



PROJECT UGANDA

Spring 2010

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Spring is here and the glorious sunshine means one thing, time for our annual newsletter. 2009 saw Project Uganda continuing with current projects such as teacher sponsorship and student scholarships, but also expanding into some new and very exciting project areas. We raised just under £7000 during 2009, which, considering the current economic climate is a great achievement. This brings our total raised since inception to the end of 2009 to £86,000, which is amazing!

2010 has also got off to an amazing start with donations of £4,300 from SMOAT (St Marks Overseas Aid Trust), and £500 from MAP (Merstham Aid Project), both based in Surrey. These funds will be used in the Health & Welfare Projects. Thank you all for your continued support even during these tougher times, it is very much appreciated by us, but most of all by those benefiting directly from your generosity in Uganda.

Project Uganda Local Representative

We are pleased to introduce our new Local Representative, a familiar face to many of you. Moses will oversee, and continue moving projects forward on our behalf. He has proven to be very committed to the project over the past 10 years and is very excited to be joining the team more formally. Moses will ensure effective spending and continuity of all projects.

Akampa Moses



Rukungiri visit 2009 – Health & Welfare Project

Rod and Ann Gothard returned to Rukungiri for 3 months at the end of 2009 to continue moving the Health & Welfare project forward. During this trip £8000 was transferred out to Rukungiri to purchase mosquito nets for boarding students and construct a new washroom, promoting good health and hygiene for the students, particularly the girls at this vulnerable age, during their studies.

Mosquito Nets



Nets were installed with purpose built frames

We all now understand how vital mosquito nets are in fighting malaria, which is why we spent almost £6000 purchasing and installing the latest Olyset nets in 2009. Continuing the programme started in 2008 in which local carpenters and students from Gables built wooden frames from which the nets could be suspended securely with minimal risk of tearing and snagging. At the end of 2009 all primary schools in the Rukungiri town area with boarding students were protected by nets and also a few secondary schools and Vocational Centres. To date, over 800 nets have been installed protecting more than 1600 young people at a cost of just £5.00 per net (protecting two students). Malaria is still a deadly disease killing one million a year worldwide. The young are most vulnerable, leading to a loss of education increasing the risk of poverty in adulthood. Compounding this situation, 2009 saw Rukungiri badly affected by malaria following a very wet rainy season creating favourable breeding conditions for the mosquito. This programme will continue to ensure all boarding students in the Rukungiri area will be given a chance of a malaria free childhood. We hope to install 3000 mosquito nets in total to complete this initial phase of the project. We would also like to expand this project further as and when funds allow.

Washroom Facilities

This was the first of many that we hope to build in schools and Vocational Training centres in the Rukungiri area. A team of local masons and carpenters were trained in the construction of a 10-cubicle shower room with laundry area, replacing the old tin screen style wash facilities. Guttering and a water storage tank were added to



Washroom facilities
Old



New

harvest the much-needed rainwater, and also to help reduce the amount of site erosion from tropical storms. Wastewater is now directed away from the building into a soak away thus giving a much more hygienic way of showering. The new washing facility will give the girls much needed privacy, comfort and dignity helping to promote good health and hygiene. The team trained in the washroom construction will now go on and provide the facilities to other neighbouring schools under the supervision of the new Project Uganda Local Representative. Typhoid is a very common disease in schools where stagnant water and sewerage is allowed to accumulate, with this construction we hope to alleviate this problem.

Agricultural Project



Existing permaculture

This is a new and exciting project for us. Following much discussion and research we are now running a pilot permaculture scheme. The main aim is to provide extra income for farmers by growing enough produce for personal consumption and suitable for sale locally. The aim is to make the project self sustaining within a few years and provide an example and training tool to other small local farmers in an attempt to reduce poverty in the Rukungiri district. Moses and his father, James, have offered a small sloping site, about 1 ha in size, for this pilot permaculture scheme.

By linking the different parts of each system in ecologically sensible ways, permaculture achieves high yields, reduces inputs, and actually builds fertility over successive seasons.

Permaculture is based on four basic principles:

1. Work with nature
2. Think, observe, learn then do
3. Each element (plant/animal) should perform more than one function
4. Everything should inter-connect

Such a system, when mature, requires less input from the farmer.

Permaculture is being tried with success in a number of African countries. Key advantages are increased output of a mix of crops and animal products while minimising the effects of pests and diseases with reduced input of money or labour. Growing organically eliminates the need and cost of fertilisers and pesticides.

Terry Clayton and Richard Soilleux visited Uganda in December on behalf of the project to determine local agricultural/horticultural practices and conditions as well as details such as the types and availability of plants and seed, types of produce, prices and potential markets.

What next?

Matthew and Emma Gothard and their two sons will be returning in July this year for 1 month to work along side Moses pushing the Health & Welfare and Agricultural projects forward.

African crafts and Project Uganda canvas bags are for sale via our website, www.projectuganda.org.uk, at many of the fundraising events throughout the year, or by contacting Ann Gothard directly.

As always Project Uganda is run with minimal overheads, all visits to Uganda are self funded and all marketing materials and stationary are either donated or subsidised by supporting local businesses. It is essential for our supporters to know that *full* donations are being used to benefit children and adults directly in Uganda.