

SUPPORT FOR THE ELDERLY PERSON (STEP)

#UGM2016

THE PIGS PROJECT

September '16 Project Update



ABOUT SUPPORT FOR THE ELDERLY PERSON

Elderly folk are one of the groups in greatest need in Uganda. There is no welfare or support structure for them, many have lost their entire families through HIV/AIDS and charity funding is concentrated on more 'photogenic' children's causes. This means that they are often left to fend on their own.



One of the STEP Elderly communities with UGM runners

STEP offer a sustainable lifestyle for these elderly people who have nothing left. They offer them support, shelter, work and an income so that they have the means to carry on living. Using low labour intensive occupation, such as pig farming, STEP offers dignity to these people that are in such danger of being forgotten.

THE PIGS PROJECT

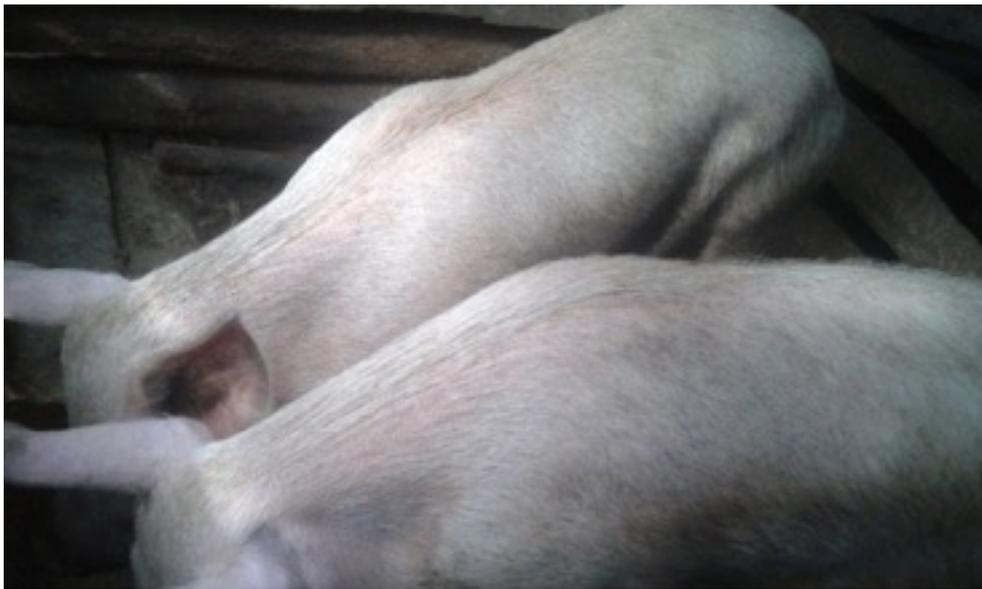
In 2015, the marathon linked with STEP and a group of 70 elderly people in *Kyabakuza* who make up the "old persons association" of the area. We have worked alongside them to create a pig project where our runners built a piggery structure and the community supplied the two female pigs. This has now grown, with 7 piglets being passed onto other members of the group. The deal

is that with each litter of piglets from the “pass on” pigs, one is brought back so it can be responsibly passed onto another member of the group.



UGM runners building the original piggery

This has proved so successful that STEP have asked if we can implement the same program in another elderly community. That is where your fundraised money comes in for 2016! With your help we can replicate this system and support another 70 elderly people with a sustainable future.



The first set of pigs to inhabit the piggery

SEPTEMBER '16 PROJECT UPDATE

So we now work with two groups of elderly within Masaka town. One is the group that runners have visited in Kyabakuza, where they are coming to complete their first year of piggery farming as a collective. In this one year we have seen 7 piglets passed on to elderly members of which, 4 are pregnant and will soon be ready to deliver and return one of their piglets to the main farm.

The main farm now looks really professional, with the new sty finished and in fully working order. But you can't rush farming and no matter what you do, you have to wait for the livestock to reproduce. Therefore Whilst the group wait for the sty to fill with returning piglets, they are renting out the sty space to neighbours, helping to create some income before the piglets even arrive.



Tom and the leaders of STEP standing outside one of the completed piggeries

This year, we are helping this elderly association with a water harvesting so they can freely keep their pigs hydrated and healthy. The plan is to fit this in September, prioritising it before the rains start.

The other elderly group on Ssaza have not been idle and have already selected land and generated a working time table for how they will look after their dairy cow. We have supported the group to visit the Kitovu Mobile dairy cow training farm that the Uganda Marathon supported last year. Here

they got expert training on how to care for their cow, as well business planning around marketing and costs. We have also linked them with a local expert in Masaka who is going to be able to check on their farm once a month to offer advice and support.



The elderly community visited the dairy cow training farm for a day's learning

The business forecast we have created shows that this project can be a truly profitable one for this motivated elderly group.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!