



This issue's theme: Enterprise

Lasting pathways out of poverty

There is little formal employment in the communities where Advantage Africa works in Kenya and Uganda. Most people therefore survive on food and income derived from their smallholdings, or by enterprises such as making handicrafts or running market stalls.

It's often harder for people living with a disability, albinism or HIV to succeed as entrepreneurs because of the discrimination they face. In addition, their condition may limit their choice of income generating activities. For example, people with albinism can't herd animals or cultivate crops in the sun for long periods of time because of their vulnerability to sunburn and skin cancer. Furthermore, their goods are sometimes shunned by potential customers who think albinism is a curse.

Annette, who has albinism, has six dependants to care for. With no reliable income,



Annette shows Programme Manager Jane Betts her produce.

their lives used to be very difficult and they would *'sometimes spend days without eating at all.'* With support from Advantage Africa, Annette set up a small fruit and vegetable business in her village. People got used to seeing her every day under the shade of her stall and started to buy her produce. She was able to meet her family's basic needs and change attitudes to people with albinism within her community. Annette told us *'Whatever I have to sell, they buy. They all love me!'*

Advantage Africa has proved that the business challenges faced by vulnerable people can be overcome by a combination of good quality training, start-up materials and strong peer support. Community awareness-raising is also important to ensure equal opportunities in the marketplace. For example, almost all the families affected by

disability rearing poultry and goats featured inside were still running their enterprises after eight months and had increased their livestock numbers as much as four-fold. Forty vulnerable families living in a dry area of eastern Kenya were able to lift themselves out of chronic poverty through selling eggs, milk and meat, and also greatly improved their own nutrition. Time and time again we've found that such enterprise projects are incredibly empowering, building people's self-esteem and confidence and changing community attitudes from discrimination to respect.

In this edition we focus on how your support of small enterprise is helping vulnerable people in East Africa to improve their incomes, provide for their families and ultimately find lasting pathways out of poverty. Thank you for making this possible.

New hope for Christine

Christine is a 62 year-old widow living in Uganda. Last year, her only son was killed when a drunk driver lost control of his car and ran him over. Christine was left grief-stricken with no income and young orphaned grandchildren to care for. Advantage Africa helped her to start a small business selling charcoal. With a small investment to buy eight sacks, Christine is now making a profit of 260,000

Ugandan Shillings (£60) per month and has built her stock up to seventeen sacks. She's rapidly developing her entrepreneurial skills and is hoping to invest some of her earnings in a new business breeding rabbits. She says: *'Thank you to everyone who has changed my life from agony to happiness, I will be able to look after my grandchildren because the future is bright'*.



Christine with her sacks of charcoal.

Equipping children for the future



In Nanziga, Uganda, Advantage Africa has supported single parent families, mostly led by widowed mothers or grandmothers, to rear small livestock. After several days' training in animal husbandry, they each received piglets or chicks, along with the inoculations and food needed for them to thrive. Children enthusiastically help their parents with their enterprises and gain valuable livestock-rearing skills and knowledge about earning an income. For example, 10-year old Abraham helps his mother to care for their poultry and



Abraham proudly shows the eggs collected and his neat record book.

keeps a record book of eggs laid, sales made and vaccinations due. On the day we visited his family's home, he had collected 56 eggs before going to school!

Shoes help Shariq to shine

Shariq is a young man with albinism. Discrimination and lack of income meant this bright, promising teenager had to drop out of secondary school. Last year Advantage Africa supported him to start a small shoe-selling business and his confidence soared. He said *'Though I walk into a community and*

may get insulted, still I am strong and just ignore it.' Some days he sold ten pairs of shoes but on particularly good days he could sell as many as twenty. Now, Shariq has been able to return to school, is studying hard, and wants to become a doctor.



Life is looking up for Shariq (right) with albinism project worker David.

Helping families affected by disability in Kenya

Advantage Africa recently helped 20 families affected by disability in a very poor region of eastern Kenya to start goat keeping. Each family received three days' training, two Gala goats and a 500 litre water tank to collect water from their homes' roofs. Musenya,

for example, now has a regular income from the sale of goat milk to meet her basic needs. She recently bought some corrugated iron sheets to replace the leaking roof on her home and furnished it with two plastic chairs - tangible signs that her life is improving.

Musenya outside her home.



Zipporah with some of her hens.



Distributing the water tanks.

A further 20 families were supported to start poultry keeping. Zipporah is a 13 year old girl with learning disabilities and epilepsy who is taking part in the enterprise. After attending training with her mother, she received five hens and has now grown her flock to 15. The family uses the income from selling eggs to buy food and the medication Zipporah needs to control her epilepsy.

As well as helping these 40 families to find a sustainable way out of poverty, the project is also changing negative attitudes towards disabled people in the community.



Some of the families receive their goats.

Could you help vulnerable people to find pathways out of poverty?

£25 per month can provide regular support visits to vulnerable families rearing goats or poultry.

£50 can help a widow to start a farming or retail enterprise to provide for her family.

£100 could enable someone like Christine to recover from a family bereavement, receive training and set up a sustainable business.

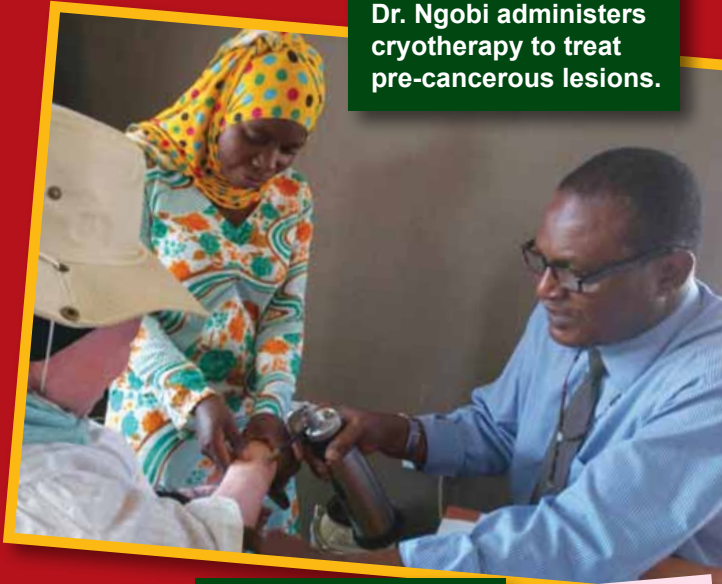
Fundraising News and Needs

BBC Radio 4 Appeal

In April, Jon Snow's Radio 4 Appeal for Advantage Africa raised the magnificent sum of £21,322 towards our skin cancer prevention work amongst people with albinism in Uganda. We're already putting these funds to good use. 3,500 bottles of high protection sunscreen have been dispatched to the Busoga region and in four recent skin clinics our local dermatologist treated 227 children and adults with albinism. Along with skin checks

and cryotherapy if needed, they received sunscreen, wide-brimmed hats and lip-salves. Our albinism project manager Peter Ogik told us that this support is preventing deaths from skin cancer and improving people's economic well-being. *'With sun protection people with albinism can now go outside, they can do business, they can go out to the garden to dig. They can take care of their families.'*

Dermatologist Dr. Ngobi administers cryotherapy to treat pre-cancerous lesions.



The Olney Old Knees prepare to run the Great North Run.



Sponsor a development worker

Our Disability and Albinism Project Managers Agnes and Peter are sponsored by a church and charitable trust through their supporters' regular monthly donations. Providing these vital project workers with a secure income enables them to work full-time helping vulnerable people in their communities.

We're currently looking for individuals or groups to sponsor project managers, social workers, teachers and cooks. Full sponsorship ranges from £50 to £150 per month. Could you get together with a group of friends or colleagues or ask your

church or community to sponsor one of Advantage Africa's front-line workers?

30 year-old Joyce has a certificate in early childhood development and teaches at our partner Rescue Team's nursery school in Kalulini, Kenya. She simply wants to help disadvantaged children enjoy a better life. Joyce's dedicated work can be sponsored for £50 per month.



Great North Run

A massive thank you to the 'Olney Old Knees' running club who ran the Great North Run in September and raised over £3,000 in sponsorship for Advantage Africa.

Could you take part in a sponsored event for Advantage Africa?

Milestones is published by Advantage Africa, who support people affected by poverty, disability and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our work helps people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities.

Registered Charity Number: 1092719 **Company Number:** 4388034, England

Staff: Andrew Betts, Rob Aley, Prachi Joshi, Jane Betts

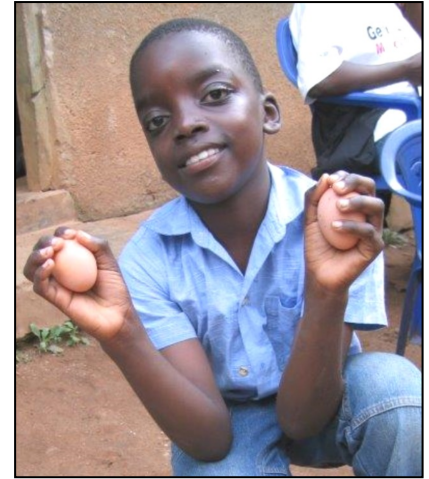
Trustees: Gill Price, Brenda Bignold, Charlotte Cashman, Christopher Chapman, Sarah Cox, Rebecca Brown **Patron:** Martyn Joseph

Address: Advantage Africa, 26a Market Place, Olney, Buckinghamshire, MK46 4BA **Tel:** 01234 711005

Facebook: www.facebook.com/advantageafrica **Website:** www.advantageafrica.org **E-mail:** office@advantageafrica.org

I'd like to make a single donation to Advantage Africa

(Please turn over for regular monthly donations)



1

Here is my donation of:

£10 £25 £50 £100 £200

OR my own choice of £_____

2

I enclose a cheque/charity voucher made payable to **Advantage Africa**, or

Please charge my Visa / Mastercard / Delta / Maestro / Amex / Charitycard

Delete as applicable and write your card number below:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Security code

Start date

 /

Expiry date

 /

Issue number

 /

Maestro only

Signature

Date

 / /

Name:

Email:

Address:

Telephone:

3

If you are a UK taxpayer, **please tick the box below** to add 25p to every £1 you donate. If your name is recorded as a couple above, please circle which of you is making the declaration.

I want to Gift Aid my donation above and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Advantage Africa.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify Advantage Africa if you want to cancel this declaration, your name or home address change or you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income

giftaid it

4

Please return to:

Advantage Africa
26a Market Place
Olney
Bucks
MK46 4BA

Thank you

You can also donate at:
www.advantageafrica.org/support-us

Registered charity number 1092719

Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty

I'd like to make a monthly donation (pto for single donations)

Please fill out this form in full and return to us



Advantage Africa

pathways out of poverty

Registered charity 1092719

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager

Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

Branch Sort Code

Service User Number

6	9	1	2	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

CAF, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Charities Aid Foundation Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Charities Aid Foundation and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions from some types of account

This is not part of the Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

My Details

Name

Mr Mrs Ms Other (Please Specify)

Address

Postcode

Donation Details

I would like to make a regular donation of £ _____

Monthly Quarterly Half Yearly Annually Commencing

01 / / or
15 / /

Gift Aid Declaration

Please Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Tick to apply

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Charities Aid Foundation will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Charities Aid Foundation to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Charities Aid Foundation or your Bank or Building Society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Charities Aid Foundation asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

