

EDUCATION UGANDA NEWS

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WHO ARE WE ?

The charity Education Uganda was established in 2006 by a group of experienced educational professionals to help improve the quality and standards of primary education in Uganda.

We are working through an expert Ugandan coordinator and an effective Ugandan management committee to train teachers in the use of individual blackboards, or slates, with children in the rural, isolated and impoverished Kasese District of western Uganda. The technique is similar to the successful use of individual whiteboards in English schools.

The project is supported by the Kasese School District and the South Rwenzori Diocese. The project coordinator and management committee regularly communicate with and are accountable to the charity's trustees.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Chris Lloyd - Chairman, Education Uganda

In July 2007 a group of teachers went out to Kasese to train the first schools in the use of slates, and to meet the new project coordinator.....the start of Education Uganda's life. In just 3 years the charity has made tremendous steps forward.

- We have trained nearly 200 schools, half way to our target
- We have produced and printed with UK and Ugandan teachers copies of a training manual
- We have established the principle of using slates in two regional teacher training colleges
- We have completed 9 short training films in the use of slates, to be distributed next year as initial teacher training and refresher training materials
- We have monitored and evaluated the use of slates in over 30 schools, and used the information gathered to improve practice
- We have initiated and supported partnerships between 20 schools in Hampshire and schools in Kasese School District

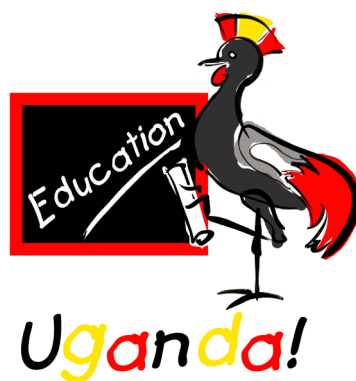
All of this has confirmed that slates and chalk are an effective, low technology means of improving teaching and learning in Ugandan classrooms and we are now gathering data to prove this without doubt.

Many challenges still lie ahead. These include:

- The improvement of monitoring the use of slates and teaching in general, in the 400 project primary schools teaching around 200,000 children.
- The provision of up to 90,000 more slates and continuing supplies of chalk to the Kasese schools, to supplement the 10,000 slates we have already supplied.
- Further twinning of schools in Hampshire with schools in Kasese School District.

More long term opportunities are also being explored:

- Using the project as a platform for the Continuing Professional Development of students in local universities
- Helping local safari tourists in South Rwenzori to visit the project schools and possibly support us financially.



1 2 3 Show Me



2010 Visit to Kasese

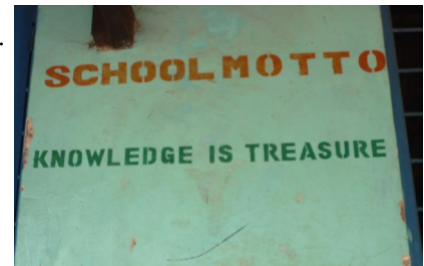
PROJECT EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

John Wilkinson - Trustee Education Uganda

During our visit to Kasese District this autumn, we were able to visit 15 schools and Bwera Teacher's College as part of our ongoing evaluation, monitoring and support in the use of slates, teaching and learning. In each school, classes were observed using slates. Class teachers were given encouraging direction and the headteachers advised. All schools made the following supportive comments:-

Slates enable:-

- The whole class to participate, where all children are actively involved.
- All children to contribute.
- Competence and competition in their work.
- Enrolment and attendance to be improved.
- Children to enjoy learning more, be more engaged, more motivated and interested.
- Children to practice their work.
- Children to master spelling and improve handwriting.
- Teachers to assess children's work more quickly.
- Self correction of children's work.
- Teachers to respond to individual learning needs.
- Children to work in their mother tongue as well as in English.
- Children to improve their thinking skills.
- Children to share their learning and work together.
- Leadership skills to develop in children.
- Child-centred learning in the classroom.
- Greater freedom for children in learning.



We found that practice in the use of slates was sound to good and sometimes was very good. There is still a shortage of slates in most schools and chalk is always in short supply. School budgets have fallen in real terms. From a small random sample of schools we found the following:-

- Enrolment in schools had increased by 20% since slates were introduced.
- Attendance in schools had increased by 19% since slates were introduced.
- On a very small sample, drop-out rates had reduced by 70% since slates were introduced.

There is evidence that overall attainment is improving, but now we are collecting more substantive data on all of these measures to assess progress over time. However, it is all very encouraging!

AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE - Roger Lloyd

'Oh, yes,' I told my friends, 'it'll be quite an experience. But I expect I'll be sitting about, reading, quite a bit....'. I had a real interest in visiting Kasese, partly to see a bit of rural Africa, well off the tourist track, but mainly to see the work my brother and his colleagues were doing with slates and to understand their enthusiasm a little better. Rural Africa and lots of Africans I saw - beautiful, green countryside, deprivation, some affluence, big game, great good humour, some business acumen, demonstrable religious faith, generous hospitality.....but sitting about reading didn't come into it.

I became totally engaged in the momentum created by Education Uganda: the stream of early morning visitors; the ritual exchange of greetings in schools; meeting teachers – some keen, some less so; meeting the children, almost without exception well- disciplined, attentive, ready to learn; finding myself absorbed in the teaching processes and using that as an

excuse for providing 'technical assistance' in making the training film; watching how the project team encouraged, persuaded, got matters back on track, explored initiatives, renewed friendships, made new contacts. It is unlikely that I shall return to Kasese [well, who knows?] but I have seen first hand the work Education Uganda is doing. I have admired the skill, commitment and effort that go into that work



Roger Lloyd meets Ugandan children

SCHOOLS TWINNING PROGRAMME

Sally Josling - Twinning Co-ordinator

Following the success of the Global School Partnership between four Hampshire and four Ugandan schools my recent visit to Uganda was spent expanding Education Uganda's school twinning scheme. We believe that this will broaden the curriculum and enrich pupils' lives as they develop an understanding of each other's cultures. The twinning scheme also raises awareness of broader global issues and good communication will bring a personal dimension to the relationship.

Seven Hampshire Primary Schools and one Secondary School agreed to twin and Rev Asa Kiriaghe soon found six "hard to reach" Kasese District mountain schools and two town schools. We were very grateful for our new vehicle when we found ourselves on rough tracks with deep gullies gouged out by heavy rains. The air was crystal clear and the scenery was stunningly beautiful.

None of the Ugandan schools had electricity and water taps were often broken. The welcome and hospitality offered by each school was overwhelming. Every headteacher realised the potential the twinning scheme had to offer them. We exchanged information about the schools. I gathered facts and took a film at each school that included an interview with a boy and girl. This information will be the basis for a relationship that I hope will develop strongly over the coming years.

I thank the teachers who allowed us to film them on a guided tour around their schools giving us an insight into their lives. In an environment where text and exercise books are insufficient I realised the full value of slates and chalk as an excellent learning tool. The children's pride in their school, gratitude for education and aspiration for exam success so that they can gain qualifications for a good career was obvious. These rural schools have much to teach us about what is really important in life.



Presents from Broughton Primary School to Kajwenge Primary School

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL PATRON

We are delighted to be able to report that The Rt. Rev. Jackson Nzerebende Tembo, Bishop of South Rwenzori Diocese, Church of Uganda, has graciously accepted the invitation from Education Uganda's trustees to become a patron of our charity. Bishop Jackson wrote "I am personally proud of this organisation because it is strengthening schools and education services in Rwenzori"



Rt. Rev. Bishop Jackson Nzerebende Tembo

FINANCES AND RESOURCES

Alan Josling - Treasurer Education Uganda

During our recent visit to Kasese I carried out what has become my annual examination of the Education Uganda local accounts. In the first nine months of 2010 we made grants of 92 million Ugandan Shillings (£28000) to our Uganda colleagues and I wished to satisfy myself that the expenditure against this income had been properly authorised, was supported by adequate documentation and had been accounted for correctly. I was able to report to our local management committee and to our trustees that I was satisfied that these accounts were in order.

Since returning from Uganda we have ordered, at the request of our Ugandan management committee, a further 90,000 individual slates that will be delivered to Kasese in time for the commencement of the new academic year in February 2011. These are purchased in China from a company that supplies vast quantities to UNICEF. This enables us to deliver them to Kasese at a cost of around 30 pence each, less than one quarter of the price of Ugandan produced slates.

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Education for Hampshire County Council

Alan Josling, FCCA, Treasurer

Mark Torokwa

*Education Uganda is a registered charity
number 1121842*

*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 450 slates, and six cartons of chalk for the year.

- 450 slates cost £150.
- 6 cartons of chalk cost £100.
- Hence each school needs a gift of at least £250.
- The target for another 100 schools in 2011 is £25000.



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

Please help by requesting an Action Form and sending your donation or standing order to Education Uganda