

EDUCATION UGANDA NEWS

ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2008



WHO ARE WE ?

The Charity Education Uganda was established to help improve the quality and standards of primary education in Uganda. It was established in 2006 by a group of experienced educational professionals from Hampshire, keen to make a difference.

They are currently training teachers in the use of individual blackboards or slates with children, in the rural, isolated and impoverished Kasese District of western Uganda. The techniques are similar to the successful use of individual whiteboards in English schools, and it is working well !



Slates used in
Maths lesson

The charity has five Trustees and other volunteers including several teachers. A team from Hampshire has been working with and supporting teachers in the Kasese District during the summers of 2007 and 2008. There is an expert Ugandan co-ordinator and an effective Ugandan management committee in Kasese who oversee local developments and monitor progress. In this they are supported by the Kasese School District and the South Rwenzori Diocese. They regularly communicate with and are accountable to the Charity's Trustees. There is a very close and mutually supportive working relationship between the teams.

WE ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

The target set by Education Uganda for 2008 is being achieved. There are now 40 schools fully engaged in the slates programme. This amounts to around 30,000 children and 500 teachers.

Trustee, John Wilkinson, visited 12 of these schools with the co-ordinator Revd Asa Kiriaghe during summer 2008. They observed 30 lessons using slates in classes across the primary age range and addressed the staff in each school. They were impressed by progress with some very good practice observed and some progressive work in the oldest age group. These comments from headteachers were consistent:-



Similies and Smiles

- Slates are improving individual children's thinking skills and are very good for motivating children. They all participate and are eager to learn.
- There is good improvement in handwriting and spelling.
- Children who cannot afford exercise books can still do the work on slates.
- Slates are improving teaching, enabling teachers to assess work more effectively.
- It is easy for teachers to quickly assess children's progress and accuracy.
- There is an enthusiastic response from both teachers and children.
- Attendance has also improved.

COMMENTS FROM OUR CO-ORDINATOR ASA KIRIAGHE

“ I have been working with leading teachers from the already trained schools. They have demonstrated and clearly explained to their fellow teachers that the use of slates makes a great difference in both teaching and learning. These leading teachers have been very good in their presentations. In most schools the headteachers have also been trained, and where they did not attend, their deputies did. We hope that this will help in the supervision and strengthening of the skills in their schools. The teachers were very excited to learn the new skills and they promised to begin to use them in their classes straight away. In all of the new project schools, there is a limited supply of slates and chalk. There is usually less than a third of slates to the numbers of children. These slates had never been used and were still wrapped in their sleeves and in boxes! The teachers had to be taught how to use them. However to successfully develop the work, we desperately need more slates and more chalk in each school.”

Clearly the Ugandan teachers now own the process and see the promise of its success.



Revd Asa Masareka Kiriaghe,
Project Coordinator

RECEPTION AT WINCHESTER UNIVERSITY JULY 2008



Revd. Asa, John Wilkinson,
Cllr Michael Woodhall,
The High Commissioner,
Prof. Joy Carter (Vice Chancellor)



Ugandan High Commissioner
Her Excellency, Joan Rwabyomere
and Chris Lloyd,
Chairman of Education Uganda

Education Uganda came of age this summer at a reception for four visiting Ugandan teachers and the project coordinator in the impressive newly built reception block of the University of Winchester. This was a wonderful opportunity to mark the achievements and aspirations of the charity with honoured guests including Her Excellency the Ugandan High Commissioner, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester, the Bishop of Winchester, the Chairman of Hampshire County Council and key funders. The High Commissioner received a generous £1000 cheque from the University on behalf of Education Uganda to help Bwera Teachers' Training College in its work with the charity. The theme of the High Commissioner's address was the importance of educating girls, particularly relevant in view of the fact that all four of the visiting Ugandan teachers were female. This was a wonderful way to cement relationships between Hampshire schools and the University of Winchester as partners in the development of teacher skills in the use of slates in the Kasese School District.

UGANDAN PARTNERSHIPS EXTENDED

Summer was an exciting time for links with South Rwenzori schools. In July, Winchester welcomed five teachers from Ugandan schools. Four of these teachers were chosen to visit England after successfully working in their schools on the Education Uganda slates programme. The fifth teacher was the Revd Asa Kiriaghe, the Diocesan Education Officer and Ugandan based co-ordinator for Education Uganda. For the four women teachers, this was a courageous and exciting adventure. Each was leaving behind a young family, and it was the first time that they had left their rural district and flown by air!

The teachers came here as part of an international programme on Global School Partnerships. Their primary schools; Kitalikibi, Kagando, Kamaiba and Ibanda are now formally partnered with Shakespeare Juniors, Calmore Infants, Kings Somborne Primary and Wolverdene Special schools. The Ugandan teachers stayed in the homes of their linked teachers and worked in their schools. The teachers from Hampshire returned to Uganda with them and worked in their respective linked schools in the South Rwenzori Diocese. They were accompanied and led by John Wilkinson, Trustee and Secretary of Education Uganda.

Whilst in England, the Ugandan teachers worked in their partner schools. They visited the countryside of Hampshire and its coast (They had not seen the sea before.). They travelled by rail (first time) and spent a day in London, visiting St. Paul's Cathedral. Whilst touring Winchester, they attended a service in the Cathedral and also at St. Mary's Church Broughton and St. Mary's Church Kings Worthy. They attended a wonderful reception at Winchester University



Ugandan Teachers visit UK

During their visit to Uganda, the Hampshire teachers forged effective partnerships in their partner schools which included studying cultural and curriculum issues in the schools in both countries. Also, whilst in Uganda, John and Asa visited some 14 schools across the Kasese District to support the partnership, but also to evaluate progress in the slate work for the Education Uganda programme. Work on this programme is progressing well, and with education standards improving, it is now ready to expand to 40 schools this year. However, the schools desperately need more slates and chalk. Any contributions to the costs of Education Uganda supplying these would be gratefully received (see back page).

John Wilkinson commented that:- "Once again this was an exciting yet humbling experience, which well exceeded our expectations. We are delighted in the new partnership agreements and are much encouraged by the successful developments of Education Uganda's work."

FUTURE PLANS

The key issue raised by colleagues in Uganda has been the need to provide those schools trained in the use of slates with resources to embed these skills. Although most schools have been able to provide an initial stock of slates, none of them have sufficient quantities to meet demand. Chalk is in reasonable supply through local stationers, but the amount needed to provide every pupil with a supply is beyond the means of most schools. As a result it is our aim to provide each of the schools in the Kasese School District with slates and chalk over the next 5 years, and this will cost £250 per school. It is our hope that Hampshire schools and other interested schools and individuals will be prepared to sponsor a Ugandan primary school and fund raise £250 for their sponsored partner school.

This plan is alongside our original commitment to provide training for each of the 250 plus Kasese District schools, educating 200,000 children, through cascading, via Ugandan trainers, the original training delivered by our core team in summer 2007. This plan will hopefully be realised by 2011.



UK Teachers in Uganda with Rev. Asa and his wife

Education Uganda

Wolverdene School
22 Love Lane
Andover
Hampshire SP10 2AF
Phone: 01264 362350
Fax: 01264 396600
Email:
chris.lloyd@wolverdene.hants.sch.uk

Website
www.
educationuganda.org

*Improving Primary Education in
Uganda*

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE WORK OF EDUCATION UGANDA

Each school as it comes into the project needs a minimum of 100 slates, and six cartons of chalk for the year.

- 100 slates cost £160.
- 6 cartons of chalk (£15 a carton) cost £90.
- So each school needs a gift of £250.
- The target for 40 schools in 2008 is £10000.
- The target for another 60 schools in 2009 is £15000.



Is there any way that you can assist in this important work?

Please help by completing an Action Form and sending your donation or Standing Order to Education Uganda

Patron

*Rt. Revd. Michael Scott-Joynt, Lord Bishop of
Winchester*

Trustees

*Chris Lloyd, Headteacher, Wolverdene School,
Andover, Hampshire*

*John Wilkinson OBE, Retired Asst. Director of
Education for Hampshire County Council*

Alan Josling, FCCA, Treasurer

Dr Mick Yates, Winchester University

Mark Torokwa, Hampshire County Council

*Education Uganda is a registered charity
number 1121842*

Education Uganda is supported by :

Hampshire County Council

Diocese of Winchester

The Zoe Carss Education Trust

and other organisations and individuals