Greetings from Link,

It is now half way through the year and time to reflect on our achievements so far in 2016, and what we hope to achieve in the next six months. This newsletter will update you, as one of our kind supporters, on what we have been up to recently.

GEC Midline Results

We are delighted to announce the results of our DfID funded Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) midline findings.

The GEC project aims to improve girls' enrolment, retention and performance in four rural districts of the Wolaita Zone in south-western Ethiopia, working with 62,777 girls who are at risk of being marginalised.

We are thrilled to share that all of our midline results showed that the project is on track or has exceeded targets in all the key intervention areas. Some of the highlights include:

- Girls' attendance has improved
- Girls' self-confidence has improved 'substantially'
- Girls' literacy and numeracy improvement has far surpassed targets and control group scores
- The gap between boys and girls in core subjects has decreased, with girls showing an increased interest in science.

You can view a video showing our work in Ethiopia by clicking here.

You can find out more about the Girls' Education Challenge midline results by clicking here.

Uganda Receives Trust Africa Grant

Link Community Development Uganda is pleased to share the news that they will receive a second grant from Trust Africa. The grant is to support phase two of the Lugungu and School Support Initiative in Buliisa (LaSSIB-2).

The new grant will enable Link Uganda to enhance the management and functionality of schools using our innovative School Performance Review (SPR) process and the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA). This project also aims to raise awareness of the value of reading among the wider school communities in Buliisa District.

LaSSIB-2 strongly supports the Ugandan Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports (MoESTS) initiative to teach in the learner's mother-tongue (in this case Lugungu) and to use school data to improver learner performance and procedure. Link Uganda's project will target early grade learners and teachers, school management committees (including PTAs), head teachers and parents in the eight beneficiary schools of the program.

You can read more about this news story on our website.

Link's work in Ethiopia featured in The Scotsman

Link was delighted to see our great work featured in The Scotsman newspaper on 21 June 2016.

The piece highlighted our efforts that 'give hope of an education to 62,000 Ethiopian girls'. In 2016, boys are still more likely to be sent to school in Ethiopia, with their sisters expected to take on key roles in the home - such as looking after sick parents or caring for siblings.We hope that this article will help raise awareness of our work, allowing more girls to be reached.

Giving hope of an education to 62,000 Ethiopian girls

International Programme Director, Dr Samantha Ross, said on Link's work: "We are seeing an attitude change in communities... people are now saying they want girls to have an equal opportunity to the boys".

You can read The Scotsman article by clicking here.

Link Takes On Edinburgh

On the night of Saturday 18 June 2016, a Link team took part in the Edinburgh Night Ride, successfully cycling 80km each around the

moonlit streets of the Scottish capital.

The team was made up of International Programme Director Samantha Ross, Board members Mark Beaumont and Roger Cunningham, and friend of Link Mark Howitt. Whilst also completing the cycle, our Link team have been able to raise over £2,500. This fantastic fundraising by the Link team will provide much valued financial support to our work in sub-Saharan Africa.

If you are inspired by our team and would like to help support our cause by taking on a fantastic challenge, you can check out our Open Challenge Guide which will give you all the information you need to get involved.

You can read our Open Challenge Guide by clicking here.

International Management Team Meet in Rwanda

Members of Link Community Development recently came together in Kigali, Rwanda to reflect on the progress of our projects, make plans for the future and ensure our core model was still relevant and progressive.

The International Management Team (IMT), made up of Link's Senior Management Team and Programme Directors from all five countries Link operates within, also met with the Rwandan Education Board, DfID Rwanda and other education NGOs to ensure our technical expertise would further Rwanda's educational priorities and to establish future partnerships.

We hope to share exciting news about expanding our work across further countries in sub-Saharan Africa with our supporters very soon.

If you have any questions about Link Community Development or the work we undertake, please feel free to get in touch with us. You can call us on **0131 225 3076** or by emailing **link@lcd.org.uk.**

All the best,

The Link Team

Connect with us: