees

2017

Amigos Uganda is established as a local NGO and Amigos' new Community Sponsorship Programme launched

2016

The first 100 bicycles are distributed via an innovative rent-to-buy project

2014

Our first borehole is installed in Majigie

2013

The first Conservation Farming Group is formed

2018

Beekeeping training reaches 400 farmers

2020

Solar packs and MHM projects launched

2021

Watch this space!



To find out more of what your support has achieved read Phil's book.

Please visit amigos.org.uk to order you hard copy or visit Amazon for a Kindle edition.

2000

2021

Amigos In Numbers – Transforming Lives Since 2000

Amigos' holistic approach sees positive impact throughout entire communities. We are continually evolving to meet local needs and best serve beneficiaries. Since 2000:



118,815 people

have gained access to clean water through 56 boreholes.



506 trainees

graduated and have returned home to their communities, where they are helping their families and communities to thrive.



2,370 farmers

have been taught conservation farming and life skills.



20,132 people

have improved food security – and full tummies, thanks to conservation farming training.



738 children

have been able to attend school, thanks to our sponsorship programmes.



405 bikes

have been distributed, enabling people to get to market, clinic, school, and carry water.



400 people

have been trained in beekeeping.



97 solar

light systems have been distributed to families on a lease to own basis within a revolving fund.

Changing Tack with COVID-19



In March 2020, the President of Uganda put the country into lockdown, closing all public gatherings, including churches, schools, universities and vocational training establishments. So all Kira Farm trainees returned home to their villages, thankfully just before a ban on public transport!

Our team in Uganda worked hard to respond appropriately. Joshua and Mary, the Kira Farm Managers, kept in close contact with the trainees, most of whom continued learning farming through their local conservation farming groups. Some were taken under the wings of Kira Farm graduates, to keep them engaged in building, carpentry, hairdressing and tailoring skills.

With schools being closed, Joseph and Kate, the Child Sponsorship Coordinators, maintained phone contact with every child, and coordinated a vital response to the children and families. Our local extension workers and the churches stepped in to help us distribute an education pack for home learning to every child. Every family also received parcels of maize meal flour, beans, and rice as well as large packs of soap.

Ugandan communities may not know what the future holds but they do know who holds the future. Many experienced unexpected blessings, like Fatimah.

“

I had no savings at the time of the lockdown, no dried food and no crops in the field. With children then at home 24/7 and two pigs to feed, I was very worried. So I prayed. I have never seen the village mango trees with so much fruit on them. We were all overwhelmed with mangoes just when we needed food the most. And I even managed to keep my pigs fed and to my surprise one gave birth to five bouncing piglets! The abundance of mangoes was like manna from heaven, seeing us through these dark days, and now I have piglets to sell to make money!”



From a Living Nightmare to Living the Dream!

Meet Jenipher and find out how sponsorship has changed her life and brought peace and harmony to her family.



"My dad had a habit of disappearing from home for long periods of time, but every time he came back we would have no sleep and no peace. We often wished he would stay away, because on his return he would hit out at anything that crossed his path.

There is nothing quite as painful as seeing your mother being tortured by your dad. I used to wish I was old enough and big enough to save my mother every time my dad came back home with his eyes red with anger, knowing that arguments and abuse would inevitably follow.

In his drunken state, he would untie the goats and let the pigs out in the middle of the night. All the bleating and squealing would keep me awake all night, and my school attendance and grades started to suffer. I cried a lot during those times, feeling helpless and afraid.

I soon learnt that one of the major causes for the fighting was when mum asked dad for money to pay for my schooling. The talk of money always aggravated his anger, but school fees for a girl really drove him to violence. We decided it was safer not to talk about education anymore, and as a result I dropped out of school.

When Amigos came to our village and enrolled me onto the sponsorship programme, everything started to change. Before long I had an amazing sponsor to help pay the fees I so desperately needed to go to school, and incredibly, my dad seemed to calm down. He began to stay at home, without causing arguments or being abusive to my mum. I think it was the pressure of not being able to meet our needs that had tipped him over the edge, but those days are gone.

Thanks to the sponsorship, my mum joined an Amigos' Farming Group and has learned many new skills. She even received training in business and leadership. We now own the land we had been squatting on, and she makes money from her crops and from breeding livestock. I love school and I am now in Senior 1 after passing my Primary Leaving Exam. I'll always be grateful to Amigos and my sponsor, Ilfracombe Rotary Club, for changing our lives."



I need no longer go back to the slavery of poverty thanks to Amigos and Jenipher's sponsor, who have walked with us and made all this possible."

Jenipher's mum, Asunita

A New Day Dawns through Conservation Farming



Conservation farming gives communities the kickstart they need. For single dad Fred and family, life seemed an endless cycle of poverty. But when his daughter Dorcus became part of the child sponsorship programme, Fred wasn't left behind either. He joined the Kiyenje Farming Group in Mirya, Masindi. "After attending the Farming God's Way and growth mindset training, I realised that I had been lazy and wasteful," Fred recounts.

Fred had inherited 10 acres of land from his grandfather but didn't know how to utilise it. "I had been protecting the land from land grabbers. I hadn't realised the value

of what I had been given and that I was the cause of my poverty. My attitude towards life and work changed dramatically. I planted two acres of maize and used some of the proceeds to begin rearing sheep and chickens."

"The training opened my mind to new business opportunities and I soon started a banana business, selling banana stems for replanting and bananas to eat. Being the only one in my village with this disease-resistant banana variety made my business very profitable."

So for Fred and his family, the new day has now come. Instead

of shame, he has dignity. "I can finally provide my family with everything they need." Dorcus gets the healthy food she needs to make the most of her education opportunities. And she has a father who is an inspiring example to succeed in life. Dorcus says, "My dad is always there for me and now he can afford to send me to school."

Fred has also been an agent of change in his community. "We have learned about love and respect for one another and sharing resources to promote unity." No longer concerned about protecting his land, Fred now shares some of it with community members for them to cultivate.



Farming figures for 2020

1,050 farmers

have been taught conservation farming

100% of people

in conservation farming groups have doubled or trebled their crop yields, thanks to their farming training

7,130 people

now have enough to eat as a result of farming groups

Domestic violence has dropped from

94% to 6%

after a year working in our farming groups

The number of women involved in decision making in the home has risen from

1% to 95%

Combating Period Poverty

Last year we launched our Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) programme. The aim is to provide up to 5,000 Ugandan girls with reusable sanitary products and educate communities on menstrual health, combating period poverty and shame.

Families where mothers are educated have a much greater chance of surviving and rising out of poverty. Yet, in Uganda 86% of girls miss school because of periods and 22% drop out altogether.

Our programme seeks to give these girls and their families a future. We have begun training Kira Farm trainees how to make reusable sanitary packs, so they can set up viable small factories making pads to be sold at an affordable price in their communities. So girls obtain the reusable pads and communities are educated in hygiene, taught to make affordable liquid soap and desensitised to period shame. Due to COVID-19 and the Ugandan lockdown we paused the activities but will conclude them in 2021.

An old African proverb says,

“ If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a nation.”



What Happens after a Year at Kira Farm Development Centre?



Each year around 50 young men and women are trained at Kira Farm in conservation farming, carpentry, bricklaying, tailoring, hairdressing, basic IT skills and bike maintenance. Many arrive broken, neglected and having experienced trauma and the year at Kira is a chance to heal, forgive and be equipped to become change-makers in their communities.

With Kira Farm being shut last year because of COVID-19, there is a chance to ask what impact does Kira make?

Well let's meet Nancy Lanyero, a 2016 Kira Farm graduate. Nancy comes from Kitgum, an area ravaged by The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).



Nancy grew up as an orphan and spent two terrible years in an Internally Displaced Persons camp, sheltering from the LRA. During her time on Kira, Nancy learned hairdressing, tailoring, bricklaying and business skills, along with conservation farming. But she also learned to know who she had been created to be.

Fast forward 4 years and Nancy (24) was elected as a youth candidate in Uganda's general elections, February 2021.

Joshua Kizito, Kira Farm Development Centre manager, writes, "While monitoring the

2019 Kira Farm graduates, we had the privilege of catching up with Nancy. We soon learnt how she had not only turned her own life around after leaving Kira, but helped many other young people in the Kitgum area as well.

Nancy has partnered with her sub-county leadership to open a vocational training centre, which hundreds of young people have gone through. Nancy now feels that winning the election has given her the platform to do even more, including lobbying the government for funds, giving hope and training to so many more disadvantaged young Ugandans."

Water is Life!



Through the generosity of our supporters we constructed 7 boreholes in 2020 providing access to clean water for **11,606 people.**

The United Nations in its sustainable development goal #6 has set the target to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.” Nearly 50% of Ugandans living in rural communities lack access to safe water (World Bank, 2016). We are delighted therefore to have constructed 7 boreholes during 2020 in Gulu, Lira and Masindi districts, providing access to clean water for 11,606 people.

Our desire is to see this picture change with the desert and the parched land glad; the wilderness blossoming and communities rejoicing greatly with shouts of joy as they walk the path of seeing life in all its fulness.



The typical journey to collect water

“

What a privilege, I will no longer have to sacrifice my education. I used to walk long distances looking for good drinking water to help my grandmother. I had to fetch water very early every morning before going to school. I would sacrifice my study time as looking for water forced me to be late, missing the first lesson. Many times I would put my life in danger as I would again walk long distances looking for water after getting back home from school.” Hope Natasha, Kyakalisa B, Mirya, Masindi

“

Our community members are happy to be recipients of a borehole. Personally my family has benefited a lot. The little children do not have to walk long distances to collect water. It is a safe water source and I no longer have to worry about all the dangers that were associated with the previous water source such as drowning, waterborne diseases and even rape when collecting water late into the evening.” Esther Aryono, Atingtwo, Barr, Lira

The joy of water!

“

The construction of the borehole brought our community together; people willingly donated the land and participated in great numbers during the construction. This shows how important this borehole is to us. I helped with the preparation of food for the drilling team. My seven year old granddaughter Rose says, ‘Now that there is enough water, we shall grow plenty of vegetables and rear goats and chickens!’ The borehole came at the right time when people really needed water for hand washing as one of the preventive measures for the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Christine Acaa, Wigweng, Paicho, Gulu



The Shape of Things to Come?

Sometimes people ask if we would like to open development centres like Kira Farm all over Uganda, or even Africa. The answer is yes and no...

Yes, it would be amazing to be able to help more and more young people with lifechanging vocational skills, as we know it works. But is there another way of achieving similar results? Yes, when people grasp the vision and start their own centre!

Farming group leaders, pastors and some Kira Farm graduates from the Kaliro district, inspired by a Kira Farm workshop, explored together how they could help some of the 80% of Uganda's disaffected 15 to 20 year olds who fail to find employment.

Much to our surprise, and just what we had always dreamed of, they started using a church building as their own training facility and Namukoge Youth Development Centre was born. They engaged local craftsmen and some of our best Kira Farm graduates to start training, while Amigos supplied them with £1000 of hand tools.

Just imagine what could be achieved if more and more churches all over Uganda and around the world caught the vision to help people holistically!



Did you know that Uganda's economy struggles to keep up with their birth rate? About 700,000 young people reach working age every year – a figure set to rise to one million by 2030 – but only 75,000 new jobs are created for them.

Source: Al Jazeera Media Network

Uganda is one of the youngest countries in the world, with a median age of 15.9 years. Nearly half its 45 million people are 14 or under, while just 2 percent are aged older than 65.

Source: Al Jazeera Media Network

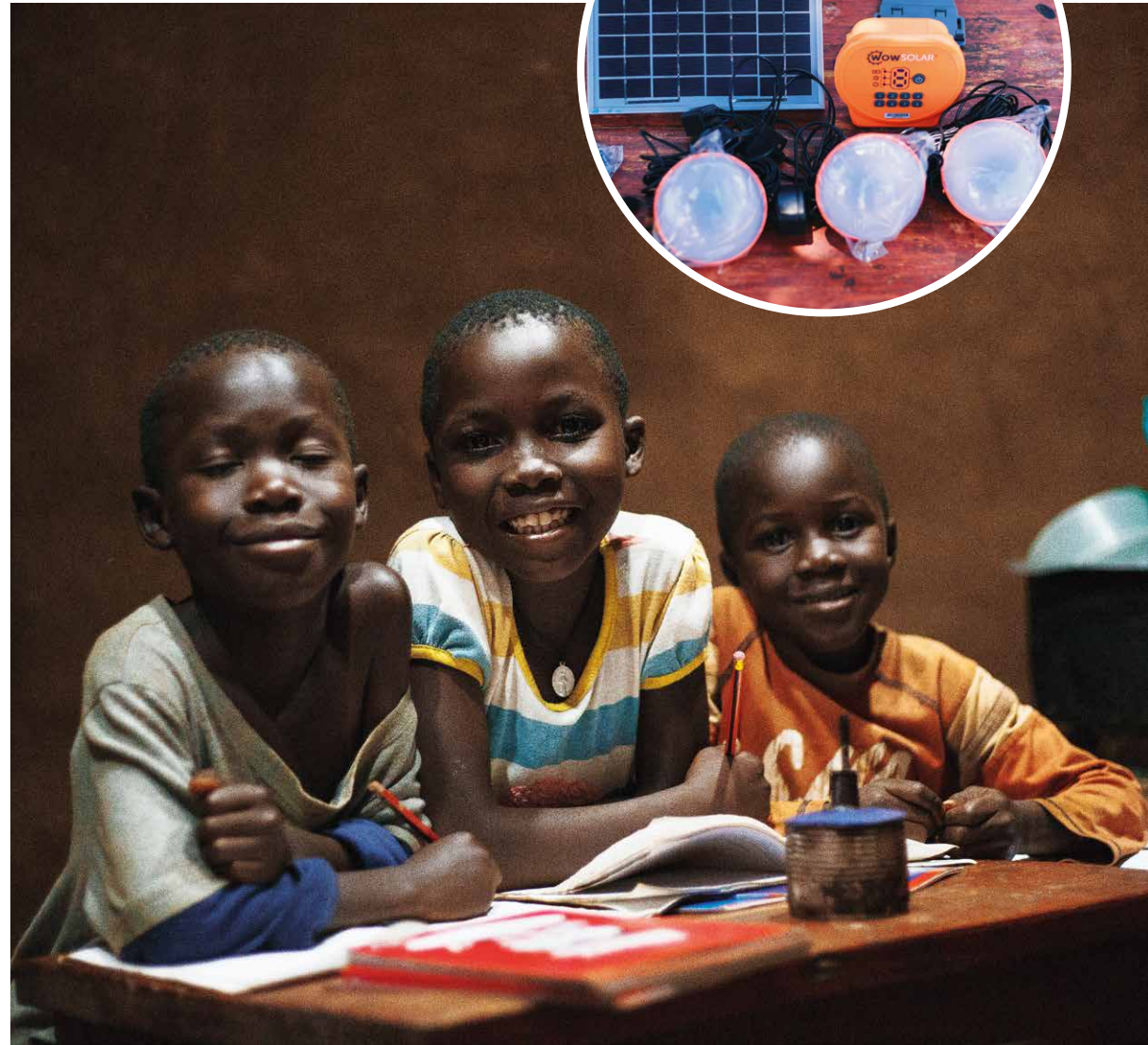
Lighting up a Village!

Through the generosity of those who gave to the 2019 Christmas Appeal, which raised £25,571, we were able to distribute solar packs to villagers in Kaliro, Gulu and Masindi. These packs have enabled children to do their homework after dark, families to charge phones for business use, farmers to know weather patterns and crop prices through powering radios, and children and women to collect water safely by carrying a light. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown we were unable to distribute all the packs but will complete the task in 2021.

“I am so delighted and I want to thank Amigos for the solar pack. I no longer spend over 3,000 shillings on paraffin each week and my children can now read and do their homework in the evening. I used to charge my phone at the neighbour’s home but now I charge it at home.” (Joyce Nakago)

“Life was generally hard before I received a solar pack from Amigos. Very often, the family could suffer from coughs and flu as a result of inhaling too much smoke from the kerosene lamp. My house nearly burned down one day as the mattress caught fire.

Amigos is doing such a great transformation work in our community and I pray that this should reach other vulnerable communities as well. I am so happy and full of joy as my family now has light 24 hours. No more worries of the house burning down and the family no longer suffer frequently from ill-health – long live Amigos.” (Scolar Katusabe)



Plans for 2021 and Beyond

As always, we have big plans to create sustainable change over the next year...

Equip the Local Churches – In the next 2 to 3 years we will give special emphasis to equipping the local churches in transformative mission so they are empowered to continue the projects reaching at least 35,000 poor and marginalised people annually.

Coordinate Child Sponsorship, Kira Farm and Conservation Farming Groups together – In 2021 we will improve the coordination of our three main projects, Child Sponsorship, Kira Farm and Conservation Farming, so they fit better together as a cohesive whole.

Conservation Farming Groups – Every year, we take on and train an additional ten conservation farming groups. This year we will, once again, lead 30 farming groups, training 1,050 people in conservation farming, impacting the lives of 7,350 people.

Youth Inclusion Programme – 2021 will see the continuation of the pilot of our Youth Inclusion Programme, which builds upon the

success of the conservation farming groups. The programme is specifically designed to include poor and disaffected youth, who are not considered valued members of society and are, therefore, lost and marginalised. The programme aims to reduce poverty and promote civic harmony by bridging the gap between the older and younger generations.

Child Sponsorship – Last year, we supported 63 new children and their families, bringing the total number of sponsored children to 461. In 2021, we would love to add another 100 families to our child sponsorship programme; if you think you know someone who might like to sponsor a child and their family, please tell them about us!

Kira Farm Development Centre – Every year, we have more and more precious young people pursuing the opportunity to come to Kira Farm. This year, we have 49 trainees. We look forward to seeing them blossom over the coming months.

Water and WASH training – We will install ten more boreholes in 2021 and provide the local communities with training in health and hygiene so that they may thrive.

Rent-to-buy Bikes and Solar Packs – Amigos trainees will continue to be trained in bike construction and repair. We will continue to collect fees for bikes, and 100 new bikes will be distributed along with the remainder of the solar packs in 2021.

Menstrual Health Management – 2020 saw the launch of Amigos' Menstrual Health Management programme, which unfortunately was disrupted by COVID-19 and the Uganda lockdown. We will continue to execute this programme this year where Kira Farm trainees will make the remaining 4,000 reusable sanitary towel packs which will be distributed via churches to girls living in poverty, helping to remove stigma around menstruation and improve school attendance.

Please support us

Regular, monthly donations help us to plan for the longer term



£5 will help support a young person to learn skills to lift their family out of poverty



£10 will help train a caregiver in farming so they can feed their children



£18 will support a disadvantaged child to go to school, and train their caregiver to be financially independent in the future

Donating is easy

Visit amigos.org.uk to find out more. You can also make a donation direct to our bank account, but please email us so we can thank you.

Amigos Worldwide
Account No: 01070832
Sort Code: 30-90-49

Thank you

Nothing would be possible without the individuals, volunteers, churches, trusts, foundations, corporations and businesses who supported us throughout 2020, including with our Christmas Appeal. Without your help, 20,748 lives would be worse off; we are eternally grateful to you for your generosity, and for entrusting us to make your money make the biggest difference possible.

Trusts and foundations

- Ashworth Charitable Trust
- Bright Future Trust
- Charles Hayward Foundation
- Corton Hill Trust
- Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
- Freedom Trust
- Open Gate Trust
- Q Charitable Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- States of Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission
- St James' Place
- The Rhododendron Trust
- The Atwood Trust
- The Ninety Foundation
- The Pickwell Foundation

Corporate partners

- Barnstaple Travel Clinic
- Brewer, Harding & Rowe
- Global English
- Just Office
- Kings Carpets
- Local Rotary Clubs – Braunton, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Tiverton
- Philip J Milton & Company Plc
- Southgate Estates
- WorldFirst

Charity partners

- Farming God's Way
- Forest Garden (funding won by Uganda)
- Tools for Self Reliance
- Tools with a Mission
- Work Aid

Churches

- Church in the Park (Australia)
- Grosvenor Church, Barnstaple
- Holy Trinity Church, Barnstaple
- Holy Trinity, Brimscombe
- Ilfracombe Baptist Church
- Primley United Reform Church
- St Austell Life and Light Church
- St Hieritha Parish Church
- St Mary's Church, Wythall
- St Mark's Church (Cardiff)

Schools

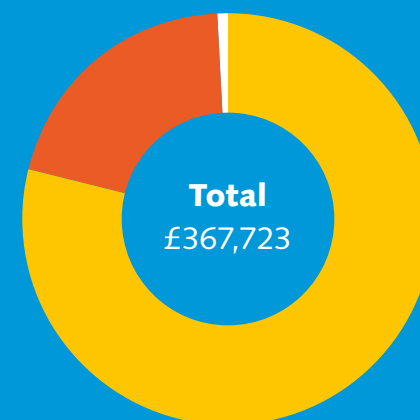
- Bishops Tawton Primary School
- Braunton Academy
- Denmark Road High School
- Hockerill Anglo-European College
- Kingsacre Primary School
- Ludgvan School
- Pilton Bluecoat Academy
- Pilton Community College
- South Molton United C of E Primary School
- The Park Community School

Financial summary

Amigos' work is funded through a range of regular donors, one-off donations, trusts and grants. 2020 saw our income hold up well amid COVID-19 with a total of £367,723. Our income in 2021 could drop slightly due to the increased difficulty to secure trust funding in the current economic climate.

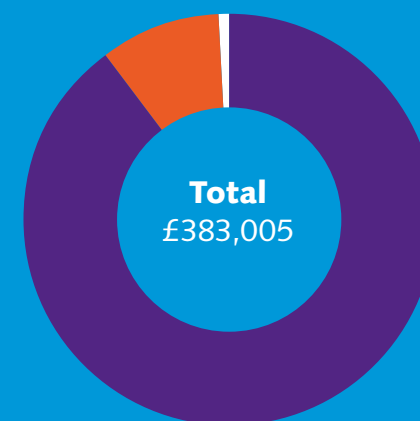
Incoming resources

- Individual and organisational donations: £290,103
- Fundraising, trusts and foundations: £75,402
- Other income: £2,218



Resources expended

- Charitable spending on projects: £343,867
- Costs of generating funds: £36,978
- Governance: £2,160






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Find us at **Amigos Worldwide**



Thanks to Joshua Nsereko, Titus Okello
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Amigos