

# UGANDA 2019



Over the summer, I was given the amazing opportunity to go to Uganda with GirlGuiding. We participated in many volunteering activities as well as cultural experiences to further our knowledge of Kabubbu (the village we were staying in) and Uganda as a whole.

On arrival in Kabubbu we were given a tour of the village. Our first task was teaching English in the local primary school; we taught 3 lessons in total, to year 5, all about post. This was an amazing experience as we got to know the children better and see the direct impact of some of the work we would be doing.





Every morning we attended the school's assembly, as each day a different volunteering group would give the assembly. Over the course of our stay in Kabubbu we did 2 assemblies. Our first one was the story of the lion and the cockerel, and our second was the lion and the mouse. The assemblies were great to get the opportunity to speak to the school as a whole and bring over stories from the UK.

The first service project we completed was sanding and painting a new secondary school teacher's house. This was hard work but definitely paid off when we got to see the finished result. It took us 3 mornings to complete each one with a different task: the first morning we scraped and sanded the house; the second morning we painted a few layers of base coat; the third morning we added the top layer of white. I felt that during the painting we bonded well as a group by getting to know each other even better through working together as a team.





The other service project we participated in was working at the farm to plant maize. On the first day we met the farm animals, made measuring devices and churned the land ready for planting. On the second day we dug the holes using the measuring devices and planted the seeds and fertiliser. This was definitely the most physically challenging experience of the trip as it was very hot on the two days we were working. I think that the farming gave us an impression of what daily life was like for any adults in Uganda, as 25% of the population work in agriculture.



Our final project was the “Development Challenge”. This is where we were given £100 to spend on a family in need to help impact them in the short and long term. The challenge started when we met the family and spent time getting to know them to learn about their situation. As a group, we selected and sourced the items we would purchase and on the last day we gave them the items and then had dinner with the family.

During the trip we also undertook many cultural activities and excursions both within Kabubbu: basket weaving, African drumming and dancing, trying traditional African food, watching a performance from the primary school children.



Our final days saw us visiting the source of the Nile, walking around the Ssezibwa waterfalls, visiting the capital city, visiting the equator, and going on a safari at Queen Elizabeth national park. It was a life changing and memorable trip that I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to go on.

