

# busoga**bugle**

Spring 2021



water. sanitation. hygiene.

**busoga**trust

## From the Editor

Our cover photo illustrates the emphasis of B.T.'s work during these last 12 months. Provoked by the plea of the President last March "to prioritise the repair of non-functioning boreholes", of which there are officially over 6,000 B.T. has been on a borehole rescue mission ever since. We have found expensively drilled boreholes fitted with cheap, unviable parts made of galvanised iron, which rusts, or of plastic, which breaks. The drillers must have known the consequences. The true cost must



*(An example of one of the many non-functional boreholes in Uganda. This perfectly drilled borehole in Kamuli was down for 13 years before being rehab'd by B.T.. Photo submitted by **Harriet Naigaga**)*

therefore be measured not just in the cost of repairs, but, more importantly, in the dreadful impact upon the lives of rural people. They have been compelled to return to using foul water sources, which inevitably bring water borne diseases, or to trekking long distances to queue for clean water, which has serious social impacts. Children making such journeys are rarely able to attend school and girls run the risk of unwanted pregnancies. Adults, chiefly women, are drained of energy and lose valuable time to work their land. Perhaps worst of all there is a loss of hope in their ability to improve their lives.

That is why B.T. is making every effort to restore as many boreholes as we can. **Since September last year we have rehabilitated 25 each month. From this May, we are doing 30 a month, one for every day of the year.** We have the capacity to do 50 a month, if funds allowed.

As you can see from the picture, each restored borehole now shines in its new livery of stainless steel while it pours plentiful clean drinking water for all the community. Nearby is a tank for handwashing, to encourage the habit at all times among all age groups, especially the children. Such a borehole is a centre of community life and messaging. Nearby B.T. is now planting fruit tree nurseries for easy watering until the saplings can be sold on to local people for their gardens. Oranges, mangoes and cashew nuts will help the local diet and the local economy. In addition, the fruit trees will provide pollen for the keeping of bees and will also reverse the process of deforestation which is so harmful to the environment. Happily these shiny boreholes are bringing a future and a hope to poor rural people!

*(Cover photo: A dream come true in Nawandala. Their renewed borehole shines even brighter and is a much better product than the original installed in 2000! Photo by **Musa Sentongo**)*

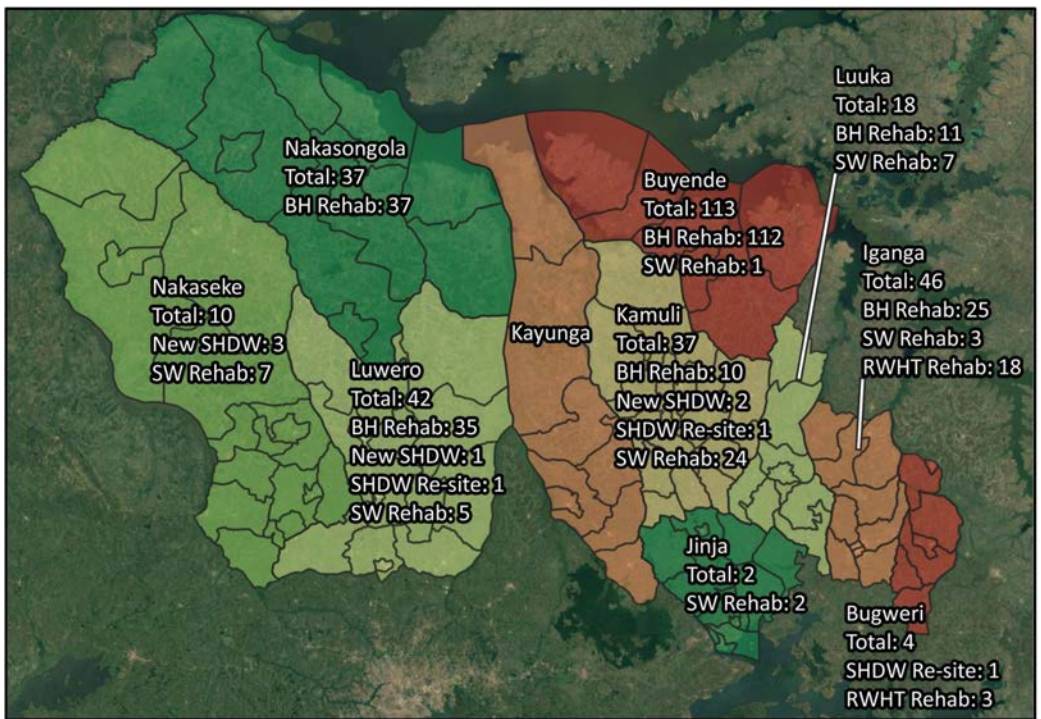


## Ouputs 2020/2021

Community Water Sources	Number of Sources	Population Reached
Rehabilitated boreholes	229	196,827
Rehabilitated shallow hand dug wells	49	13,251
Shallow hand dug well re-sites	3	530
New shallow hand dug wells	6	1,601
<b>Total Community Water Sources</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>212,209</b>
<b>Domestic Latrines</b>	<b>5,203</b>	
<i>*All these are additional to those thousands already in existence as we aim for 100% latrine coverage</i>		
<b>Household Washing Facilities</b>	<b>9,085</b>	
<i>*All these are additional to those already in situ.</i>		
<b>Handwashing Tanks Installed</b>	<b>218</b>	

(Above: Now common practise in Nabitende Namundolela, children proudly handwashing before using their newly rehab'd borehole. Photo submitted by **Musa Sentongo**. Below: Children rejoicing with their shiny "new" borehole. Photo submitted by **Juliana Namwase**)





*(This year has been B.T.'s best year ever in terms of outputs, but there is still so much more to do. B.T. is "filling the gap" in 2021, and in April has already begun rehabilitating boreholes in Kayunga district.)*

## Reports from the Field

Like Julius Caesar in Gaul, Johnson Caesar sent out scouts to spy out the land in Kayunga. They found a succession of deserted, sad looking non-functional boreholes. At the tenth one, the local chairperson explained how he had gone each year for 10 years to beg the District Water Office to help them rehabilitate their borehole. Each time he had failed. Now, in desperation, he turned to our team and said: **“B.T., now that you are here, please will you start rehabilitating our borehole tomorrow?”** Moved by what they had seen and heard, our team replied: **“Yes, we shall!”** And so we have! In April B.T. restored 5 boreholes in Kayunga and now in May and thereafter we shall be restoring 10 each month. There are probably over 200 waiting to be done in this district.

*(Photo: Residents of Mugongo West in Kayunga District have resorted to collecting water from a flooded swamp, shared with cattle, due to their non-functional borehole.*



*Photograph submitted by Immaculate Nanyunja)*

## Reports Continued

While on a routine visit to supervise our work in the field I was approached by a woman who knelt in front of me. She was wiping tears from her eyes “**You do not know what you have done!**” she exclaimed. “While fetching water from long distances, my young daughter was raped. Her future was taken from her! We felt as though the world had forgotten us. Life was so sad”, but then she smiled. “This borehole is such a blessing, thank you Busoga Trust for coming to our rescue!”. Then I realised that her story was the tip of an iceberg of similar suffering. A non-functional borehole not only endangers people’s health it also severely impacts the lives of young people. They miss so much schooling because of all the time trekking for water and sometimes their whole future is mortgaged by such personal tragedies. B.T. is shining a light in the darkness. I hope that our donors will be blessed in their generosity.



*(A non-functional borehole in Luwero, before rehabilitation. Photo submitted by **Beatrice Nabukalu**)*

**Vickie Tumwebaze**

Luwero Manager

## A Land Flowing with Milk and Honey

Winnie the Pooh was a bear who thought deeply. One day in the forest he heard a buzzing noise. So he sat down, put his head between his paws and thought deeply. Then he said: “The only reason for making a buzzing noise is because you’re a bee. And the only reason for being a bee is to make honey.” B.T., also thinking deeply, has come to a similar conclusion. If we grew more trees, especially fruit trees, which give bees lots of pollen and whose fruits can be harvested and sold, we would be solving several problems all at once. For example, most energy in Uganda comes from burning charcoal, especially for the cities of Jinja and Kampala and that means cutting down trees. Cutting down trees means deforestation and deforestation changes rainfall patterns and may even dry up wells and boreholes. Planting trees is essential for the future of the environment.



B.T.’s Pooh Project is planting fruit tree nurseries beside our wells and boreholes for selling on to local householders. This in turn will give them an income from the fruit trees in their gardens as well as stimulating bee keeping among the trees, which, in turn, will benefit not only income but peoples' diet, making Pooh a happy bear. This is surely a win-win for everyone. The Pooh Project has started in seven sub counties in Buyende where we found fruit trees we had planted 15 years ago thriving today. Because Buyende is also a cattle corridor it will become a land flowing with milk and honey!

# Water that looks clean, may still be deadly:

## A Tale of Two Boreholes

### Borehole number 1:

“What water have you been drinking?” his doctor asked Johnson when he got home on holiday from school. Because he was vomiting, had headaches, and no appetite. “Oh the water was fine”, said Johnson, “I only drank from the school’s own borehole!”, “Really?” responded the doctor, “Describe it to me”.

As Johnson was explaining about the nearby refuse pit and all the cows that came for drinking, the doctor simply said “Typhoid! You’ve got typhoid!”. He put Johnson on an intensive course of medication, which over several weeks enabled him to recover, fortunately for the Busoga Trust. The school soon removed the handle of this borehole when they realised that the water was contaminated by faeces from animals and humans and was causing typhoid.

### Borehole number 2:

This borehole was in Broad Street in London, UK. In 1854, a cholera epidemic spread among the people using this borehole and over 700 died. A man called John Snow had fortunately been monitoring this outbreak. He noticed that all those who died drank from the same borehole in Broad Street. He also noticed that some of their close neighbours who worked at the local brewery were fine. As part of their wages, they were given beer to drink. John Snow persuaded local councillors that cholera was not airborne, but waterborne and the Broad Street borehole was causing the cholera epidemic. After the handle of the hand pump was removed in but a few days the cholera epidemic stopped.

This was a turning point in epidemiology. The connection was made between contaminated water and deadly disease, whether cholera or typhoid.

**This is why Busoga Trust always aims for zero E-coli when the water in all our water sources is tested.**



*(A replica of the original Broad Street (now Broadwick Street) pump, now stands in front of the John Snow pub.)*

## The Buck Stops Here!

So said US President Harry Truman in World War 2. When the going gets tough someone needs to take responsibility. That's good leadership. Fortunately for B.T., our Country Manager is not afraid to make big decisions. Last April 2020, when the President of Uganda asked all water agencies to "prioritise the repair of non-functioning boreholes", Johnson Waibi, now also known as Johnson Caesar, after Julius Caesar, did not hesitate even for a day. At personal risk he travelled to obtain necessary permits for B.T. to gain exemption from the national lockdown and so move freely across Uganda. When most agencies locked down, B.T. opened up! What could be more essential for rural people than clean water for drinking and washing? Thus was B.T. thrust onto the front line of Uganda's rural defence against Covid-19 where we have remained. By September we were renewing 25 boreholes per month and so bringing life and hope to 17,500 more people a month. Many of these boreholes have been down for up to 10 years. B.T. restores them in a few days with all essential sanitation and hygiene uplifts. Usually the first in office and often the last to leave, Johnson manages by example. His humility and empathy towards the staff is shown by the way he cares for any in need or trouble. An effective and calm administrator and problem solver, he seeks practical solutions. Most importantly, his integrity and transparency set the standard for all B.T. to follow. He has even given up weekends to attend graduation ceremonies for some of those who were orphaned when HIV took its terrible toll. Nothing seems too much trouble for Johnson. Like the late Duke of Edinburgh he has built his life on the rock of Christ. As he said speaking in the House of Lords in the UK in 2007 "I give my life for the people of Uganda".



*(Country Manager Johnson "Caesar" Waibi, speaking at the House of Lords in the UK)*

### **Atanansi Basalirwa, Joseph Semugula & the E.D.**



*(These children from Kiroolo community resorted to collecting water from a foul pond at the side of the road when their borehole became non-functional. As a result of Johnson's leadership, their borehole has been fully restored)*

## Ivor and Pearl Feist - In Memoriam

Ivor and Pearl Feist were true pioneers. They opened up two new WASH frontiers for Busoga Trust. In 1983 they established the programme in Busoga and in 1995 the one in Luwero. They had responded to a WaterAid advert seen at the dentist. In no time they had arrived in Uganda just after Christmas 1983. "Air Uganda" ran a direct 8-hour flight, which was very relaxing, until you made the bumpy final approach to Entebbe airport over Lake Victoria. When you landed safely, the passengers would erupt with spontaneous applause! Ivor and Pearl were employed by WaterAid while B.T. met the costs of the programme. Having served in Uganda since 1958, when Ivor was Chief Engineer at Jinja Waterworks, they had come to love the country and its people. B.T. was so fortunate to obtain their services at so crucial a time. For these were the years of a civil war, a coup and genocide. Staying at their home in Jinja, it was comforting after a day in the field and a hot bath to sample Pearl's lovely rock cakes with cups of tea, while rifle shots went off down the street. Just like being in Virginia Water! In February 1984 Ivor drilled B.T.'s first borehole at Pilkington College, Muguluka for 1,000 students plus the local community. It is still pumping good water today.

In 1987, Ivor and Pearl returned home. But then, in 1995, Pearl rang me to ask if there was anything Ivor could do for B.T. because she had bought him a surprise birthday ticket to visit Uganda. As it happened I said that there was. Could he prepare the way for both of them to return, this time to set up a similar WASH programme in Luwero?

Later that year, Ivor and Pearl arrived with their boxes. This time they built much of their own accommodation with space for stores and superb pit latrines. Luwero had been "the killing fields" of Uganda. Half a million ordinary people were massacred. The new Bishop of this new Diocese had a massive task and asked B.T. to help him. Once again, Ivor and Pearl excelled themselves setting up a new WASH programme from scratch. We even had support from the British Government and the European Union and, by 1999, they had prepared a £1 million programme to expand into Masindi Diocese when, at the last moment, the new British Government changed its policy from also supporting NGOs to



*(Ivor and Pearl during their last tour to Uganda in the 1990s.)*



just supporting the Government of Uganda. In the water sector this proved to be a disaster. A 350% increase in funding resulted in a 35% decrease in outputs, most of which were inadequate. This disappointment came as a personal blow to Ivor and Pearl, and they left Uganda for the last time. However, what they established has endured and is thriving today. This Bugle is testimony to that. Ivor and Pearl were our founding father and mother. With hearts full of love for the people of Uganda, they did a brilliant job in the most challenging circumstances. We in B.T. salute their memory!



*(A lasting legacy: The borehole drilled by Ivor at Pilkington College in 1984, still pumps clean, safe water. Photographed on the annual Uganda tour, 2019.)*

## Photos from the Field



*(Top left: Two women collect water from a traditional well in Luwero, following the breakdown of their borehole. Photo by **Lydia Kyaligamba**.*

*Top right: Masked saviours: B.T. technicians insert top quality stainless steel pipes into a previously non-functioning borehole in Bunyaka village, Luwero. Photo by **Dan Mulaavu**.*



*Bottom left: "One down, two to go!" Villagers gather round their "new borehole" while the Land Rover stands by with pipes for two more! Photo by **Zahara Kyotaiweire**)*

**“How can this be? I get money from the government for three rehabs a year, how can people we don’t even know offer to restore five boreholes a month? Busoga Trust you are carrying our cross to Calvary!”** thus spoke the District Water Officer in Kayunga.

**“Waste not want not!”** so says decommissioning supremo **Winnie Mirembe**. **“Over time, some wells cease to be viable, but their parts remain good. If decommissioned, they can be used again.”**

Winnie has recovered much valuable material, so saving B.T. a lot of money. Such important work needs courage as well as diplomacy, earning Winnie the sobriquet **“Winnie the Boxer”!**

**“Unsung heroes”** is what **Joseph Ssebunya** calls B.T. as he traces our 39-year journey from just Busoga to 8 districts across Uganda. Most agencies begin with an **“exit strategy”** and they are gone in no time. B.T. started with a commitment taken from the love of marriage **“till death us do part”**.

**“Leave water sources to the government or you will let them off their responsibilities!”** This is a common criticism of agencies like B.T.. To which we reply: 1. Some governments are not the saviours but the predators of their own people. 2. Don’t use the living as pawns in a political game, for every person has their own unique dignity, being made in the image of God. 3. B.T.’s mission is to **“stand by the poor”**. Yes, we respect and work with governments, but our vocation is to **“undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free”** (*Isaiah 58*).

**“The hoe must go!”** so says Juliet Ntono. Before B.T.’s intervention, Bufutuula village had few latrines and residents dug holes with a hoe when nature called. Coupled with a lack of handwashing, this exposed community members to infection. Since B.T.’s CDOs worked with the community to build latrines and teach hygiene and sanitation, the hoe is now ideal just for agriculture.



*(A child fills up a handwashing tank by a borehole with clean, safe water. Photo by Lydia Nakato)*



*(Photo: Children washing out their jerry cans in Buyende district, before collecting clean, safe water for drinking from the borehole. Photo by Ema Nsubuga)*

**“A motivated staff is the key to success,”** so says CDO supremo **Agnes Birabwe**. B.T. staff morale is boosted, says Agnes, by good communication and by Christmas bonuses, staff parties, annual performance awards, career development options and personal support in sickness and bereavement. **B.T. seeks to be a family with a heart.**

Agnes also says **“simple hand washing can transform people’s health, especially childrens’ ”**. Handwashing tanks placed by each well are the new normal to encourage good handwashing habits in local communities.



*(An elderly lady teaches her grandchild handwashing. Photo by **Eddie Luwago**)*



*(As part of B.T.'s Covid-19 response, B.T. provides households with bars of soap and water containers. The containers are used to make tippy taps (see photo above). Left: Children proudly showing off their new bars of soap and water containers in Wabitungulu B Community. Photo submitted by **Rose Nannozi**)*

## Changing the Guard

"It has been a real privilege to have been U.K. Manager of B.T. these past almost 2 years, however it is time to move on to pastures new, quite literally, as I head to the dairy cooperative Arla Foods. I would like to thank the brilliant Ugandan team, the ED, Trustees and Treasurer for welcoming me into this extremely high achieving family who continue to transform lives day in, day out, and to all our supporters who have helped us do so much! I will continue to support B.T. from the sidelines as Leah Tennant picks up the baton!" Lydia Slack



*(Lydia Slack, the departing UK Manager, with her puppy Bea)*

"I am very excited to be joining B.T. as UK Manager this May 2021. Having spent much of my career in the super yacht industry, I returned to the UK last year and have been following the inspiring work of B.T. ever since. I feel blessed to be joining such an amazing organisation and look forward to hitting the ground running. I am excited to become part of the team and I look forward to building new and longlasting relationships with you all." Leah Tennant



*(Leah Tennant, the new UK Manager, with her puppy Bella. \*Please note, is it not a requirement of the UK Manager position to have a poodle-cross puppy!)*

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters who have helped to us keep the show on the road over the past 12 months. From socially distanced tea parties, to fundraising walks and individual donations, from cake sales to running everyday to raise money for Busoga Trust - THANK YOU.

If you would like to do your own fundraising challenge for B.T., get in touch with us using the details below. Your donations can provide:

**£3,500 – New Shallow Well**

**£2,000 – Major Rehabilitation of a Borehole**

**£1,500 – Major Rehabilitation of a Shallow Well**

**£800 – Minor Rehabilitation of a Shallow Well**

## DONATE TODAY

**Become a regular** – Our regular donors are invaluable. If you would like to become a regular donor, you can do so by using the details below:

**Online via our website donate button** – [www.busogatrust.co.uk](http://www.busogatrust.co.uk)

**Standing Order** – The Busoga Trust, Sort Code **60-07-29**, Acc. No. **39810399**

**Cheque** – payable to “The Busoga Trust” and sent to our address below

## GET IN TOUCH

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