

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Impact Report 2025/26

Teso Development Trust

partnering with communities in Teso, Uganda



Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

ISAIAH 58:6–7, 10–11 (NIV)

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our first Impact Report



For a relatively small charity, Teso Development Trust (TDT) is involved in a significant range of different projects connected with the people of the Teso region in Uganda. All our activities have a Christian underpinning but have different objectives, and it is sometimes hard to give a simple answer to the question "What does TDT do and how effectively does it do it?"

The production of this annual impact report allows us and our supporters to step back and begin to answer those connected questions. Whether you pray, give or volunteer with us, or are just interested in our work, we hope that you find this booklet that reviews our activity in the fiscal year 2025/26 helpful.

Thank you for all that you do with TDT for the people of Teso, the vast majority of whom proclaim the Christian faith. Our brothers and sisters in Christ face a very different set of challenges to those we have in the UK, and need our help, often in the most basic requirements of daily living. Please continue to pray for our work and, if your interest is piqued in what we do, there are many practical ways in which you can help us and our Ugandan partners to bring God's love and grace to the people of Teso.

Andrew Third
Chair, Teso Development Trust



OUR PURPOSE

Objectives of the Teso Development Trust

To promote in the Teso Region, Uganda:

1. The relief of poverty, sickness and distress, and to preserve and protect health
2. The advancement of education
3. The advancement of the Christian religion



2025/26 AT A GLANCE

Some Achievement Snapshots

4,000+	participant training days in food security, family business and community resilience
500+	households engaged in 19 new community savings groups, representing over 3,000 family members
17	clean water sources, serving 1,890 households and 10,890 individuals
4,000+	patients at Ngora Freda Carr Hospital benefiting from new emergency and improved general ward beds, and a replacement blood refrigeration unit
400	households in 9 communities, around 2,000 people, given urgently needed relief

The Teso Region: its people and population

Teso is a subregion of eastern Uganda, centred on Soroti and stretching towards Karamoja in the north. It includes ten districts and Soroti City, with villages, towns, wetlands and farming landscapes linked by roads.

The Iteso are by far the largest tribal community, alongside the Kumam and other groups; the language of the Iteso, Ateso, is widely spoken. Smallholder agriculture, livestock keeping and rural trade underpin many livelihoods. Soroti is by some distance the largest urban centre, and is a hub for markets, health care, education and administration.

11,650 km²

land area, roughly one and a half times the size of North Yorkshire

10

districts, plus Soroti City

134,000

people live in Soroti, the largest urban centre



Uganda's subregions. Map: UBOS





THE TESO REGION

A young and growing population

2.5m

residents in the 2024 census, up around a third since 2014

489,620

households, averaging 4.9 people each

50%+

of residents are children under 18

98%

of Iteso people identify as Christian

According to Uganda's 2024 census, Teso had nearly 2.5 million residents, an increase of around a third since 2014. Its 489,620 households averaged 4.9 people, and a little over 50% of residents were children under 18. This young and growing population increases demand for schools, health services, safe water and employment. Conditions vary across the subregion, so district-level assessment remains important when designing programmes.

Surveys suggest that around 98% of the Iteso people identify as Christian, about half of whom are in evangelical churches.

THE CHALLENGE

Humanitarian challenges in Teso

Teso's reliance on rain-dependent farming makes families vulnerable to weather shocks. Heavy rains and flooding can destroy crops and homes, cut roads and isolate communities. Conversely, dry spells can reduce harvests and water availability. The World Bank identifies Teso as exposed to catastrophic flooding, while its wetlands and river systems create flood risks.

When harvests fail, households lose income as food costs rise, making it harder to pay for health care, schooling or farm inputs. Floodwater can also threaten drinking water and sanitation facilities, increasing the need for safe water, hygiene support and disease surveillance. Children, older people, people with disabilities and households with few assets face greater difficulty preparing for shocks or recovering afterwards.



42.2%

of Ugandans live below the $2.15-a-day extreme poverty line

50–60%

of people in Teso estimated to live below $2.15-a-day

Poverty is a significant humanitarian concern in Teso. The most recent statistics suggest that, overall, 42.2% of Ugandans live below the World Bank's $2.15-a-day extreme poverty measure. While an equivalent Teso figure is not available, in-country surveys suggest that poverty in Teso is much higher than the Ugandan average, so it is fair to estimate that between 50 and 60% of the population of Teso live below the World Bank measure of extreme poverty.

ABOUT US

What is the Teso Development Trust?

1989 Formed by Christians in the UK

1991 Registered as a UK charity

Teso Development Trust (TDT) was formed in 1989 and registered as a UK charity in 1991 to help provide relief and development to the Iteso people of North East Uganda, working through the Christian churches in the area.

The formation of TDT was a response by Christians in the UK to a major humanitarian crisis caused by unrest arising from the civil war in the mid 1980s that resulted in regime change, and later devastating incursions by raiders from the Lord's Resistance Army and the neighbouring Karamojong. Since that time, TDT has continued to provide relief and resources for development and mission, working through churches and Christian organisations in Teso.

The charity is guided by a Management Committee, of whom three were Trustees of the charity in 2025/26.



HOW WE WORK

Partnership working and how change happens

Teso Development Trust works with Christian churches and organisations in Teso that are registered with local or national government in Uganda as non-governmental development organisations. These partners provide local knowledge and expertise in identifying needs and delivering projects to aid the neediest people in Teso. Each project has a separate agreement with clear outcomes and objectives, and these project agreements come under an overarching Memorandum of Understanding with the partner. This defines the parameters of the partnership, the policies under which projects will be delivered, and arrangements for developing strategy, operation and efficiency.

Through partnership working, backed up by periodic country visits, TDT funds high-quality projects for the people of Teso without the hefty overheads of having in-country teams.



Who does what

TDT

- Raise UK funding
- Define strategic objectives
- Decide between alternative partner proposals
- Make grants to chosen projects
- Monitor performance against agreed outputs and outcomes

BOTH

- Agree best practice
- Agree project outputs and outcomes
- Co-ordinate project execution and accountability

PARTNER

- Identify local needs
- Project design and proposal
- Project delivery



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development needs

Most of the population of Teso survives by pastoral subsistence farming. There is little industrial or commercial infrastructure to offer employment, so most households survive by their success on small patches of land, with their home compounds dotted over the bushland. This task is becoming more difficult given the capricious behaviour of previously stable weather patterns as a result of climate change.

TDT works with the development arms of church organisations to bring training and business start-up resources to communities, to improve their food security and other sources of income. Alongside this support to individual households, whole communities are trained to improve their crisis resilience through disaster risk reduction planning, looking at such factors as irrigation, planting to minimise soil erosion, community garden resources, tree planting and more efficient stoves to reduce deforestation.

Community development impacts

During the year TDT:

500+
households engaged in 19 new community savings groups

3,000+
family members represented by those households

4,000+
participant training days in food security, family business and resilience

523
households given tools, seeds or livestock for agricultural improvement

Benefits shown by the households involved

250%+ increase in access to at least one nutritious meal per day

400%+ increase in food and seed stocks

Every household improved its income









"I thank God, and may the Lord bless Teso Development Trust."

CASE STUDY

Betty's story

Betty Achero took part in community development training ten years ago. This is her story.

My name is Betty Achero. I am 46 and live with my husband, Emmanuel, our 12 children and two granddaughters.

For years we struggled to feed and educate our children. We turned to alcohol to forget our troubles, but it brought no relief and only divided our family.

In 2015 I joined a farmers' group supported by PAG-KIDO and funded by Teso Development Trust. After six months of saving, I took a small loan and began selling vegetables. Training then taught me to grow my own, using simple irrigation to grow even out of season.

My earnings paid for school fees, food, medical care and clothing. Today we have cattle, milk, a permanent house and trees for firewood. Although I cannot read or write, my children have completed their education.

We can now meet our own needs. I thank God, and may the Lord bless PAG-KIDO and Teso Development Trust for bringing light into our home.



WATER

Water project impacts

The water project grants that TDT makes are generally funded by private donors or specialist water project funders such as the Drinking Fountain Association and Wilmslow Wells for Africa.

17
clean water sources provided in 2025/26

1,890
households served

10,890
individuals served

THE SEVENTEEN SOURCES



13 shallow wells 3 spring protections 1 borehole

Water project benefits

The benefits reported by communities receiving clean water are many.

Health

Avoidance of water-borne diseases, avoidance of accidents due to open shallow wells, and training in best-practice hygiene and sanitation.

Convenience

A local supply of water frees up time for the family and stops the long absences of women from home, avoiding family disputes which sometimes led to domestic violence. Local clean water also means that all family members can take part in water collection, and it is safer, as vulnerable people are not travelling in open country.

Time and money

Newly available time can be used to farm and run small businesses, and children can get to school on time. Money once spent on medical care for water-borne disease is released for other purposes. Local sourcing means more water can be used for other things, such as cottage gardens, more frequent bathing and clothes washing, and water for livestock.





Mrs Etayu Francis Caleb and her family help a water officer draw water for testing at the newly protected Alungar Well.

CASE STUDY

Alungar Well, Serere

The experience of a community in Serere that had a shallow well protected in October 2025 is typical of the benefits.

Mrs Etayu Francis Caleb says that, as the wife in the family, culture demanded that she fetch water from distant wells and bring it home for domestic use. Being sickly, she found it difficult to carry the heavy, full containers but, for the family, she endured this. A hand-dug well was put in place on her family's land in 2017 to give the local community access to water for use at home, but this was not clean and safe for drinking, as it was often contaminated by livestock detritus and rotting organic matter. For most domestic uses, clean water from a distance was still needed.

Now the well has been protected and the family is in a better situation, with easy access to clean and safe water for drinking and domestic use. This faithful wife is relieved of the burden of carrying water over long distances, and she has seen good health improvements for herself, her family and her neighbours.



HEALTH

Health project impacts

Close liaison between TDT and the Kumi and Ngora hospitals allows us to respond to current needs.

4,000+	patients at Ngora Freda Carr Hospital directly benefit from grants which provided emergency and improved general ward beds, and a replacement blood refrigeration unit
183	vulnerable patients who couldn't afford treatment accessed care through the Kumi Compassionate Fund
Complete	The incinerator project at Ngora Freda Carr secures safe disposal of hazardous waste, reducing environmental and infection risks

Specific projects

£2,000+ invested in a new blood bank refrigeration unit at Ngora Hospital

£1,000 invested in emergency beds and general ward mattresses

£6,000+ brought medical care to people living in poverty at Kumi Hospital

The final elements were put in place on the incinerator project at Ngora







CASE STUDY

Moses's story: support beyond sickle cell disease



Eight-year-old Moses, from Kapir in Ngora District, was admitted to Kumi Hospital in July 2025 with severe anaemia associated with sickle cell disease. Treatment included a blood transfusion. After initially improving, Moses became unwell again while awaiting discharge and required further care.

Moses lives with his mother and five siblings in rural subsistence conditions, and several children in the household also live with sickle cell disease. After three weeks in hospital, Moses was ready to return home, but the family could not meet the full treatment bill.

For a family managing repeated medical needs, £25 made a practical and immediate difference: treatment was completed, they were free of the debt of an unpaid bill, and a child could return to family life and, as his strength returned, to school.

How £25 got Moses home

Total treatment cost **£31**



Paid by the family

Grant from the Kumi Compassion Fund



2018: a borrowed classroom



Today: the new block

EDUCATION

Educating for the future

TDT engages with communities where educational provision is limited. In 2025/26 TDT continued to work with two schools: Aminit High School, a secondary school in Bukedea District, and Atilinga Primary School and Nursery in Kapelebyong. At both, TDT is deploying designated gifts from donors to complete classroom blocks, making the schools eligible for government support. This enables schooling for local children that would otherwise be impractical because of excessive journeys.

Aminit High School

Support at Aminit started in 2019, when there was no prospect of a school building and a few classes were being held in temporarily borrowed buildings. Steady progress has been made in building a four-classroom block. While still a work in progress, the classrooms are now in use, and the start made has encouraged local government to build further classrooms and facilities to secure the school's future.

IN 2025/26 TDT DONORS PROVIDED

- **4 + 28** doors and windows
- **80** three-seater desks, seating 60 students per classroom
- **4** teacher's desks and chairs, one per classroom
- electrical capability for the future



EDUCATION

Atilinga Primary School and Nursery

Work at Atilinga Primary School through TDT began in 2022, aiming to serve the growing populations that are regathering in the northern areas of Teso towards the Karamoja border.

In 2025/26 the following works on the first of two planned classroom blocks were completed:

- Provision and fitting of doors and windows
- Screeding classroom floors
- Completing the verandah
- Providing 40 three-seater desks to equip two classrooms



EDUCATION

Atilinga School today

230	3	6
pupils	nursery classes	primary classes

WHERE CLASSES MEET

3 nursery classes	in the grass-roofed church building
4 primary classes	in the new classroom block
2 primary classes	still taught under the trees, rising to three next year when another primary year group is introduced

The community hope another block will be built at Atilinga School soon, so that all the children can be taught in proper classrooms.

MINISTRY

Ministry impacts

£50k+
raised for St Peter's theological college in the previous two years

22
leadership graduates, including 6 women

210
pastors to be trained in North Teso in 2026/27

Following some heroic fundraising work in the previous two years, when over £50,000 was raised for building work at St Peter's theological college, ministry activity paused in 2025/26, with a relatively small income and expenditure directed towards supporting needy clergy in some of the more difficult parts of Teso.

Work also continued on the in-service Bible school project for PAG South Teso, which graduated 22 students (including 6 women) from its leadership programme. The students undertook learning and examination in a wide programme of study, including church history, biblical theology, leadership and church growth.

PAG Uganda is introducing a new curriculum across Uganda, and an in-service course supported by TDT for 210 pastors is planned in North Teso in 2026/27.



GRADUATION

Graduates of the PAG South Teso in-service Bible school leadership programme.





RELIEF

Relief when disaster strikes

Over the past few years TDT has revisited its engagement with relief work, as it is clear that climate change is causing significant changes in weather patterns, and specific extreme weather events are becoming more common. Teso is particularly vulnerable to flooding, with the National Vulnerability and Risk Atlas of Uganda identifying the region as having the highest risk in the country of catastrophic flooding.

While TDT does not have the resources for large-scale interventions, we believe it is appropriate to support our partners in the areas in which they are working when those areas suffer an extreme weather event. It would be perverse to support partners in catastrophe resilience work in a community but not to support that community when catastrophe strikes. We ask our partners to be highly targeted in the support they provide, concentrating on the most vulnerable.

RELIEF

Relief impacts

£7,500	400	9	~2,000
in three grants	households	communities	people

The large majority of the households were defined as vulnerable, including:

- Female-headed households
- Child-headed households
- The elderly
- People living with disabilities

The aid consisted of:

- Food
- Tarpaulins
- Mosquito nets









CASE STUDY

Atim Veronica's story

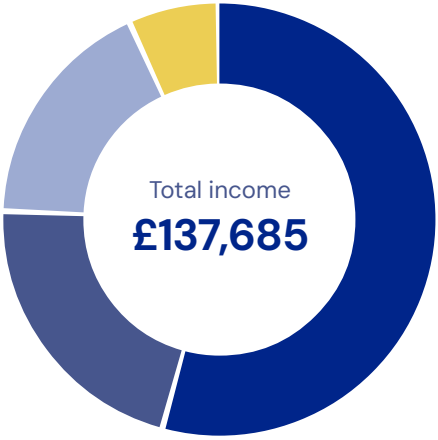
As orphans, Atim Veronica and her younger brother qualified for aid after recent flooding because they are a child-led household. The flooding in Kapelebyong destroyed their crops and increased their risk of malaria, against which they had no nets. They received food and two new mosquito nets. Because they had food, they did not have to work in other people's gardens for money, and so were able to work to restore their own crops and prepare for another harvest.

Food and two mosquito nets meant a child-led household could restore its own crops.

Stewarding our finances 2025/26

INCOME

£137,685

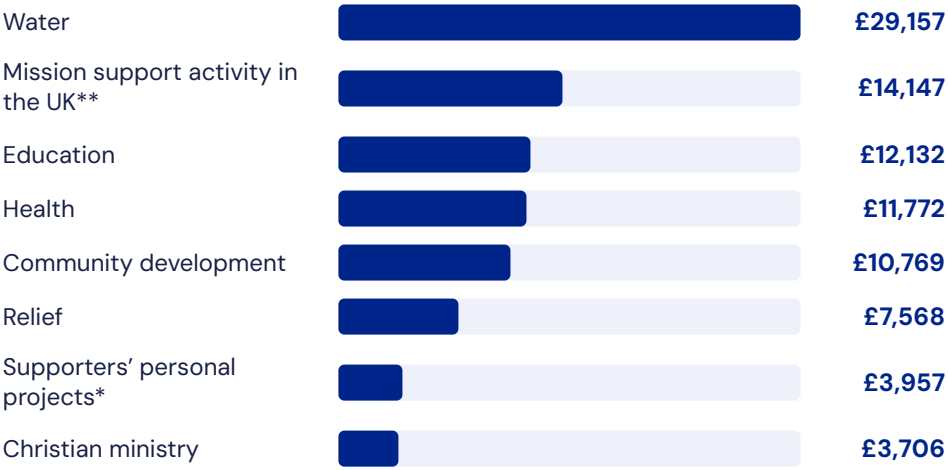


- One-off donations and legacies
  £74,903 54.4%
- Regular donors
  £29,379 21.3%
- Trusts and foundations
  £24,109 17.5%
- Churches
  £9,294 6.8%



EXPENDITURE

£93,208



* Mainly Legacy Child Sponsorship

** Enabling and supporting our mission and activities

31% of all spending went on clean water, our largest single area of work in 2025/26.



Your part in the story

We are so thankful for the generosity of our supporters, without which none of this work would be possible. You can contribute by:

Volunteering

We need people who are prepared to give time:

- Being ambassadors for TDT in their churches
- Supporting areas of our work in practical ways as part of our networks, helping monitor projects and develop partners
- Serving as Committee Members
- Serving as Trustees

Giving

- Hopefully this booklet shows how much can be achieved with relatively little. No gift is too small.
- Make your giving regular: it's amazing how much little and often can achieve.
- Don't forget to Gift Aid it if you are a taxpayer. It adds 25%.

Fundraising

- Sponsored walks, runs, fasts, silences: you do it, get it sponsored!
- Events: anything can become a fundraising event. A coffee morning, a cream tea, a party, a barn dance!
- Representing TDT to grant-making organisations, making sure we get heard at your local Rotary or Soroptimists. You might even give a short presentation at a lunch event. Don't worry, we can help you!

Legacies and memorial gifts

Many of our supporters have already left a legacy in Teso through the time they spent there. But a financial legacy to TDT, or donations in memory of a loved one, can also make a big difference. They give TDT a lump sum of known size with which to kick-start projects, or from which to provide a steady flow of funding from a known resource.

Pray

We believe that God has given us a calling to the people of Teso, and the prayers of our supporters are vital in our faithful response to his call. So whatever else you can or can't do, please pray with us for the work of TDT and the wellbeing of the Iteso people.

Get in touch
admin@teso.org.uk · www.tesodev.org.uk



The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

MATTHEW 25:40 (NIV)

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:17–18 (NIV)





Teso Development Trust

partnering with communities in Teso, Uganda

Scan to give

Small gifts. Lasting hope.

Gift Aid adds 25%.

WRITE

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