

TESO Development Trust

*working with the Teso people of
North East Uganda*



*water projects, schools, Christian ministry,
agriculture, child support, relief*

“hear our voice ... take our hand”

ANNUAL REPORT

AND REVIEW

2007/8



Group of previously abducted young women showing their products from their TDT funded training programme

CHARITY DETAILS

Registration Number 1005139

Inland Revenue Number XN84557

Trustees

Chairman Jim Sampson
Treasurer Dr Frank Guinness
Secretary Clement Dixon

Management Committee

Mrs Catherine Emaru
Dr Hugh Mason
Alexei Okello
Mrs Elfrida Calvocoressi
Miss Stella Agwang
Miss Florence Odeke
Mrs Immaculate Akurut

Administrator David Watts

Teso Educational
Sponsorship Scheme
Coordinator Mrs Margaret Stevens

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THE CHARITY AND ITS OPERATIONS

The Trust

Teso Development Trust was formed in 1989 and registered as a charity in 1991 to help provide relief and development to the Teso people of North East Uganda working through the Christian Churches in the area. This followed a relief campaign conducted through Christians in the UK in response to a major humanitarian crisis resulting from the unrest arising from the military takeover of the country by the Museveni regime and devastating incursions by the neighbouring tribe of Karimojong raiders. Since that time, it has continued to provide relief and resources for development and mission to Church partners. In the main, these have been the Pentecostal Assemblies of God, the Church of Uganda and Revival Time Ministries, a non denominational development agency.

The trust operates through its committee supported by a part time administrator. It meets about six times a year to guide the work, agree new programmes, approve all expenditure and assess impact. Committee members are appointed at the Annual General Meeting for a three year term. At present, four of the management committee are Teso men or women living in the United Kingdom. The rest have worked in education or healthcare in Uganda.

The part time administrator promotes the work of the trust, manages the income and payments, evaluates projects proposals and performance and arranges all aspects of the Trust committee and annual meetings. Every year, he visits the partners and the projects the trust has funded, to maintain good liaison, evaluate the impact of the funding provided and audit expenditure. He works on a day to day basis with the chairman and is paid a monthly fee and expenses.

The Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme is coordinated by Mrs Margaret Stevens with the support of Mr Roger Stevens managing the finance. It has a small supervising committee, two of whom are members of the main trust committee. A grant from a charity (the Barbara Ward Foundation) and part of the non allocated child sponsorship funds pays expenses. There is a full time manager of the programme in Uganda.

Objectives and activities

Objects set out in the constitution are:

To promote in Uganda (particularly the Teso District) and elsewhere

- 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

The aims of the charity, reflecting these objectives are to

- Support the education of children.
- Create Jobs and Income.
- Improve life in the villages e.g through water projects.
- Provide relief for internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Provide emergency relief
- Improve health.
- Support Christian ministry.

The Trust works in partnership with Christian Churches and other agencies that are in accord with the objectives of the Trust. Two examples this year are Soroti Women's Cooperative and the Friends of Teso.

The Trust expects its partners to help those in need, regardless of faith, gender or race within the Teso districts.

The Trust works by making grants, giving technical assistance, and aid in kind e.g. by supplying equipment /literature etc It also will support any publicity /lobbying effort that supports the welfare of the Teso people. It encourages and supports people wishing to visit the Teso area to serve the people or assess the need for aid.

In particular, this has meant

- Grants and loans to help business development , water projects, the building of schools, Churches ,hostels, children's nurseries ,agricultural improvement and equipment e.g. for hospitals, schools and training centres.
- Gifts to individuals to help their education and training.
- The Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme.
- Funds to provide food and equipment for people in need.
- Support to teams from UK visiting the area to teach or assess need.
- Promoting the cause of the Teso people to a UK audience through personal contacts, literature and via our website.

INTRODUCING OUR WORK AND PROGRESS

The area of Teso in North East Uganda remains one of great poverty, poor health and a weak economy with many people still living in appalling conditions in camps. There are many challenges for the people, aid agencies and the government to address.

.This year was dominated by the impact of three months' heavy rains that washed away a substantial proportion of crops and mean that we were focussed for six months on providing relief to those suffering from hunger, the vulnerability to disease and the disruption from a major crisis. Nevertheless, other programmes have been achieved such as water improvements, the girls hostel construction, support for the development of cooperative enterprises and the child sponsorship programme.

A number of members and friends have visited Teso –Margaret Stevens and her team – twice, to visit the children being sponsored and to run a retreat for them. Dave Watts with his wife Maggie and Jim Sampson visited in June 2007 to review project progress. This visit was repeated in June 2008. Our visits have been a great experience of the love and hospitality of Teso people wherever we went and show an impressive result of development of the community and the quality of its leaders. It helps us to keep in touch.

Our administrator Dave has managed the considerable expansion of the trust finances well. Stewart Hills with Dave has improved our marketing through devising and managing our website and producing a range of quality leaflets featuring the projects we support. We also are grateful to Neil and Jane Stedman for the production and distribution of our newsletter.

I would like to thank all our supporters who have helped by giving, raising funds and especially those who have gone to Teso to work with the children we sponsor.

We are indebted to the Rev Robert de Berry and St Marks Kennington for allowing us to use their premises for committee meetings. We were grateful to the Rev Joel McInnes and Clapham Elim Church for hosting the 2007 AGM.

Our accountant, Ruth Silver has produced excellent accounts and provided us with ongoing advice during the year.

I trust you will find the Review informative and inspiring as well as challenging.

Jim Sampson
Chairman
4th September 2008

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Overall the country is at peace but negotiations to achieve a settlement with The Lord's Resistance Army still drag on but any threat to Teso has receded.

The districts of Katakwi and Amuria remain prone to occasional incursions by the Karimojong. This has meant that the large numbers of people still living in camps have been slow to return to their homes. A major issue is the lack of money to rebuild homes and bring into cultivation land that has been out of use for up to four years.

Levels of disease remain high particularly malaria, water borne diseases and AIDS.

Flooding, which took place from July to October 2007 has had a disastrous impact on the life of thousands especially in the northern part of the region with major losses of crops, destruction of houses and many people being displaced from camps. On the surface, the area has recovered but with inadequate spring rain, there is a high proportion of rural people experiencing serious food shortages.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE? WHO HAS BENEFITED?

The aim of the Trust is to change lives and communities for the better in Teso in partnership with Churches in the area .Below are examples of the work done by our partners helped with money raised by our supporters.

Flood Relief

In August 2007, reports started to filter through that the rains had come with a vengeance to Teso and were excessive, beginning to cause severe flooding and crop damage .By the middle of September, Teso was, with Northern regions, at the centre of a major relief operation with a state of emergency declared by the Ugandan Government. Many agencies were mobilised under the overall coordination of the United Nations. Appeals to TDT were made by our Church partners and relief proposals received to provide emergency food aid, aid to replace destroyed crops, mosquito nets, boots and sanitation.

The TDT committee meeting in mid September immediately sent £10,000 in aid from available funds and launched an appeal to supporters to which the response was immediate and generous. The appeal coincided with the featuring of the crisis on the BBC TV news where their main reporter reported on what was going on from Soroti. In the following 3 months, a further £65,000 was received and allocated to flood relief.

The aid was allocated across the region as follows by agency

Church of Uganda mainly in Katakwi	£30,000
PAG Kumi	£14000
PAG Soroti	£23000
Revivaltime ministries –Wera	£8000

Small sums also were spent by the Mothers Union and the Kumi diocese of the Church of Uganda.

The relief aid was spent on immediate relief items

- 6102 mosquito nets
- 277 boots
- 4149 blankets
- 3 sets of latrines
- 1500 jerricans
- 30000kg maize flour
- 58 bags of maize flour
- 7500kg beans
- 510 bags beans ,maize and cassava

In the later stages aid was provided to help communities replace their destroyed crops so help as provide with

- 648 hoes
- 30 bags cassava roots
- 200 kg of greengrams and soya beans

This support was continued into 2008/9 as resources allowed

Detailed reports on impact were received from partners on each funding allocation. A total of 16000 people received aid over this period.

Aid efforts were coordinated by the United Nations so that each area received help in relation to need and to avoid duplication of support between agencies. The Churches worked well together which has established an increased desire and ability to work together on aid and development.

Education of children

From a standing start in March 2004, a major child sponsorship programme called the Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme (TESS) now benefits 253 teenagers in post-primary education. The massive expansion of the numbers of children in the primary school sector arising from debt relief aid to Uganda has resulted in large numbers now coming through to secondary education. The cost of school fees prevents many able children going to secondary school without assistance. Our target group has been girls who have done well at primary

school but whose families cannot afford the fees to send them to secondary or vocational schools. Most are orphans or live in camps. We can never find enough sponsors to meet the demand for sponsorship – many needy children therefore are still missing out on the opportunity to continue in education after primary school.

Where necessary, children are given basic boarding requirements, scholastic materials and medical help. 170 of the sponsored students attended an 8 day study retreat in December 2007 where they enjoyed careers guidance, teaching on life skills and study skills, practice in simple development projects, art and crafts, an outing, medical treatment and counselling.

Fees are now £200 or more a year. With increasing fees and the introduction of compulsory holiday tuition, the average sponsorship donation is no longer enough to pay for even the basic school fees. TESS only manages to continue meeting all the needs thanks to many extra donations.

The appointment of the Revd Sam Ediau as Co-ordinator in March 2007 has worked well. His tasks include: vetting new applicants for sponsorship, supervising all the sponsored children, giving pastoral care in their schools and homes, arranging medical investigations and treatment, supplying them with basic essential requirements, liaising with schools, collecting and sending all reports and letters for sponsors to the UK. He is responsible for handling all the money. He helped to organise the annual Retreat with Margaret Stevens. Employing Sam has been made possible only through a generous grant from the Barbara Ward Children's Foundation.

Developing schools

Related projects have included the building of St Thomas's Girls' Secondary School in Kaberamaido, one of the most deprived parts of Teso. During the LRA incursion, some secondary schools were closed. The child population is growing and no specific provision has been made for girls. The Church of Uganda started the school using the Church and primary school premises. A donor has undertaken to fund the building of the school so far. Four classrooms have been completed and two labs almost completed. There are 80 girls being educated between S1 and S4. 14 of the girls are being sponsored through TESS.

St Peters Church, Ruddington, near Nottingham, has developed a link with Ngora Parents' School and is funding improvements to its buildings.

Provision of a hostel for girls

In Soroti, progress has been made in the development of Phase 2 of the Church of Uganda Girls' Hostel which is providing safe accommodation for secondary school girls in the town. 70 children are already housed with the prospect when

phase 2 is completed of accommodation for another 70 children. This is almost entirely funded by the Bournemouth Deanery of the Church of England through regular gifts. The second phase has reached fitting out stage.

Creating jobs and Income

A partnership with Revival Time Ministries, a non denominational training and development organisation, has supported a women's micro loan fund targeted at groups in the Wera and Abarilela areas. This received £4,000. 320 people have attended literacy classes in 13 locations and 91 have taken exams and 28 trained as tutors.

The micro loan scheme we funded gave out 199 loans to 44 groups helping women set up small trading business, income generating crop production ,and cafes .Repayment rates of the small loans are well over 90%.Many of the women show new confidence and a new ability to pay school fees and medical costs.

A further scheme has been funded providing small loans to the members of a 240 strong farmer's cooperative that covers a group of communities in the southern part of Wera around Angole.This was set up with a group of resettled IDPs by PAG (Soroti). TDT funded a ground nut shelling machine and cassava flour grinder that is cooperatively owned and managed and enables the members to get a much higher value for its produce at market. Kumi PAG are developing a similar programme.

Following a visit in May 2007, TDT has put some funding into Soroti Women's Cooperative ,an organisation that trains people to set up businesses mainly from an IDP background in the Soroti townships .It has an investment fund that provides small loans on a rolling basis. TDT has provided a further £1500 to its fund which has supported two cooperatives with a total of 35 members (one making building materials the other growing rice).

A set of equipment (computers, sewing machines, joinery, and car maintenance and construction skills) for the Diocesan Vocational Training Centre were supplied by Tools With a Mission with shipment costs paid by TDT. This provided a major update of training equipment for the centre which trains about 350 students each year in a wide range of vocational trades.

20 young women from Obalanga ,who had been abducted by the LRA, were given a three month training course in sewing skills which will give them a basis for a livelihood and the possibility of setting up a cooperative business.

Improving life in the villages by provision of clean water.

Where there is no borehole or well, villagers collect water from unprotected springs or lakes. This leads to the need for long journeys by women or children to fetch water and the health hazards stemming from its poor quality notably high rates of diarrhoea, worms, typhoid especially among the children. The Pentecostal Assemblies of God development team have been addressing the need for quality water supplies in co-operation with TDT for 9 years and 40 projects have been completed.

This year, TDT has funded a borehole at Kokwech north of Kumi, benefiting 330 households and hand dug wells at

- Oceru Asuret sub county supporting 800 people
- Ayama, Asuret sub county supporting 373 people
- Owii, Bugondo sub county supporting 200 people
- Angopet, Gweri sub county supporting 200 people
- Awaliwel, Gweri sub county supporting 1500 people
- Atiira, Serere sub county supporting 150 people

After completion, the community acquires ownership of the well or borehole and manages security and maintenance. Except for the borehole, community members dug the necessary shaft and did the necessary building works under supervision of the PAG church engineer.



Helping those in Refugee (IDP) camps

In April 2008 according to the United Nations Soroti office there were still 61 camps accommodating 143,000 IDPs in Teso, 12 % of the population with a majority in the districts of Amuria and Katakwi. They consist of large concentrations of mud /rush roofed huts centred around a trading post. Some have churches and schools. Life can only be described as “on the edge” with many people dependant on food aid. Large numbers of households have lost family members through disease or during the insurgencies.

The Church of Uganda and PAG have sought to provide as much help as they can through their pastors and clergy who are key community figures “on the ground” TDT has funded assistance to families wishing to return to their homesteads to start farming again with a package of seeds, tools, blankets, a mosquito net and a goat. Aid has been targeted at communities that have expressed the determination to start again.

A particular target for aid has been the camps at Ngarium in Katakwi through the Church of Uganda who have, with partners, provided relief and food aid on an going basis to about 6000 people. Through aid from the Ferguson Trust, TDT gave major support to this community in January –March 2008.

The Revival Time Ministries project helps women establish businesses, and reaches many camp residents in the Wera and Abarilela areas.

This year, aid to IDPs has been intertwined with the flood relief support since many IDPs were flood victims and least able to cope.

Supporting Healthcare

Trust members have considerable interest in health care because some have worked at the hospitals in the area in the past. There is particular concern to assist the Ngora and Kumi Church of Uganda hospitals. Funding has helped buy oxygen concentrators for Kumi Hospital and sterilisers and new bedding for Ngora Hospital. A link has been established with Queens University Hospital, Nottingham who are giving Ngora Hospital surplus equipment (A consignment of which was sent in August 2008 through the Friends of Teso container).

Supporting Christian Ministry

Visiting Churches in Teso is always a special experience. The welcome is tremendous. The life of the congregations is vibrant and most Churches are growing steadily. Supporters are keen to help the clergy and pastors who have so little and struggle to maintain children at school and college. A steady stream of

gifts are sent to individuals to help, mainly channelled through the PAG and Church of Uganda development offices.

5 PAG pastors who being trained in the Mbale Pentecostal College are being helped with their fees. TDT is also assisting an open learning programme for 15 others.

TDT assisted a training programme with Rev Dr Russ Parker in April /May 2007 targeted at Church of Uganda Clergy and a two day training programme for PAG pastors in May 2007 with Andrew Sampson as main speaker.

A strategic project is the translation of the Bible into Kumam. The Kumam make up 25% of the population of Teso and Kumam is a distinct language. A team of 3 translators is based in Soroti. The Uganda Bible Society pays their salaries, and TDT (with others) has met other costs such as equipment .paper and software. By June 2008, the New Testament, and the books of Psalms, Genesis, Job, Chronicles, Jonah, Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy in the Old Testament were completed. 10,000 copies of the New Testament have been sold and a further reprint is in hand.

The Trust channels funds to Janani Lumum College in Kitgum in Northern Uganda to support theological students in training.

The Trust has worked with Friends of Teso which arranges for containers of useful equipment to be shipped to Soroti. Items that been shipped include computers, theological books, school books, medical equipment and bicycles.

The Bishop of Soroti has built a new guest house with funds from a UK donor. This will provide better accommodation for guests to the diocese especially from overseas.

THE FUTURE

The objectives for 2008/9 arise from the need to complete current commitments and respond to the issues presented at a round of detailed visits and a joint meeting with partner leaders in May 2008 in Soroti. These are:

Education

- To sustain the Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme.
- To complete and equip the Girls' Hostel
- To further support new facilities of St Thomas School, Kaberamaido and other targeted girls' schools

Jobs and Income

- To support promising enterprise projects promoted by partners
- To support the existing and new microfinance projects
- To improve the provision of vocational skills training

Rural development

- To fund six new wells, and two boreholes.

To provide aid and relief

- To support 500 households develop their agriculture and promote self sufficiency in Wera ,Katakwi and Amuria where the IDPs mainly live
- To respond to famine in areas impacted by the 2007 floods.

To help develop Food Security

- To help farming communities improve agricultural techniques and cope with the increasingly uncertain rainfall patterns.

To improve Health care

- To support investment in Ngora and Kumi Hospitals to enable them to provide more effectively and efficiently for their patients.

To support Christian Ministry

- To sustain the translation of the Kumam Bible to its completion
- To encourage training and development of clergy and pastors in both partner Churches through personal support and funding for training programmes.
- To encourage people from the UK to visit Teso for ministry and needs assessment.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trust income in 2007/8 was £220,518 compared to £183,925 in 2006/7

The funding sources include

- charitable trusts.
- sponsors of children.
- £25542 was reclaimed from the Inland Revenue under the Gift Aid scheme
- Donations from supporters to needs outlined in the Teso Newsletter
- Fund raising efforts by supporters

The Churches giving support have been:

The Flame Community Church, Rowley Regis
Romsey Methodist Circuit
Solihull Methodist Church
Trinity St James United Reformed Church, Edgware
Iford Christian Fellowship, Sussex
Endowed Mission, Rowley Regis
Quarry Bank Congregational Church
Tyndale Baptist Church, Bristol
Frensham Baptist Church
Abundant Life Church, Jersey
Winchester Quakers
St Paul's Church of England Clacton
All Saints Church of England, Woodchurch
Martlesham Church of England Essex
All Saints Church of England, Oakham
St Simons Church of England, Southsea
Knowle Parish Church
Bournemouth Deanery of the Church of England
St Paul's Church of England, Throop
St Paul's Church of England, Bournemouth
All Saints Church of England Southbourne
St Andrews Church Of England, Bournemouth
St Christopher's Church of England Southbourne
Christ Church, Selly Oak, Birmingham
Stonesby Church of England
All Saints Church of England, Thorpe, Loughborough
Alresford Church of England
Ryarsh St Martin Church Of England
St Mary's Church of England, Hadlow
St Peters Church of England, Ruddington
St Andrews Church of England, Sidcup
St Mary's Church of England, Wythall, Worcestershire
St Pauls Walden Church of England
St Marks Church of England, Kennington, London
Trinity Episcopal Church, Baytown, Texas
St James Episcopal Church, Warrenton, Virginia
Evangelical Lutheran Church Lutjenburg, Germany

Trusts making grants were

Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation
Botteley Charity
Kingdom Bank
Ferguson Trust
Shippam Trust
Tripoli Trust

Expenditure was £180,650 in 2007/8 compared to £ 185,327 in 2006/7.
Key items were

Education

Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme	£40,343
Sick child fund	£2,194
Children's retreat	£9,878
Abducted children training	£3,500
Schools building /improvement	£3,177
Girls Hostel construction	£ 3,958

IDPs/relief

Relief aid	£78,216
RTM enterprise support /micro loan	£2,150

Rural development

Water	£2,000
Microloan	£500

Health

Hospital equipment	£5,562
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Church ministry

Kumam Bible translation	£ 1,600
Pag support	£ 1,974
Church of Uganda	£ 11,772
Northern Uganda college	£ 3,500

At 31st March 2007, the trust's surplus was £49,682.02 with £21,265.58 in the current account with the remainder in reserve. The balance in hand at 1st April 2008 was £90,906. £29,520 was in current accounts, the remainder in reserve accounts.

The surplus at the end of the 2007/8 financial year comprised £50,373 earmarked by donors for specific expenditure to take place later in 2008 on the educational sponsorship scheme, IDP aid, Northern Uganda and for the Bishop's Childrens aid fund. £1,000 is on reserve for spending over three years on Kaberamaido School. £27,386 is kept as an investment reserve to fund contingencies which represents about 21% of a year's expenditure. The remainder is general funding mainly for expected expenditure demands.

The Trust's investments are with the ethical Kingdom Bank in income bearing accounts.

ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

The Teso Newsletter and website are the principal means of communicating with our constituency. Some supporters promote the work of the Trust in their Churches. The administrator and management committee members make presentations at Church services or meetings. The Newsletter has a print run normally of 600 with 500 posted to supporters which elicits a generous response with about 40% of recipients donating to the Trust in any one year.

Administration costs in 2007/8 totalled 4% excluding promotion expenditure and costs of running projects, notably the Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The trust is aware of the risks entailed in its relationship with the Ugandan Churches and other partners who may misuse funds. The risks are dealt with through ongoing liaison with TDT partners, a requirement to acknowledge funding transfers, regular feedback reports, a checking of expenditure during the annual visit and the requirement that partners have their own independent auditing regimes.

Another risk is that involved in the transfer of funds through the banking system to Uganda. This is low through the trusts use of transfer facilities of its own Bank which is a major international operator in transfer of funds and which has an insurance scheme that compensates any loss of funds that may be its responsibility.

The risks concerning people visiting Teso are low because visitors are housed in known accommodation and hosted from their arrival in Uganda until their departure by known local leaders who are very experienced in welcoming and looking after Western Guests .

11th October 2008