

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

2008/9



Delivery of TDT relief to a camp in Ngarium, Katakwi

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
Miss Stella Agwang
Miss Florence Odeke
Mrs Immaculate Akurut
Dr Peter Walker (co-opted)

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. A humanitarian organisation –the Soroti women’s cooperative has become a partner agency delivering business advice and small loans to women in the soroti area

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 project proposals and performance and arranges all aspects of the Trust committee and its annual meeting. 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, three of whom are members of the main trust committee. A grant from 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 and an assistant.

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 those who are displaced persons (IDPs)
- Provide emergency relief
- Support the Improvement of health. provision
- 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 , provide clean water , the build and improve schools, improve Churches ,provide 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 sponsoring able children into secondary and tertiary education
- 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 suffering from food shortages due to floods in 2007 and drought in 2008. There are many challenges for the people, aid agencies and the government to address.

.This year was still impacted by the impact of a drought .which mean that food shortages and insecurity remain serious especially in the northern areas of Katakwi and Amuria .We have endeavoured the best we can to help feed the hungry .Nevertheless, other programmes have been achieved such as water improvements,, support for the development of cooperative enterprises and the continuing 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 and myself visited in June 2008 to review project progress. Also a group from the Church of England Deanery of Bournemouth led by the Rev Reg Baldock 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. These are vital to our assessment of the effect and results of our funding.

We were very disappointed that Bishop Charles Obaikol had to cancel the TDT arranged tour in October 2008 but that we managed to arrange a meeting with him in London in January 2009 on his way to the USA .We have so appreciated his leadership and ministry and regret he will be retiring later this year. He will be a hard act to follow.

Our administrator has continued to ably manage the trust whilst Stewart Hills has assisted with our marketing and managed our website .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 and visit our partners and projects.

We are indebted to the Rev Robert de Berry and St Marks Kennington and Rev Alistair Thom of St Lukes Kilburn for allowing us to use their premises for committee meetings. We are grateful to the Rev Andrew Axon and Ruddington Parish Church for hosting the 2008 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

15 August 2009

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.

In 2008 and into 2009 the area has suffered from irregular rainfall and this has meant that crop growing has been at best poor in yields and at worst none. A survey of households in Amuria showed that is now the norm for people to live on one meal a day and derive their food much less from what they can grow and much more from food aid and what they can buy in the local markets. Food has moreover increased substantially in price. One can only say that in much of Teso living conditions have significantly worsened.

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.

Relief

The impact of flooding in 2007 and the consequent drought led to our partners wishing to continue efforts to help with aid to provide emergency food supplies and recover household's crop production. In this task aid has also come inter alia the United Nations, the Uganda Government, Action Aid and TEAR fund.

The northern Katakwi and Amuria districts and the northern part of Kumi have been most in need.

The aid was allocated across the region as follows by agency

Church of Uganda mainly in Katakwi	£11782
PAG Kumi-Ongino and Malera	£6500
PAG Soroti -Kapelybong	£12000
Revivaltime ministries -Wera	£1700

The relief aid was spent on
1600 mosquito nets
1500 jerricans
2000 blankets
88200 kg maize flour
9200 kg beans
550 cassava bags

These were supplied to people living in camps in Ngarium/Palaam and Dadas in Katakwi, people in camps in Kapelybong and resettled communities in Wera in Amuria and Ongino, Kumi **A total of 2126 households (approximately 12000 people) received aid over this period**

Detailed reports on impact were received from partners on each funding allocation.

Education of children

From a standing start in March 2004, a major child sponsorship programme called the Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme (TESS) now benefits 215 girls and 35 boys 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. Although 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, we do not exclude boys who are very bright and girls who are not so able.

Selection is done using an objective scoring system which assesses their aptitude, family circumstances and level of poverty. Most are orphans or live in camps. However, 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. 70 of our sponsored children are now in further education having completed 'O' levels (equivalent of GCSE). Because of the increase in the cost of fees, the falling exchange rate and the much higher cost of fees for post-'O' level education; we were sadly unable to take on any new children in February 2009. Instead, we had to allocate a second sponsor to all those in further education.

Sponsors now pay £275 a year and are linked to their 'own' child who sends them letters and school reports every term. Many close relationships have been built up in this way, helped by Margaret Stevens, the UK Co-ordinator, who visits Teso twice a year, taking a team of sponsors each time, to assist in the work, provide medical treatment, visit all the children in their schools and homes, take

photos and video and provide personal feedback. The majority of sponsors live in the UK, but there are also 8 sponsors in Germany, 10 in Ireland and 45 in the USA. Some children are sponsored by groups, especially in churches and schools.

Where necessary, children are given basic boarding requirements, scholastic materials and medical help. 160 of the sponsored students attended an 8 day study Retreat in December 2008 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.

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 which are used to top-up fees, buy basic school requirements and pay for medical treatment, an increasingly larger expense.

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, etc. He is responsible for handling all the money. He helped to organise the annual Retreat with Margaret Stevens. Employing Sam has been made possible through a generous grant from the Barbara Ward Children's Foundation although we have now received the final instalment of the grant and so need to find another grant. The work load has increased so much that in September 2008, Harriet Amoding was appointed to assist Sam and Samuel Ocen was appointed in December 2008 to drive the newly acquired minibus, all thanks to extra specific donations.

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 where the child population has grown and provision for girls education has been lacking .By 2007 the basic classrooms of the school were completed and two laboratories .In this year funding has been provided for fencing and the construction of dormitory blocks. There are 80 girls being educated between S1 and S4.

St Peters Church, Ruddington, near Nottingham, has developed a link with Ngora Parents' School and is funding improvements to its buildings and equipment .A key achievement has been the building of a main school hall.

The Church of Uganda Nursery school at Soroti built by funds from The UK Mothers' Union has had some help towards an extension designed for mothers education and to rebuild its kitchen which was destroyed in a storm

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. 400 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 £3300 to 46 groups helping 212 women in small trading business, income generating crop production, and cafes .Repayment rates of the small loans are good .Many of the women show new confidence and a new ability to pay school fees and medical costs.

Following a visit in May 2007, TDT 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 .This year it has provided a further £7800 to its fund which has supported 7 cooperatives with a total of 51 members

A similar programme has commenced in Omoo in Kumi organised by PAG Kumi

PAG completed a chicken farm in Soroti to provide income and employment .This was supported specifically by a Church in Dorset

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 10 years and 48 projects have been completed.

These are done by the PAG with the local community .PAG gives training sessions in health and hygiene and management of the well and works with the community establishing the most suitable location for the well. TDT provides the pump and the community the labour to dig the shaft and to make lining materials .Once it is complete the local community take over the management and maintenance

This year, Pag trained 6 village communities in health and hygiene and 4 committees in management of water .Hand dug wells were completed at the following locations dug wells at

- Ocheru Asuret sub county supporting 800 people
- Ayama , Asuret sub county supporting 373 people
- Akisim ,Asuret supporting 200 people
- Amoru ,Gweri sub county supporting 200 people
- Abiya Awaliwel ,Gweri sub county supporting 200 people
- Amutur ,Katine sub county supporting 380 people
- Kyere ,Angole sub county supporting 400

Several false starts were made in the programme when in digging shafts the construction teams hit hard rock and the wells had to be repositioned.

TDT has also funded the provision of a water harvesting project at Kokwech in Wera which is still under construction .At April 2009 a new programme for 7 wells and a borehole are in the planning stages

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 an autoclave (for sterilising equipment etc) for Ngora Hospital .A link has been established with Queens University Hospital ,Nottingham who are giving Ngora Hospital surplus equipment .A consignment of which arrived in April 2009 through the Friends of Teso container.

Supporting Christian Ministry

Visiting Churches in Teso is always a special experience .The life of the congregations is vibrant and most Churches are growing steadily. Supporters have helped the clergy and pastors who have so little and struggle to maintain children at school and college. Gifts are sent to individuals to help 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.

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 2009, the New Testament, and 12 books of 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 was completed early in 2009 and provides 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 with partner leaders in June 2009 in Soroti. These are

Education

- To complete and equip the Girls' Hostel
- To further support new facilities of St Thomas School, Kaberamaido
- To continue to support the development of Ngora Parents school and other targeted girls' schools

It has been agreed that the child sponsorship scheme on grounds of its scale will be transferred to a new charity once it is registered.

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 seven new wells, and one borehole.

To provide aid and relief

- To respond to famine in areas impacted by drought conditions.

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 2008/9 was £196500 compared to £220848 in 2007/8

The funding sources include

- Charitable trusts.
- Sponsors of children.
- £16490 was reclaimed from the Inland Revenue under the Gift Aid scheme distributed to the funds related to the donations on which they were claimed
- 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 (Elim /AOG)
Rowley Regis Endowed Mission
Fordhouses Baptist Church, Wolverhampton

Tyndale Baptist Church, Bristol
 Romsey Methodist Circuit
 Quarry Bank Congregational Church
 Burlsedon Congregational Church, Hampshire
 Blandford Evangelical Church, Dorset
 Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutjenburg, Germany
 All Saints Church of England, Thorpe, Loughborough
 All Saints Church of England, Woodchurch
 All Saints Church of England, Oakham
 All Saints Church, Southbourne
 Bournemouth Deanery of the Church of England
 Billington Church of England
 St Osyths Deanery Synod, Essex
 St Paul's Church of England Clacton
 St Christophers Church Southbourne
 St Johns Church Forres
 St Johns Church, Bournemouth
 St Andrews Church of England, Sidcup
 Ryarsh Church of England
 Waltham in the Wolds Church
 St Paul's Church of England, Throop
 Stonesby Church of England
 St Mary's Church of England, Hadlow
 St Peters Church of England, Ruddington
 St Andrews Church of England, Ilford
 St Mary's Church of England, Wythall.Worcestershire

Trusts making grants were
 Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation
 Botteley Charity
 Shippam Trust
 Tripoli Trust
 Eleanor Rathbone Trust
 Souter Trust
 Saved to Serve Trust
 Marr Munning Trust
 Drinking Fountain Association
 Oasis Centre, Romsey

Expenditure was £180,650 in 2008/9 compared to £ in 2007/8. Key items were

Education

Teso Educational Sponsorship Scheme	£64351
Medical expenses	£6143
Children's retreat	£8640
Minibus acquisition	£10525
Sales expenditure –printing etc	£1245
Uganda TESS administration	£16108
Schools building /improvement	£10238
Girls Hostel construction	£737

Relief	
Relief aid	£30282
RTM enterprise support /micro loan	£3000
Rural development	
Water	£12,010
Microloan	£7312
Health	
Hospital equipment	£550
Church ministry	
Kumam Bible translation	£ 1,682
PAG support	£ 3800
Church of Uganda Soroti	£8155
Church of Uganda Kumi	£512
Northern Uganda college	£1,500
UK administration	
TESS administration and publicity	£1755
UK office	£9536
Publicity	£1282
Independent examiners fee	£595

At 1st April 2008, the trusts surplus was £90,906. £29,520 was in current accounts, the remainder in reserve accounts. At 1st April 2009 the trusts surplus was £92700 with £10726 in a general current account and £60 129 in the TESS current account. £20 388 was in general reserves and £1437 in a reserve account for TESS

The surplus at the end of the 2008/9 financial year comprised. £60129 earmarked by donors for specific expenditure on the educational sponsorship scheme. The majority of the £10746 in the general account was spent in May/June on aid IDP aid, Northern Uganda and for the Bishops Childrens aid fund.

During the year the trustees reduced its reserve fund with £20252 kept as an investment reserve to fund contingencies. This represents about 10%of a year's expenditure.

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

ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

The Teso development trust and the specific TESS Newsletters and websites are the principal means of communicating with our constituency. Some supporters promote the work of the Trust in their Churches. The administrators and management committee members make presentations at Church services or meetings. The main 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. The 200 TESS supporters received a quarterly newsletter specific to the project.

Administration costs in 2007/8 totalled 5% 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.

The Trust adopted a safeguarding Policy in January 2009 .All personnel employed by the trust or under its aegis as volunteers are required to have a CRB check .The Trust joined the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service which manages CRB checks for the trust and provides ongoing advice and training for its staff and volunteers.

The Trust is a member of Global Connections – an evangelical umbrella group for Christian organisations engaged in mission and development .this provides us with helpful management advice and input through its staff, information bulletins conferences and workshops

Approved 10th October 2009