



**The Linda Project**  
**A child has the right to be a child!**  
**Newsletter nr. 1 – March 2018**  
**[www.lindafoundation.com](http://www.lindafoundation.com)**

Dear friends and other interested parties,

Here we are again with the latest news from Lira, Uganda.

In the Western world we have summer – and winter time, not so in Uganda. The country lies on the equator in the South, in Lira we are about 340 km above the equator. That means that around 06.30 daylight starts and at 19.00 it is dark. In the South of Uganda there is a tropical climate, in Lira it is more a savannah climate. In Lira one doesn't know summer or winter but there is a dry season and a wet season. And the past period we were allowed to "enjoy" an old fashioned dry season. From December to March there was not a drop of rain, there was a strong wind full of dust and temperatures on average of 38 degrees C. Luckily the rains came in March and everybody could breathe again. I myself left The Netherlands on December the 10th in a terrible snowstorm, with a 14 hour delay, for Uganda and came back on March the 2nd in the same kind of weather: snow and a wind chill temperature of –15. That was something to get used to!



Some years ago, the United Nations decided that children's homes were not wanted anymore, everybody had a family member somewhere that could be of assistance. In Lira they turned a blind eye to us, because they knew that sometimes there really were no family members. The children were brought to us with good reason.

This year however, things changed. During the school vacation the children had to go to family members. That was a big job. First we contacted 3 similar organisations, to see if we could bring the children to them. Unfortunately they were facing the same problem.

Then the scavenger hunt started to locate distant family members. They were found and in the week before Christmas all the children were brought to them. Sometimes we had to travel for a day, it was so far away.



We moved the Christmas celebration, with games, good food and presents, to the weekend before Christmas. The atmosphere was fine as the children (and we) had no idea what dramas were going to unfold.

Some family members thought that the children only came for Christmas and New Year. When they found out it was for the whole school vacation the children had to work hard and all their belongings were taken from them. Other children were moved somewhere else as soon as we left. In short, it was a disaster. And an expensive one at that. We had to buy everything new for them on their return. Mattresses, beddings,

school bags, clothes, shoes, everything was gone. They returned in some old clothes and slippers.

They were very happy to be back. We are now contemplating what to do in the upcoming May vacation. Because, going back to the relatives is not an option. So I am going back to Lira on April the 23rd.

Out of the three children that sat for their exam for Primary School two boys passed and are now attending secondary school. The girl failed unfortunately and is repeating P7.

We now have 9 children in primary school, 7 in technical school, 3 in secondary school and 5 in university.



We are very happy with your faithful donations. Do you know you can deduct this from your income tax? Make sure you write the word **GIFT** on your payment order.



The children are very busy packing their boxes for the new school year. Since they lost everything, there was a lot of work to be done.

I would like to introduce you to **Morisson Okello**. He graduated last year and received his diploma in procurement and logistics management. He is now working in our office, visits students, does the procurement, all in all a hard working person. We are very happy with him. It is so encouraging to experience that a young man like him, raised by us, is doing something back this way.





We are at the eve of Easter and everywhere you go you see advertisements of Easter bunny's, eggs, Easter breakfasts and what not. In Lira this is completely unknown. One celebrates Easter of course, but without all those trimmings. One goes to church and there is something extra to eat, but it stops there. On Good Friday the schools are closed as it is a national holiday. Saturday is business as usual and Sunday is of course Easter Sunday. Monday everybody goes back to work.

**On behalf of the children and the teams in Uganda, Northern Ireland and The Netherlands we wish you a blessed and happy Easter.**



### **The LindA Project** **Care and education for orphans in Northern Uganda**

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The LindA Project UK is a registered charity under no. XR918667, we are also on the SA return list, no. BAS60KG. On our website, under "contact", you can find all our details, including BIC and IBAN data. Also you can find the details of our Dutch banks there.