

## Case Study: Tony Gee's Partnership with Bridges to Prosperity

### Engineering Hope: Connecting Communities in Africa

Tony Gee, a leading civil engineering consultancy, has long believed in using its expertise to create meaningful social impact. In partnership with **Bridges to Prosperity (B2P)**, the company is helping transform lives in isolated rural communities across Africa by building pedestrian bridges that connect people to essential services and opportunities.

#### About Bridges to Prosperity

Bridges to Prosperity is a global non-profit organisation headquartered in Denver, USA, with a mission to eliminate rural isolation through infrastructure. Their work is grounded in the belief that **connection is the foundation for opportunity**. In many parts of the world, rivers and valleys act as barriers to education, healthcare, and economic participation. B2P addresses this by building **trail bridges**—simple, cost-effective structures that have a profound and immediate impact.

#### Strategic Approach

- **Local Partnerships:** Collaborating with governments, communities, and institutions to ensure sustainability and local ownership.
- **Evidence-Based Planning:** Using data to identify areas of greatest need and measure impact.
- **Capacity Building:** Training local teams to maintain and replicate bridge construction.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Promoting rural mobility as a development priority.

#### Why Trail Bridges Matter

Trail bridges are more than infrastructure—they are catalysts for change. By providing safe, year-round access across hazardous terrain, they unlock opportunities that were previously out of reach.

#### Measured Impact

- **200%** increase in school attendance
- **36%** rise in labour market income
- **60%** more women entering the workforce
- **75%** increase in farm profits
- **32%** more visits to healthcare facilities

- **Improved safety:** Eliminating dangerous river crossings that often led to injury or death

### Tony Gee's Commitment

Tony Gee's involvement with B2P began in **2016**, driven by a desire to contribute proactively to development rather than reactively to disaster relief. The partnership aligns perfectly with Tony Gee's core engineering skills and values.

### Hands-On Engagement

- Engineers from Tony Gee **travel to Africa** to physically build bridges alongside local communities.
- Each volunteer raises **£1,500** to cover travel, accommodation, and food.
- Tony Gee and UK contractor **Knights Brown** fund the bridge materials, local labour, and design costs.

### Bridge Locations

- **2016 – Kigohe, Rwanda**
- **2017 – Kiyumba, Rwanda**
- **2018 – Namakholo, Uganda**
- **2019 – Lulwo, Uganda**
- **2023 – Nyarusange, Rwanda**
- **2025 – Jarama, Rwanda**

### Project Highlights

- **6 bridges built** across Rwanda and Uganda
- **30 engineers deployed** from graduates to senior engineers
- **392 meters of bridge constructed**
- **Nearly 27,000 people connected** to vital services across many communities
- **Raising approximately £42,000 through fundraising activities including:**
  - [Institute Civil Engineers Quest Travel Award](#)
  - Three peaks' challenges
  - Bake sales
  - Raffles
  - Sponsored swims, runs and hikes

## Voices from the Field

### Community Testimonials

*“Before the Jarama bridge, crossing the river was quite challenging, especially during the rainy season. Our children found it difficult to attend school, and getting to the market was not easy. Now, everything is easier.”*

*“I used to lose crops trying to cross the river. Now I reach the market on time and earn more. It has changed my life.”*

*“I was always afraid when my children went to school. Now, with the new bridge, they go every day without fear.”*

### Volunteer Reflections

*“We’re honored to help build the Jarama bridge. From morning dances to school visits and bridge building, it’s been a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”*

*“We stand united in the knowledge that this bridge will not only span the physical gap but also bridge hearts and dreams, igniting hope and possibilities for generations to come.”*

*“Together, we have made a difference, and the love and warmth we experienced will remain with us as a reminder of the power of compassion and collective action.”*

These stories highlight the human impact of engineering—how a simple bridge can restore dignity, safety, and opportunity.

## Regional Programs

### Rwanda Trail Program

Since 2012, B2P has built hundreds of bridges in Rwanda. A 2019 national partnership aims to construct **300 bridges by 2027**, connecting over **1.1 million residents**.

### Uganda Trail Program

Launched in 2017, B2P Uganda works with the **Uganda National Roads Authority** and **Ministry of Works and Transport** to expand rural infrastructure.

### Ethiopia Trail Program

Supported by the **Helmsley Charitable Trust**, B2P and Helvetas are replicating successful models across five regions, aiming to build **150 bridges** and connect **1.3 million people**.

## Looking Forward

Tony Gee's partnership with Bridges to Prosperity is a testament to how engineering can be a force for good. As the program expands, Tony Gee remains committed to supporting sustainable development, empowering communities, and creating lasting change.