



ALL TOGETHER

Winter 2021 Update

Change happens when we all work together

**ALL
WE
CAN**



Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with those living in some of the world's most marginalised communities.

Your regular gift is more vital than ever during this ongoing global crisis. With your committed support, All We Can is working with talented local partners to help the most vulnerable as they continue to face coronavirus (Covid-19) and look towards a brighter future.

Being a part of the All Together movement sends a powerful message – that communities are not alone in their struggle against poverty and injustice. It says that you are there, standing alongside them, working together to inspire lasting change.



Cover image: Beth stands outside her home with her young grandson and three of her children. Her daughter, Mwaiduma, holds her new bicycle which she uses to travel to and from school.

Image: Beth hopes her daughter's bicycle will help transform the entire family

A hopeful journey

Life for Beth, her children, and grandchildren, presents many challenges. Medical issues mean that Beth cannot walk very far, and as a widow, estranged from her former husband's family, she struggles to provide for all who depend on her.

In order to make a living, she and her children collect water for others in their village in rural Uganda, and sell banana leaves and pancakes for the equivalent of a few pence. 'I am not able to support my family like I would wish to' she said, 'Especially when it comes to working very hard - I feel a lot of pain, so I am not able to earn a lot of money...I find it hard to support my children.'

But with the help of your generous ongoing support, Beth and her family are looking towards a better future. Thanks to one of All We Can's local partners in the region, Beth's daughter Mwaiduma has been able

to access a bicycle - enabling her to travel quickly, easily and safely to school and focus on her education. A good education has the power to transform the lives of girls like Mwaiduma - enabling them to embrace their God-given potential.

'I have so many hopes for my daughter' says Beth, 'because if she persists in school, I believe we can change as a family.' Mwaiduma has already seen great progress at school, thanks to her bicycle. Now that she is able to reach school quickly, she is no longer turned away for being late, she can spend more time in her lessons - and is thrilled how much she has improved as a result!



Not only does a bicycle offer Beth's daughter the opportunity to fulfil her God-given potential - owning a bicycle will also help the family travel to markets, where they can sell their products and secure a reliable income. 'I can use a bike to fetch water, and I can earn a living using that very bike.' Beth shares how this will help provide new opportunities for increased income: 'I believe now that I am not able to do so many things with my own hands, a bike will be my other support. For example, if I am selling my pancakes, I will be putting the pancakes on the bike and accessing the trading centre, which will be another market.'

Image: Mwaiduma, Beth's daughter, holds her glowing school report. Her progress in school has improved since using her bicycle, as she is able to arrive safely and on time.



Standing together during a global crisis

Like countless communities across the world, the families you are journeying with in Butagaya have faced many challenges due to Covid-19. During Uganda's initial lockdown in 2020, public transport was banned – including 'boda boda' motorbikes, which many of the community in Butagaya rely on to travel. For these rural communities, this made accessing vital services — such as markets and healthcare facilities — a real challenge.

All We Can's local partner, FABIO, are committed to standing by families like Beth's – come what may. They strive to innovate, and use the bicycle as a solution to a range of different challenges. During this period of lockdown, FABIO provided regularly sanitised bicycles for rural communities, so that they could continue to visit markets to buy and sell food, and access health services. **More than 1,200 households were able to access bicycles as part of this emergency response.**

Image : Beth's twin daughters stand outside their home in Butagaya



Tapenensi's Story

Tapenensi is one of the many people who has been supported thanks to FABIO during the Covid-19 crisis. She faces a number of health challenges, including diabetes and high blood pressure, meaning that she relies on regular medication to keep her healthy.

'When the Covid-19 outbreak occurred, my life started deteriorating as there was no way for me to reach hospital to get my routine medication...after weeks of lamenting, I got information about the emergency bicycles that had been distributed to help the community. I approached the chairperson and I got help. I started borrowing the bicycle to [travel to] the hospital. I no longer miss my routine check-ups and now my life is very stable. I also use the bicycle to fetch food from the neighbouring community.'

Tapenensi

Image : Access to a bicycle meant Tapenensi was able to access the medication she vitally needs, even during Uganda's lockdown



Ibrahim and Kambeda's Story

Access to bicycles have also been vital for pregnant women in the rural communities in which FABIO is working. After receiving interim first aid from a member of the village health team, Ibrahim used one of the emergency bicycles provided to take his wife quickly and safely to a health centre when her waters broke. As public transport was banned, without the bicycle, his wife Kambeda would have needed to walk 8km to access essential medical treatment.

'My area chairman informed me that there were some relief bikes that would help us during this emergency period to access health centres, markets and [kitchen] gardens among others. So when my wife got into labour pains, I went to the chairperson to borrow a bike that I would use to quickly take her to the health centre.'

Ibrahim

Stay connected with All We Can

It is a bit of a cliché to say that ‘the church is the people, not the building’, but this last year has tested that principle to the limit, hasn’t it? As our buildings have closed and being together has become unsafe, we’ve had to adjust to new ways of worshipping. We have learned again the invaluable truth: God wasn’t confined to the buildings, or the hour set aside for worship on a Sunday. God is bigger than any of that.

Have you been connecting with church online? In the last 11 months, we have seen so much innovation, connection and creativity – using the power of the internet and a few simple tools to help recreate the connection, the worship and the teaching that we experience in our chapels every week. Do share with us your stories of what has worked, and what hasn’t!

Have you been connecting with All We Can online? We’ve recognised the need to ‘hold together’ more than ever – as communities here in the UK, but also as a global community, as we stand in solidarity with our global neighbours during this pandemic.



Join us on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter at 1.17pm every Monday, Wednesday or Friday as we learn, grow, share and pray together, inspired by Colossians 1:17 – ‘in Christ all things hold together’. You might also enjoy our monthly emails, with great stories about All We Can’s work and ways you can get involved – or perhaps you’d like to follow us on social media and share some of those stories with your friends, your church, and others in your network.

In these isolating times, it is more important than ever that we connect, that we **#HoldTogether** – we hope to see you online!

   @allwecanuk
allwecan.org.uk
Sign up for emails at
allwecan.org.uk/enews

Image: Beth stands with her daughter and grandchild



This Lent, change begins with you

This Lent, discover how God’s story of transformation begins with you by using All We Can’s Lent resources. Together, we’ll explore the life-changing, action-inducing, heart-soaring reminder that the message of Jesus brings.

If you do not already have a copy, or you want to download or order more, visit allwecan.org.uk/Lent.



You can be a part of All We Can’s very first online Lent group

Looking for more ways to dig deeper during Lent? Join us online every week during Lent for an All We Can Lent group, hosted by our Churches Team. With guest appearances from others across the All We Can movement, you will join a group of Christians who are inspired by All We Can’s work and seeking to change, reflect and grow this Lent - starting Wednesday XX February. We can’t wait to see you there!

To find out more, visit allwecan.org.uk/lentgroup



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All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund,
a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691