



Issue 58

Newsletter

Spring 2026

Another year of great progress

Over the last year and more, FOAG has continued to stand alongside rural communities in Uganda as they face intensifying challenges: Pressure on land, unpredictable weather, economic uncertainty, and the everyday realities of poverty and disability.

What gives me real encouragement is not only the resilience of the people we work with, but the steady, practical progress being made through long-term partnerships and locally led solutions.

Your help is life changing. For example, today there are 140 children and young adults that have received surgery and rehabilitation thanks to your support during 2025.

In the following pages you will read more impactful stories about how you have helped us to help farmers improve harvests and soil health, enable children with disabilities to gain confidence, skills and education, assist families to protect their food through better storage, and communities to respond with courage in the face of floods and landslides.

Your generosity makes that possible. On behalf of the Trustees, thank you for helping make lasting change.

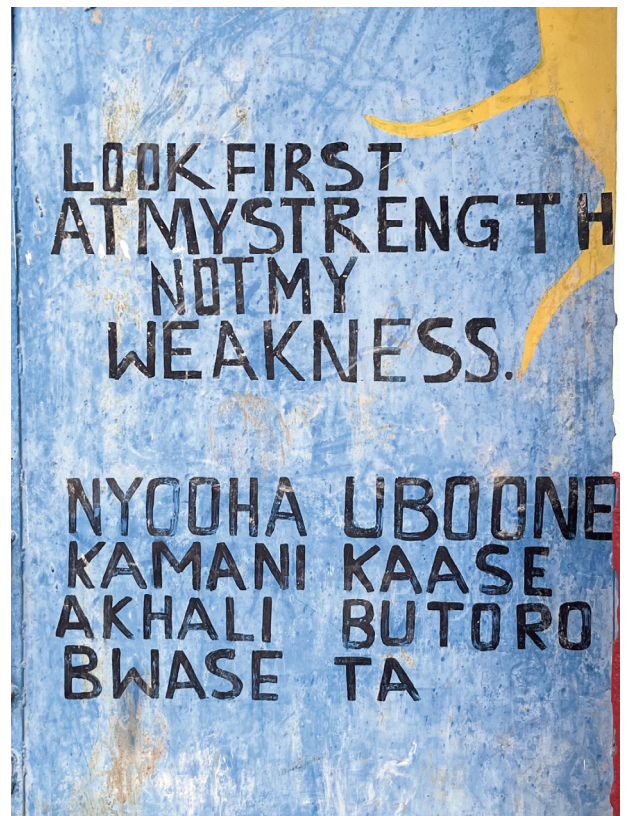
Will Surman

Chairman of Trustees, FOAG



Join the FOAG family

FOAG is nothing without its loyal supporters. We keep members up to date with the projects they are supporting, and the impact their generosity has on the lives of Ugandans. If you are already a member, please spread the word. If you are not yet a member, why not join today! Send an email to info@foag.org to get the ball rolling. You can also become involved in the charity: Volunteers are welcome!



One of FOAG's key pillars of work is to provide health support to rural families in need. Read on for some impactful stories.

More life changing operations delivered

Over 2025 FOAG supported an incredible 140 medical procedures for vulnerable and disabled children and young adults. And this work continues apace.

One focus of support was for amputees. Many of you donated generously to our Appeal which enabled operations and new prosthetic limbs for 20 patients in need, building on similar support we provided the previous year.

With your help we have empowered these young people to regain their independence and improve their quality of life.



Power of partners

FOAG works in partnership with rehabilitation centres Budaka, Butiru, Pamba and YouFra, with the patients referred to hospitals that can provide the specialist care needed.

The centres help with preparation for surgery, referral to hospital, recovery, physiotherapy, and the practical day-to-day rehabilitation that helps them return home to take part in family and community life.

Those details matter, because they are often the difference between a child getting treatment and missing it. In rural areas, the barrier is not only medical availability, it is also whether a family can travel, wait, feed a child through recovery, and attend follow-up care.



Progress and plans for a stronger future at PASNEC

The Pearls of Africa Special Needs Centres (PASNEC) Foundation is one of FOAG's partners supporting children with disabilities in Uganda.

It has two sites – Kanyanya and Seguku – near the capital city Kampala and the centres help around 40 children with mental or physical disabilities to develop skills for a fulfilled life.

These include basic life skills like washing, bathing, and laundry as well as education in basic numeracy and literacy and vocational skills such as woodwork, brickwork, cooking and crafts.

A simple change that brought a lot of joy

In 2025 some of the older students helped to install outside play equipment, cementing everything securely into place. It is a good example of practical learning and pride, alongside the obvious benefit for the younger children who now have more opportunities to play and move.

Another encouraging activity is the centre's kiosk where children and classes take turns making

snacks, serving, and helping to run it. They develop skills that can translate into greater independence and more opportunities later in life.

Patti Squire, Director of PASNEC, is hopeful that 2026 will be a year of forward movement - maintaining what they have achieved but also progressing and growing.

In Patti's words: "Thank you for helping children who are so special". From all of us at FOAG, we echo that thanks.

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If you want more information on our current health projects get in touch at info@foag.org. Another of FOAG's key pillars of work is to provide support to smallholder farmers to practice sustainable agriculture. Read on for some recent successes.

Helping farmers grow sustainable food

Back in 2020, FOAG teamed up with a local Ugandan NGO called EADEN, in Eastern Uganda, to help farmers grow more food more sustainably.

The Evergreen Agriculture (EGA) project is about keeping land productive by building soil health, improving moisture retention, and creating resilient farming systems that can ride out tough seasons.

Progress updates from the EADEN, on the ground in Uganda, paint an encouraging picture with farmers using EGA methods reporting stronger performance.

What stands out most is the way interest spreads. In many communities, the strongest advertising is simply a neighbour seeing results with their own eyes. Benefits include improved yields, more crop diversity, and practical changes like planting basins that people can understand and copy.

Notable testimonies include farmer Rose Kyobula of Buluguyi, who increased her maize output from 20kg to 60kg, and is now expecting 80kg from the same plot.

Another farmer from Buluguyi, Robert Wabwire, used to harvest around 30kg of maize from his land. After adopting the EGA approach, he said his production rose massively to around 150kg.

Not all farmers achieve such great gains, and changing farming practices is very challenging, but farmers like Robert and Rose show what is possible.

We will keep sharing updates as the work continues and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped make this possible.

Waste Less Food: the project that keeps giving

One of the most powerful things FOAG can support in Uganda is not a single building, or a one-off delivery, but a practical system that helps families protect what they have already worked so hard to grow year-in, year-out.

In Uganda, a significant amount of food is lost after harvest, before it ever reaches the table. Much of that loss comes down to simple, fixable problems: Poor post-harvest handling, pests, damp storage, and a lack of secure places to keep grain safely until it is needed or can be sold at a fairer price.

FOAG's Waste Less Food project tackles this problem.

Working with local partners

FOAG has worked with two Ugandan organisations to deliver the project: CIRIDE in north-east Uganda and EADEN in the east. The approach is practical with training in post-harvest handling, access to airtight metal silos, and the use of community bulking stores to strengthen food security locally.

In 2026 FOAG is looking to invest in a further roll-out of silos to help more farmers avoid crops spoiling in storage, to help families save food, income, and seed for the next season.

If you want more information on our current agriculture projects get in touch at info@foag.org.



The third pillar of FOAG's work is to provide educational support to help young people who cannot get a full education. Read on to find out more.

The importance of an education: Rovia's story

With your help FOAG has proudly supported young people through education in Uganda for many years. This is Rovia's story, and it shows what can happen when a determined young person is met with steady, long-term support.

Rovia contracted polio as a child and has used a wheelchair ever since.

In a context where disability can bring isolation, reduced access to schooling, and very limited employment prospects, Rovia's future could easily have been defined by what she could not do. But the Franciscan Sisters in Uganda, with whom FOAG has worked closely for many years, saw something else: A bright mind, and a young woman determined to learn.



With sustained help from FOAG sponsors, Rovia was able to complete her schooling and continue into further education. She ultimately achieved a First Class Diploma in Procurement and Logistics Management at the Uganda College of Commerce in Pakwach District, northern Uganda.

That qualification has opened doors that are too often closed to disabled young Ugandans. Rovia has found work in a bank and has also worked as a cashier in a bakery in Tororo - an outcome that would have been extremely unlikely without support, opportunity, and someone lacking her potential.

But the story does not stop at employment. In her spare time, Rovia has been teaching young women the craft of crocheting bags, helping them build practical skills and earn their own income.

Rovia's journey is a powerful reminder of why education support matters. It is about dignity, independence, and giving talented young people the chance to contribute to their families and communities.



School partners for inclusive education

As part of our commitment to a good education for those in need, FOAG has continued to support two schools – Kamurasi near Masindi and St Joseph's College, Padhola, near Tororo.

Kamurasi Primary School is transforming lives through inclusive education in rural Uganda, providing opportunities for both able-bodied and special needs children to learn together in a supportive environment.

Today, the school educates more than 1,100 pupils, including 181 children with special educational needs such as visual impairment, deafness, autism and dyslexia.

Sixty children currently board at the school's dormitory and FOAG funding has helped provide food for these boarders through the year. It is part of ongoing support over the years where in the past FOAG has also funded new accommodation for boarders and helped establish a woodlot for fuelwood.

Lillian, Kamurasi's pioneering headmistress, is retiring from the primary school; however, she is not going far as she has taken it upon herself to try and build an inclusive secondary school located adjacent to the current school. Secondary education remains a challenge in Uganda with an estimated 75% of school age children not in school. FOAG thanks Lillian for her many years of diligent service to the primary school and wishes her every success in her inspiring new venture.

In addition, FOAG has supported St Joseph's College Padhola in 2025 with funding for school upkeep and building maintenance.

If you want more information on our current education projects get in touch at info@foag.org.

Apart from FOAG's core projects around health, agriculture and education, a close relationship with our Ugandan partners puts us on the front line when an emergency hits. Here is an example of where we recently stepped in.

Emergency support: Eastern Uganda floods and landslides

In early November 2025, we heard distressing news from our partners in Eastern Uganda. Severe landslides and flash floods hit the districts of Kween, Bukwo and Kapchorwa, leaving hundreds of farming households displaced. Homes were damaged or destroyed, and many families lost the livelihoods they depend on.

The local impact has been immediate and brutal. When land gives way, it does not only take buildings, it also takes stored crops, tools, seed, livestock, and the foundations of the next season.



A request from EADEN

FOAG was contacted by the Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network (EADEN) – an organisation FOAG has worked with for many years, who have been coordinating an emergency appeal focused on the worst affected communities.

EADEN's proposal set out priority needs and a rapid response plan. FOAG sent £2,000 in emergency aid which was subsequently used to provide emergency food aid, as well as items such as blankets, bedsheets and soap.

A mother at the Benet Camp said: "We had nothing left. The help we received gave us food, beddings

and hope. We are very thankful.”

But the community is on a long road back to recovery and FOAG will continue to monitor its progress.



A brief note on how FOAG keeps things accountable

FOAG relies on regular reporting from partners and on-the-ground visits for monitoring. We aim to visit projects regularly to check governance, outcomes, and safeguarding arrangements, alongside regular checks, email, and messaging from our partners. This combination of local reporting and trustee oversight is part of how FOAG ensures funding is used wisely and for the agreed purpose.

Come to our concert: Gallery of the Imagination!

We are once again partnering with the superb Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra. Come with us on a vivid journey through bold imagination, rich orchestral colour and dramatic flair – raising money for Ugandans in need at the same time!

What:

Berlioz: Les Francs-Juges

Poulenc: Organ Concerto (Organist: James Lancelot)

Mussorgsky: Scherzo

Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition

Where: Pershore Abbey, Pershore, WR10 1DT

When: Saturday 20 June 2026. Doors open 6.30pm | Concert starts 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £20, students: £10, children under 16: Free

If you are interested in booking tickets for the 2026 Concert, please email us at info@foag.org, or call 01886 853295, or purchase via Eventbrite (search “Gallery of the Imagination”). Please note: Eventbrite adds an extra 12% service charge.

First aider needed! Our usual first aider (a GP) who has kindly covered our concerts for the last three years is not available this year. If you are qualified and able to help as the first aider for the evening, please email robin.dean@foag.org.



If you wish to support FOAG's long-term mission to help rural Uganda, here's how:

1– Bank transfer

You can pay make a donation to FOAG through our Nat West account

Account name: Farmers Overseas Action Group / Sort Code: 53–81–33 / Account Number: 08376158

Please email us at info@foag.org to say that you have done this so we can acknowledge your donation.

2– Paypal

If you have a PayPal account, use this link:

<https://www.paypal.com/uk/fundraiser/charity/3230519>.

Please tick the Share my Name box so that we can acknowledge your donation. PayPal does not charge us for this transaction.

3– Stewardship

Stewardship allows you to donate single or regular amounts. FOAG's donation page is at <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20023984>. Choose the frequency and amount you would like to donate and tick the box to share your contact details so we can acknowledge your donation. A charge of 3% is taken from the donation.

4– Cheque or CAF Voucher

Please send your cheque or voucher, made payable to FOAG, to Robin Dean, FOAG Administrator, Rectory Cottage, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, WR6 6ST.

5– Become a member

You can join as an individual or a family, and we will send you our newsletter and details of any of our special appeals.

6- Consider leaving a legacy to FOAG

Over the past few years, FOAG has received a number of gifts in wills from long-standing supporters. We are very grateful that, even after they are gone, their support is still reaching families in need in Uganda. Some legacies which we have received have been general but in some cases the donor has requested that the legacy be given to a specific 'project'. We appreciate that IHT rules currently are subject to considerable flux especially around farming families. We understand that any donation to a registered charity reduces the total value of your estate for IHT purposes. If you are considering leaving a legacy to FOAG, you should take advice from your solicitor and accountant. If you have any queries about supporting FOAG in this way, please contact Robin Dean (our Administrator by email at robin.dean@foag.org) - if necessary, he will involve an appropriate Trustee.

The importance of Gift Aid: Whichever way you choose to donate, recovering Gift Aid is particularly important as it increases the value by 25%. When you donate and if you haven't filled in a declaration our Administrator Robin Dean will forward you a form to complete and return.

Farmers Overseas Action Group charity number 1164747 Address: The Old Rectory, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, WR6 6SH

