



**Partnership
News
Issue no 71**

Teso Development Trust

partnership in relief, development and mission

First thoughts

The upheavals of the past 2 years have certainly upended our lives and with the conflict in Ukraine it seems as though the uncertainty is not over yet. According to UN climate reports, 80 million people are at risk of hunger by 2050 due to crop failure. Directly or indirectly it is always the poorest and most vulnerable who are the hardest hit making the work we do even more vital.

At TDT we have been reflecting and have had a time of review with discussions between our committee and some supporters. We have been bouncing ideas around with our Teso partners as well. Zoom has helped us meet but this year we shall be able to visit Uganda and meet in person.

We have reviewed our Constitution and our policy frameworks e.g. Finance, HR, health and safety and Safeguarding and a 2022/23 Business plan is close to completion. Some themes are clear;

- Tackling Food security
- Developing selected Christian schools
- Continuing to provide clean water in the villages
- Encouraging Community/Church self-help projects
- Investing in improving local Health facilities
- Investing in Church leadership notably in the Church of Uganda and Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG).

We hope you will join us on the journey.

Dave Watts, Chairman



Climate Crisis and a response?

November's COP26 seems a long time ago and its results were generally felt to be disappointing. The aim to reduce emissions to result in a 1.5 centigrade increase in global temperature wasn't met. In the West, we worry about rising sea levels and increasing storms and flooding but Sub Saharan Africa is regarded by the scientists as already suffering the worst impact. This has been manifested in a considerable rise in temperature and rainfall and a growing unpredictability in storm events and droughts. Forecasts suggest a rise in temperature of 4 degrees and rainfall rise of 20%.



Amongst the consequences of this are;

- Drought or flood resulting in lower crop yields or no yield at all.
- Increase in waterborne disease due to increasingly frequent floods
- Water shortages through longer periods of drought
- Increased poverty and malnutrition from an impoverished food supply
- Reduced or unstable household incomes.



For an economy based almost entirely on subsistence food growing, as in Teso, this is bad news indeed. It has been evident and remarked upon by our partners that these trends have been creeping up in the North of Uganda for perhaps 15 years. In 2007 floods swept through the Soroti/Kumi area sufficient in scale to attract the BBC broadcasting the destruction of the main highway and reporter Orla Guerin up

to her knees in floodwater. Since then nearly every other year the area has either had drought and long periods of high temperatures or floods. Apart from loss of vital food supplies and income, loss of property and damage to public provision; schools, water points, Churches, the community has to find resources to rebuild with little Government aid and no insurance.

The Uganda government has developed a strategy to respond as part of its input to COP including programmes on;

- Reforestation
- Development of drought resistant farming
- Diversification of crop growing
- Water management programmes
- Promotion of sustainable energy use away from use of timber.
- Community health measures

As you will be aware, TDT and its partners have been working and will continue to work at these issues. Support for food security is a priority as is water and sanitation. Community health is on the agenda. We will provide relief when needed. Our aim is to help Teso churches to invest in a more sustainable future for its people. We hope you will help us meet this challenge.

Photos show the community in Okerai A learning about nursery bed management as part of the new agriculture project run by PAG KIDO.

Water and Sanitation

The Water and Sanitation Project with BIDS in Kalaki, funded by the UKAID Small Charities Challenge Fund, has been progressing well and the positive impact is being felt. So far two boreholes have been constructed in Angorok and Oymai and construction of the final two is underway. The training of Community Based Builders (local youth being trained in construction skills) and latrine construction is ongoing. 10 latrines have been constructed to date. Assisting with the construction of latrines for the vulnerable gives the builders in training a vital opportunity to practice. Households are practicing the safe water chain and have enough water to wash themselves regularly, wash their hands more often and to wash clothes and dishes.

“Life was generally very difficult before because the main source of water for drinking and domestic use was an open dam. The water was not safe and clean for consumption and most households reported high cases of waterborne diseases,”

says Helen Acipa, a member of the local community who is now part of the Water and Sanitation committee.

Right: Community Based Builders at the start of the course.



Photo above shows the finished borehole in Angorok. The front cover shows community members anxious to collect water during testing.



The training for Community Based Builders has been well received as it provides a much needed opportunity for the local youth. Emmanuel Esiku, 20, is using the skills he is learning to help his community construct latrines for free. However Emmanuel is also hoping that in the future by using these skills he will be able to help support his family (he is the oldest of 5 children) as well as earn some money to support himself to finish secondary school. BIDS have found a way to allow an additional 7 trainees to join the programme without adding to the overall costs as the demand for the training was so high.



Photos Left:
Two stance
pit latrine
being built in
Angorok



Left: A female CBB standing next to the shower cubicle she constructed after starting the course. There are 3 women enrolled on the course however as construction is still largely seen as male activity in Uganda the majority of participants are men.

"I had dug a pit for a latrine over 10 years ago but failed to construct the superstructure due to lack of money." Says Mathilda Ayango, 80, from Angorok. "I had completely lost hope of ever owning and using a standard pit latrine because I imagined how costly it



would be. When the Chairperson LC1 (local council) informed me that I had been identified as one of the beneficiaries for the pit latrine subsidy, I was so excited and I knew that God had answered my prayers. I was sensitized on my role and responsibilities and I immediately got someone to help me improve on my pit. I worked together with my grandchildren to mobilize the local materials that were required. I am now very happy that my pit latrine and bath shelter is complete and I have already started using it. I don't have to suffer again by going to the bushes."

Our partners in the Pentecostal Church also continue to work hard at establishing boreholes and wells across their respective districts. The provision of water not only reduces water borne disease but also reduces cases of domestic violence, keeps children safe and in school as they no longer need to travel long distances to fetch water and encourages the establishment of small businesses.

TDT is therefore delighted that thanks to the perseverance of PAG Kumi there are now three boreholes on Tisai Island. TDT supported the development of a primary school on the island in 2016 however attempts at providing water always drew a blank due to the hard rock under the ground and the logistics of getting the appropriate drilling equipment onto the island. PAG Kumi however were able to collaborate with a borehole company who own specialised equipment and

after 10 months of planning the equipment was shipped to the island and the boreholes successfully drilled. They are hoping that a 4th will be constructed before the equipment returns to the mainland.



Photos show community members collecting water at the newly finished borehole in Otingai, Morungatuny district (top right) and below a lady selling produce in Olobai (left) and a young man selling chapati in Apopong (right). Bottom right is one of the completed boreholes on Tisai.



Ngora Freda Carr - 100 years of caring for the community!

Ngora Freda Carr will be celebrating a Centenary of health care this year and the management staff are very grateful for the support that TDT has been able to provide in helping the hospital re-establish itself. In 2021 TDT sent out £5000 for the improvement of the water system at the hospital and to reconnect a supply of running water to provide running water to the wards. To do this the power supply to the hospital needed to be re-connected, in particular to the water pump and an additional 10,000L tank installed including appropriate plumbing work, as shown in the photos. (top to bottom – the installed tank and newly installed electricity poles. Installation of an AVS (automatic voltage stabiliser) connecting the water pump to the power supply and lastly collecting water from the new supply.)

The next big project that TDT hopes to support is the provision of an incinerator for the proper disposal of medical waste. This will cost around £14,100. The hospital has never had an incinerator and currently waste is dumped in a rubbish pit which presents a high risk of the spread of infection.



Kumi Compassionate Fund; supporting health care provision for the most vulnerable.



Benson Ongiriany is a 6 year old who was left with cerebral palsy caused by cerebral malaria he contracted at the age of 1 that was left untreated. He was admitted to the hospital with malaria, vomiting and convulsions. His mother was divorced by her husband due to Benson's disability so the Compassionate Fund covered her bills of 107,800 UGX (£23).



Kokas Itei, 7 years old, was suffering from hemoglobinuria (when high levels of haemoglobin are found in the urine). His family managed to raise 150,000 UGX (£32) and the Compassionate Fund covered the outstanding balance of the treatment, 104,100 UGX (£22). The family were very grateful for the help they received.



Gloria Ariko, 13, was rushed to Kumi Hospital as an emergency patient when treatment she was receiving at the local drug store did not improve her situation. After assessment by the medical team Gloria was diagnosed with diabetes, was put on the correct treatment and was able to go home once she improved. As the family's economic situation was very desperate 266,900 UGX (£57) of their bills was covered by the Compassionate Fund and the family paid the remaining 400,000 (£86).

Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture

In September 2021 PAG KIDO started working in Okerai A on a project that will focus on Conservation Agriculture, Community Management Disaster Risk Reduction, Integrated Livestock Management, Village Savings and Loaning Associations and Farming as a Family Business. The community in Okerai A were so impressed with the improvements that had been noticed in Okerai B following PAG KIDO's work there that they requested that PAG KIDO come and work with their community too. Training is aimed at getting communities to diversify their farming e.g by growing fruit or rearing livestock for sale and adopting practices such as developing a kitchen garden to provide a source of fresh vegetables during the dry seasons, along side practices that will protect the natural environment, with the overall aim of the training to make communities more resilient and give them a better chance of coping in adverse circumstances.



So far training activities have focussed on;



- 1.The set up of a Community Management Disaster Risk Reduction Village Committee.
- 2.Nursery bed management for growing fruit trees and trees for timber or other purposes.
- 3.The management of natural resources such as indigenous trees and vegetation cover and natural swamp areas.

4. Group dynamics and leadership skills.

The group cassava multiplication plots that were established as part of the project are performing well and farmers are enthusiastic about receiving their cuttings when the time for redistribution to individuals arrives which should be in June this year.

Testimony of an Okerai A Resident

Mrs. Christine Phuwa, 42 years old, is married to Mr. Max Oboo, 62 and they have 4 children, 3 in secondary school and 1 in primary school. Christine has become a Community Resource Person (members of the community trained to then share their knowledge with the community at large and to be on hand to help once the project is completed). She is also the Chairperson of Emorikinos (meaning unity) women's group. Christine says,

"There have been a number of trainings in my community on conservation agriculture, VSLA and vegetable growing which have all yielded positive results in my life, my family's lives and the community as a whole. Because of the training I no longer see the dry season as a holiday for farmers and have purchased vegetable seeds and hired help to irrigate the crops during dry season. The last season gave me a harvest of very good and healthy vegetables which produced food for my household during a dry spell that left a number of households desperate and frustrated and calling for relief from the government and other non-government organizations. I also started selling the vegetables as there were more than my family could consume and I earned over 300,000 ugx. (£64). This encouraged me to continue as it will help us to pay school fees for our children in the future. This time (as the schools were still closed due to COVID) we bought a goat with part of the money and used the rest to buy other household needs. As Community representatives, we were also trained on Farming as a

Family Business which emphasises the full involvement of all family members in all the agriculture production stages, we were also taught that food and commercial production should be separate. From the knowledge I acquired I have planted cassava and sweet potatoes for commercial purposes and am hoping for a good harvest and good profits. My husband and I are members of Emorikinos Women VSLA group where we borrowed a loan of 200,000 ugx (£43) to buy improved seeds and other agricultural inputs. After selling my crops I will be able to repay my loan and still have some surplus to keep for myself. I worry much less now about our family and the future because of the skills and knowledge that we have gained and which we are putting into practice. The vegetables have generated income that enable me take better care of my family. I am so delighted. May God bless the work of PAG KIDO and partner TDT UK."



The photos capture Christine weeding her cassava (above) weeding onions (bottom right) and harvesting sweet potatoes (top right).

Update on General Funds

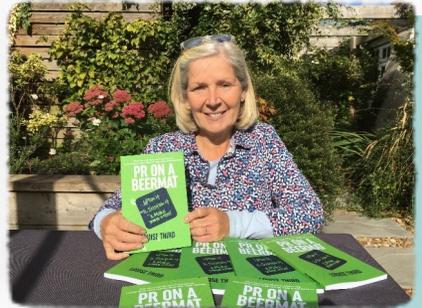
TDT trustees have noticed that an increasing proportion of the Charity's income is in the form of grants or giving that is dedicated to particular projects or individuals in Teso. This means that the available general funds are equivalently decreasing. General funds are important to the charity, not only to cover administrative spending, but also as a source of funds to support new promising initiatives by our Ugandan partners and to provide emergency relief in times of flood or drought, or most recently COVID. This flexible pot of money ensures we are as responsive and effective as possible.

For this reason, at the last TDT Committee meeting it was decided that from January 2022 we would deduct a contribution of 5% from all non-general donations to support these important general funds.

Please be assured that TDT's administration costs are not increasing above inflation and indeed, at less than 10% of our expenditure, are much smaller than most similar charities. The committee did however feel that the imbalance between general and designated funding needed to be addressed to enable our work in Teso to be most effective.

PR on a Beermat

Nottinghamshire businesswoman and TDT volunteer Louise Third is using the publication of her new book 'PR ON A BEERMAT' to support us by donating £1 of every book sold to our relief and development activities.



PR ON A BEERMAT is a guide to public relations aimed at freelancers, entrepreneurs, and owner-managers of growing businesses or charities. The author draws from over 30 years as a business adviser and PR consultant. "I decided it was time to capture in print the advice I share through my mentoring and online workshops," she says. "Everyone can do PR. It's simple once you understand the basics, but it must be done well."

Louise's target is to sell 5000 copies and raise £5000 towards the cost of sinking a fresh water borehole. She hopes readers of our newsletter will encourage their business or charity contacts to buy her book so they can put her ideas into practice whilst supporting us at the same time.

Central to the book are the stories of smaller firms who use publicity to get noticed, firms such as TEA REX teas and outdoor clothing company Alpkit. Journalists from The Daily Express, The Times, the Daily Mail, and city paper Nottingham Post guide the reader about how to work with the media.

Louise first visited Uganda in 2010 with her husband Andrew in a group led by Clement and Honor Dixon. She has returned on several occasions to find out how our partners are managing the many challenges and opportunities across the Teso Region.

PR ON A BEERMAT is available on Amazon, priced £12.99.
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09CGS11TN>

The book website is www.pronabeermat.co.uk

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for our faithful supporters and their donations that enable the work of TDT to continue.
- Give thanks for all our partners and the work that they do for the people of Teso.
- Pray that the TDT Committee continues to make decisions with wisdom and discernment.
- Pray for world peace and protection of the poorest and most vulnerable people who are prone to drought and disease. Bless refugees across the world.
- Pray that a TDT team may visit Teso, Uganda again soon.

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You can also give securely online at www.justgiving.com/tesodevelopment

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