



Dear ,

It has been an exciting few months for the Link Community Development family as we continue to strive towards equality in education for all children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Here is a flavour of what we've been up to over the last quarter.

Become a Friend of Link from just £10 per year

Today in Africa 30 million children are not in school and children living in rural areas face many challenges; long, dangerous commutes to urban schools; class sizes of over 60; untrained teachers; and household chores. For girls, early marriage and child bearing, poor sanitary protection, and traditional gender roles can rob them of their education.



This has to change.

We are working hard to solve these critical challenges through sustainable and effective interventions that support the most vulnerable, but we cannot do it alone.

Can you help us by becoming a Friend of Link for as little as £10 per year? Your donation will help us plan for the future, fill project gaps and ensure our work can continue to help make a difference across sub-Saharan Africa.

Updates from the field

We are delighted to bring you updates from across the Link family to show how your support is changing lives for thousands of disadvantaged communities.

Our colleagues in Ethiopia have been busy delivering training for all 1,768 teachers in our 123 Girls' Education Challenge beneficiary schools. We have also distributed sanitary pads, monthly soap allowances and underwear to 16,073 girls. Over the next few months, we will continue to deliver training and support to teachers and girls, as well as presenting the results of our [GEC programme](#) which includes a 300% increase in girls' literacy achievements.



Link Ghana have successfully enrolled 2,050 out-of-school children into the [Complimentary Basic Education \(CBE\) programme](#). We have also achieved our gender target of 52% girls and 48% boys, in line with the Ghanaian Ministry of Education policy. In the coming months, we will be delivering training for headteachers and school management committees, whilst mobilising advocacy for education within local communities in the Upper East Region.

Link Malawi have been working hard to develop our [Increasing Participatory Governance in Education in Malawi \(IPGEM\)](#) project activities. We have been speaking to marginalised adults and children to find out how we can support them to become active participants in improving their schools. We also delivered a District Education Conference on 10 March that was attended by 160 delegates, made up of teachers, parents and learners, and representatives from local and national government to strengthen accountability and ownership of education matters. [You can read a full report here.](#)

Link Uganda have undertaken School Performance Reviews for all beneficiary schools in the Buliisa District; this has provided crucial data about the areas of learning that require improvement. This information will be disseminated during upcoming School Performance Appraisal Meetings (SPAM) to develop School Improvement Plans. These activities are part of our [LaSSIB-2 project](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up to date on our work in Africa. Please share with your friends and family.

Welcoming the Ethiopian Ambassador to Edinburgh

We were delighted to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework, the Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, to our International Headquarters in Edinburgh during his maiden visit to Scotland.

Link CEO, Fiona Greig, shared information on our groundbreaking Girls' Education Challenge Project in Ethiopia, showing how Link is helping 62,777 girls in the rural Wolaita Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region.



We thank His Excellency for taking time to meet us, and hope that he enjoyed his first visit to Scotland.

[Read more about our Girls' Education Project here.](#)

Jail and Bail 2017

On Friday 24th March 2017, we will be 'incarcerating' business leaders and friends of Link in our third annual Jail and Bail event in Edinburgh, at the lavish Scotch Malt Whisky Society. The challenge for our 'prisoners' is to each raise £300 to be released free of all charges.



Can you help clear the names of our 'convicts' by donating towards their bail amount. Every penny raised from this fundraiser will go directly to supporting Link's work in sub-Saharan Africa.

If you are in the Scottish capital on Friday 24th March 2017 and would like to give Jail and Bail a try, please get in touch with Jake Laws (jake@lcd.org.uk).

[Help 'Bail out' our convicts.](#)

Featured Challenge: The Edinburgh Night Ride

Take part in a night to remember on this ride through the dark streets of Edinburgh and see this stunning city like never before!

The challenge is to cycle 50 moonlit miles with a throng of like-minded cyclists, along the twists and turns of the streets of Edinburgh on the Night Ride.



The route has stunning night views of the city, taking in the iconic sights of this beautiful city, including Arthur's Seat, The Castle, and the Forth Bridges . This is a rare chance to explore the nooks and crannies of the Scottish capital at a time when much of the traffic has abated.

Last year, the Link team raised over £3,000 by taking part in the Night Ride, can you help us beat that?

[Find out more and register here](#)

If you have any questions about our work, please get in touch on 0131 225 3076 or link@lcd.org.uk.

On behalf of all at Link Community Development, thank you for your ongoing support.

All the best,

[The Link Team.](#)

Registered Charity Numbers: 1048007 (England and Wales) and SCO37959 (Scotland)

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