

Developing Our Global Community
We make a difference to the lives of many children,
and God Willing help to give them a future.



The Civil War in Sudan is one of the longest, bloodiest and most damaging which Africa has ever seen. The battle between the North and the South of the country ignited again in 1983 and has claimed an estimated 1.5 million lives. Tens of thousands of innocent members of the population have been caught up in the carnage and massive sections of the population have been displaced, leaving their land, homes and livestock in fear of being targeted by roaming gangs of soldiers. Unfortunately children have also been caught up in the conflict, often being abducted from their villages by rebel armies and forced to join the war.

The physical and mental effects on the children, some as young as eight years old, are unthinkable. Fortunately for the people of Sudan, a ceasefire was called in 2005 but many of the regions scars have yet to heal. Scores of former child soldiers who have been ostracised from their villages or simply have no one to return home to, are faced with a dampening situation, with little prospects. Here at 'Glasgow, The Caring City' (GtCC), we saw this post conflict scenario as one of war's forgotten consequences.



Ross Galbraith, the organisation's development officer, said "we wanted to use our resources in a positive way", to help the people of Sudan who by now had suffered so much. With their wedding only around the corner, Ross and his wife Lyndsay decided that they could use this special day to really make a difference. Lyndsay commented; "Our ethical wedding list, for Matthews Farm, wasn't aimed at a novelty factor but rather the opposite; we want giving to charity to be part of our lives and part of the core values of our family".



Matthew's Farm

The ex lumbering community, which used to be a prosperous trading hub before the toils of war took hold, was perfect for the open and interactive class rooms where skills could be developed. Lyndsay was "very impressed by the level of income generated by the Matthews Farm scheme. It proves the point that every little counts and that small contributions, invested wisely, can and will make a difference".

By getting their friends and family to buy a more long term and worthwhile wedding gift than the usual crockery set or juicer, Ross and Lyndsay were able to gather a whole array of tools and supplies, raising £3,000 to set up the agricultural project and demonstration fields. Named 'Matthew's Farm', after the couple's son, the Katire region of southern Sudan was the site chosen for the project in 2008.



Katire



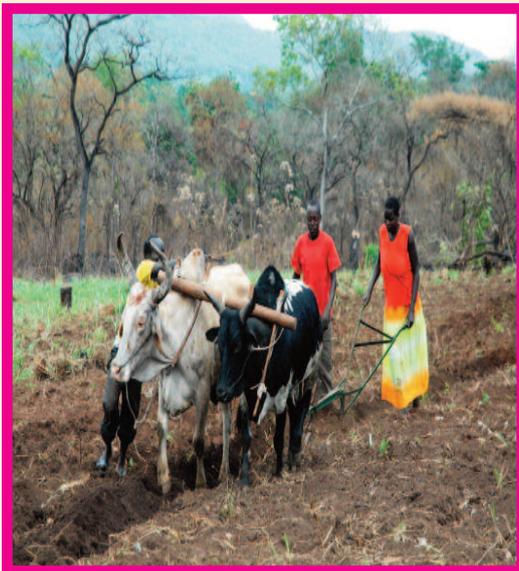
An Open and Interactive classroom

By putting an emphasis on teaching former child soldiers how to plant, nurture and harvest crops, self sufficiency is being promoted. Skills can be passed on to the next generation and communities can begin to rebuild. Most importantly, the ex fighters are being helped to go through the long process of rehabilitation, helping them to forget the horrors which they have experienced and integrate back into the community.

Members of the local society are being taught how to use modern methods of farming, such as the intermixing of crops, in order to grow a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. Tomatoes, oranges and eggplant are only a few of the produce which gets harvested twice a year.

Around 50 households in the surrounding area are currently being trained in the most efficient way to optimise the local land, which includes using oxen to plough the soil. Promisingly, an increasing number of women are becoming involved in the project which is a good sign for the long term lifespan of the training school.

While the project continues to develop, with plans to extend the farm and use it for commercial and cash crops by the end of 2011, more help is needed. To fully function, the training scheme needs an adequate supply of seeds and tools. On a grander scale, a mechanised plough is something which the area is desperately lacking. Despite the encouraging contribution by the local community, it still takes 3 days to plough an acre using oxen.



Women and men work together in Kitire

For its long term lifespan, the farm needs to maintain their water pump, in order to irrigate the land, as all watering is currently being done by hand. Most importantly, as the farm grows in size and the agricultural output increases, a storeroom to hold seeds and produce is required, along with some form of transportation to move food to the local market.



All of these things are essential for the long-term maintenance of the project, allowing it to continue to help not only the town of Katire, but the entire Ikotos District. Here at Glasgow the Caring City, we urgently require donations of money and tools, in order to help the people of Ikoto's to learn to support themselves after twenty years of civil war. The contribution to the local community which Matthew's Farm provides cannot be overstated and with your help, we aim to enable it to continue with its fantastic work.



Many members of this community were child soldiers who came to the area to seek sanctuary

If you would like to donate to Glasgow the Caring City, so that we can help the people of Katire to keep building their community, while passing on valuable skills to the next generation, there are many ways to do so.

If you would like to donate funds click here:

[Donate funds](#)

If you would like to donate goods click here:

[Donate goods](#)

Alternatively you can contact us through the following methods:

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Glasgow the Caring City would like to thank all of those who kindly sponsored the creation of Matthew's Farm. Without your help this project would not have been possible. We and the people of Katire are forever grateful.

