



Partnership News

Issue No 72



Teso Development Trust

partnership in relief, development and mission

MOMENTUM!

We like to think of TDT as a family of people and Churches in the UK committed to friends and Churches in Teso. Well we have just had the family reunion at last after all the frustrations of lockdown. Andrew, Louise and Carmel had a great visit in February, Dr Winnie Bedigen has been out too doing a research project in Katakwi and Robert De Berry is due to go. No doubt others in the network will be keeping their connections. The only plus in lockdown was we all managed to meet up with our friends on Zoom which made it possible for our Ugandan friends to join in on our Annual Meetings.

We welcome Dr Dundas Moore and Pat Smart onto our management team. Both have experience of working in or visiting Teso and are already making an input. Families also lose members and we are sad at the passing of three of our strong supporters Margaret Phillips, Sheila Warren and Dr Michael Winter. They gave good service to the Teso people in the past and kept faithfully in touch. We thank God for their support over so many years.

As you will see from the visit reports we were most encouraged by the recovery of the Teso community from lockdown and the energy and enthusiasm of the people to get on with serving God afresh and tackle the challenging issues they face. We are keen to respond and keep the momentum.

Dave Watts

Chairman.

Right; Carmel with
PAG Kumi at Okiror
Well





Water

Steady progress has been made so far this year; 2 wells have been completed and eight more have just been funded . We are seeking funding for 3 more boreholes and another 15 wells . In 2022 5 wells and 4

boreholes were completed benefitting 10,000 people, a further 3 wells were funded but are yet to be completed. Over 10 wells were visited in February by the TDT team and it was evident everywhere how highly the availability of clean water was valued. The positive impact on people's daily lives was evident even in simple terms. Some of the benefits communities mentioned were; being able to wash their clothes easily, time saved for women and less family conflict over the lack of water, reduction of disease including malaria, the capacity to grow vegetables in their own homes and as a community because they have the water and the time available, having enough water for their livestock and for bee keeping which in some cases had prompted them to purchase and rear sheep and goats or keep bees as a community project.

Kasilo Well, Bugondo.
The community are pleased there is no longer the risk of water being contaminated and they have enough clean water to meet all their household needs. The number of malaria cases has also fallen.



Left; Kikota Community Well. The plot of land belongs to a widow (lady far left) who said before she lived alone and was isolated. Now the community have come together around the water point and have become a stronger community and she is no longer isolated. The community have a tomato nursery bed and are going to start a tree nursery.



Above; Kobwin Well at St Matthew's School.

Right; Okiring Well. Previously the well was just an open pit dug by the community in 1982! The community are now growing tomatoes and peas and have started bee keeping. In the future they plan to rear livestock as they can easily provide the animals with water.



PAG KIDO Development Projects

The team were fortunate to visit Okerai A and Apopong where PAG KIDO have run development projects over the last few years structured around the completion of a borehole. These involve the set up of VSLA (Village Savings and Loans Association) groups and training on climate smart agriculture and livelihoods. Projects help to bring communities together to solve their own problems. Okerai A and B for example have come together to train bored, unemployed youth on carpentry and building skills which gives them a means of earning a living as well as keeping them out of trouble. They have also established two football teams as a recreational activity for the young men. The project in Okerai A will run for a further year during which additional communities that could benefit from the training and support will be identified. Usually, the project runs for 3 years at cost of around £3500 per year.



Left is a picture of Benedicto, a beneficiary from Okerai A. He and his wife Grace had a significant area of land which prior to the project was in large part lying fallow as it easily became water logged but they have now started to reclaim land for cultivation using simple drainage arrangements they learnt during the agriculture training and which stop the land flooding in the rainy season. Benedicto has taken further steps in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with a tree planting activity - mango, guava, eucalyptus and gravelia. He had planted large areas of a new strain of cassava acting as a provider of seedlings to the community (a scheme initiated through the project where cuttings are taken

from the original plants as they grow and are divided among the other beneficiaries) and had also developed a cottage garden area with tomatoes, egg plants and cowpeas. The cottage garden was protected from the sun and excess evaporation by a cover of twigs and leaves. Benedicto and his wife have engaged in purchasing cows through the VSLA scheme and also stocked turkeys.

Right is a young man who became involved with the VSLA scheme with his parents. The family had also been growing the new cassava strain and rearing poultry and had taken part in the learning visits to other project beneficiaries in other communities. Off the back of this they had started a successful new business drying slices of fruit such as banana, pineapple, jackfruit and mango which they were packaging and selling for 2000 UGX (45p) per packet. The long term aim is to

sell them at the local markets

however at the moment, as the product is so popular, they are only able to produce enough to meet the demand within the local community. The drying racks are a very specific model that come from America and don't affect the taste of the end product.



Aloysius Otim, Apopong.

Aloysius has used money borrowed from the village savings group to start his own small businesses doing bicycle repairs and purchasing beehives to collect honey for sale. When the community fled because of the Karamajong raids last year he took the opportunity to train with someone in town on how to repair bicycles. He is now the main point of call for local bike repairs. He borrowed 200,000 UGX (£43) to purchase the tools to start the business. He also borrowed 200,000 UGX to purchase 20 beehives. He has only had them for a year so they are just starting to get established. The plan is to sell honey to wholesalers who will then process it for sale. Aloysius's wife borrowed 100,000 UGX (£21.50) to start a small business selling dried silver fish. She purchases them and other items wholesale in the main market and then sells them for a profit in the village. Mostly they use the money they make for school fees, medical bills and food provision. It took them one year to pay off their loans. Other examples of training they are putting into action are: an ongoing kitchen garden where they grow cowpeas that people can come and pay to harvest a small amount of and some nursery beds. They are using organic pesticides and fertilisers. The pesticide is made from onion, marigold, chilli, pumpkin leaves, tomato leaves and nimu tree leaves (which contain quinine). They make a paste of the ingredients, add a little water, put it in a container and let it ferment then take 1 mug and mix it with 1 litre of water to spray on their plants. They also run water through manure and then spread it as a fertiliser. (photo above). They are considering borrowing more to expand their businesses.



John Patrick Omoding & Helen Omoding.

John and Helen are also residents of Apopong who received cassava cuttings and trained in farming skills. John was a demonstration farmer for the new strain of cassava - so cuttings were multiplied on his land and then distributed to the community. They are part of two different VSLA groups so they have access to more savings and the ability to borrow more money. So far have used the savings fund to finance school fees and borrowed money to build a brick kiln to make bricks. At the end of the year they had a payout of 600,000 UGX (£134) in savings. John also bought a grinding mill in parts, starting with the engine, and then slowly assembling it at a total cost of 3,200,000 UGX. (£711). It is the closest mill in quite a wide area and he can charge people 1500 UGX (33p) for grinding a basin of cassava. Helen buys cooking oil, groundnuts, maize and soap at the larger markets and then sells them locally in the village for a profit. She bases her decisions on what to buy on what is needed everyday by families and therefore what is in demand.

They have many plans for the future including building a permanent house but both confirm that the programme has transformed their family's financial position enabling them to live much more comfortable lives and overcome the occasional crises because of better access to money.



Education - Aminit High School

Progress on the school has been good with building work completed to a good standard on the second foundation slab to form the four classroom block. The three classrooms in the block roofed by TDT in 2020 are now in use but classes still have to be held in the church building some distance away. The benefit to girls of having local secondary education is evident. There are 226 students currently enrolled in four classes as below;

Year	Girls	Boys	Total
S1	59	31	90
S2	21	25	46
S3	26	29	55
S4	14	21	35



Going forward the priorities are to put a roof on the 4 classroom block which also houses an office and store room. This is a project that will take a few years to complete as the roof is a major structure requiring a veranda to support it. There is also an obvious need to provide adequate latrines.

PAG Church Self Help Groups

Overall the team were impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication with which the three communities visited had adopted the concept of saving and the level to which they were working together as a community to support each other.

Borupe Group was set up around Borupe Shallow Well which was previously just an open well dug by the community. The SHG group is just getting going and at the moment there are more people who want loans than there is money to hand out. The community mostly get



money from casual labour or selling produce at the market so saving is slow. The group meet every Saturday. Groups are limited to a maximum of 20 people in the group, any more and they must open a new group. Borupe group was set up on a first come first served basis but it was so popular there is now a waiting list to set up a new group. Participants can't borrow more than the total they have saved as an insurance policy to make sure the group doesn't go

bankrupt. What you can borrow also depends on the assets you have at home as they act as an insurance in case you can't repay the loan. As a community they are trying to initiate group activities; they made chairs and gave them to the church as a gift from the group and they are supporting the elderly



in the community with soap and sugar and with small home construction repairs. They have also started a community poultry farm, so far they have 1 Turkey from which they have had 10 offspring. The funds for the community projects are raised separately rather than taking them out of the SHG box.

The village of Olumoto (photo right) has two VSLA groups and as a result they can now solve their problems within the community rather than having to go to the bank. Members pay 5% interest on what they borrow and 40% of what they save is used to help the community. They are taking

care of 20 orphans from within the community by paying for their school fees with each member supporting one child. Group members have also started tree nurseries in their homes. The group has 20 members and at the end of the first year of saving they had 5,320,000 UGX (£1191) in savings. They shared out 3,320,000 (£743) and retained 2,000,000 (£448) to carry over to the next year.

The most common uses of savings are medical bills, school fees and small businesses.



Left; Patrick Onaga, the team leader at PAG Soroti with a chicken he was gifted by the community. The team received many chickens on this visit which is a testament to the gratitude of the communities and the positive impact of the projects.



The Arude Group

The team were given an enthusiastic welcome by the ARUDE Group a group of women, many of whom are widows, who TDT supported 10 years ago through the distribution of heifers. More recently they were

recipients of a crisis aid distribution including groundnut seeds and a sheep project which involved animal husbandry training and the distribution of sheep on a revolving basis where the first off-spring are passed on to group members who did not receive animals in the first cycle. Many stories were shared with the group telling them how the support had allowed the women to educate their children and live in ways that secured their self respect from a previous situation of poverty through simple ways such as being able to afford to buy sugar, to drink milk or even to buy a nice dress. Photos below show Florence (far left), who has been a member of the group since the beginning, Rose, Jessica and Harriet.



Kumi Hospital Compassionate Fund

The Compassionate Fund continues to support the most vulnerable who pass through the wards at Kumi hospital. This time the team were accompanied by Bishop Michael Okwii for the visit to Kumi Hospital including the field visits. The team visited two beneficiaries of the Fund - Joanne Gabriella Omo (who suffered severe burns after falling in the porridge pot) and Rachel Jessica Apduno (who almost lost a hand after a bite from a domestic violence incident which turned septic) and her son Julius (who had to have an amputation below knee) after a poorly treated break. Julius has also received a prosthetic limb through the fund which has enabled him to return to school and interact with his classmates and resume his life as normal.



Ngora Freda

Carr

Ngora Freda Carr is continuing its remarkable improvement under the guidance of Amos Odiit and Stella Akurut.

Many of the facilities that were unusable and

ruined have been brought back into good condition and there is generally a positive feel to the whole hospital. On the tour of the

hospital we saw many of the mattresses and sheets provided during the last couple of years and very satisfyingly we were able to see the good running water in the wards, again provided by TDT funding, making an enormous difference. The pharmacy, laboratory and X-ray unit for

which funding were also provided are still working well. The hospital has also

been able to repair damaged ceilings in some of the wards and invest in one or two small solar batteries that are used to keep vital equipment running during power cuts.





Left shows Dr Odiit checking a baby with breathing difficulties. In the background is the solar battery (orange box) supporting the oxygen monitor the baby is attached to. The importance of the solar batteries was bought home when one hour later the electrical power supply went off during a heavy thunder storm. Without the solar battery to run the oxygen machine the baby would have died when the power cut out.

Right; mattresses and sheets provided by TDT in the women's ward.



Soroti Mother's Union

The team visited a literacy group that is one of 5 Women's Adult Literacy groups across the diocese. The group started in 2021 as a literacy and savings group and includes members of a number of different communities who are located



close to each other. Learning to read and write has improved the self confidence of the women (who for example can now sign their name on attendance sheets at meetings whereas before they simply let the sheet pass them by). To help with the management of the VSLA they learn to read numerically and can now record various numbers so that contributions and loans can be accurately recorded. For the first 6 months the classes with the teacher were supported by the Mother's Union but after that the teacher has been paid a contribution collected by the women themselves to enable them to continue learning. They hope to expand their learning to skills such as baking and making soap and the Mother's Union have trained them on how to make re-useable sanitary pads. The group was very vibrant and very committed to each other and what they were doing and the pastoral

support they offer each other was also widely appreciated throughout the group. Overall the group has been so successful that it has grown from 30 to 44 participants as new members requested to join.



St. Peter's Theological College

has about 150 students, studying for an accredited certificate in theology over 2 years. Teaching at the college is done in English which, for all the students, is a second language however they have an exuberant faith and are bright, intelligent and eager to learn. The college also has to provide them with life skills to equip them for earning their own living; courses have recently been run on health & hygiene, animal husbandry, farming and money management. Due to poverty many of the students fail to pay the fees required of them (£400 per year) so the two dioceses of Kumi and Soroti struggle to keep the college afloat and the facilities are inadequate.



(Funds were recently sent to buy mattresses as students were sleeping on the floor.) The two dioceses pay the costs of five full time and three part time staff, and provide the food and accommodation (much of it in borrowed buildings). There are about ten acres of arable land available to the college on which

much of the students' food is grown. Photos show the staff (centre photograph) and students (below in a classroom borrowed from the Medical Centre) and at the top Robert with the Bishop of Soroti and the college Principal Canon Boniface (far right).



Robert is hoping to raise £30,000 for two new classrooms and a staff room for the college. £20,500 has already been received from the Jerusalem Trust and other supporters, including TDT, and to encourage support to raise another £10,000 Robert did a 10,000 foot tandem sky dive at Old Sarum air-field on Thursday 6th July. Below are his comments on the event!



"On the morning of July 6th, I did my first (it will also be my last) tandem sky-dive. Coupled to my instructor, I was the first of 7 to be "forcibly" ejected into thirty seconds of "free fall" at 125 mph. Then the turmoil ceases, as the parachute opens up. Serenity takes over. The airfield is at Old Sarum, near Salisbury, and, as you twist and turn, Salisbury looks like toy town; that great cathedral a miniature model. I had

no fear about doing this just some momentary trepidation, so resorted to words from Psalm 91, ".....the Lord is my strength.....he will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone". Next to me waiting to get onto the Cessna aircraft was a young Christian of 18, his age being the reverse of mine (81), His name was Gabriel!"





We give thanks to God for:

- The TDT team being able to visit Teso this year and for their good health throughout and their safe return home.
- Our partner churches and all the good work that they do for the Kingdom and the people of Teso.
- Our faithful donors who make our continued work possible.
- For the new members of our Management Committee and their willingness to serve.

We pray for:

- All those who face daily challenges of poverty and climate change.
- The youth and adults who strive to improve their lives by learning new skills.
- All those who work in the schools and hospitals providing education and healthcare.

Note for the Diary

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at St Paul's Church in Leamington Spa, CV32 4TE, on the 7th October starting at 12.30pm for lunch followed by presentations. A zoom link will hopefully be made available for those who can't attend in person. For further details please contact Carmel.



Contact Us

For more information about our projects or how you can partner with us please contact

Carmel Dipple - TDT Administrator
Tel 0800 7313 460
5 North Villiers Street, Leamington Spa,
CV32 5XZ
admin@teso.org.uk

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

Management Committee

Chairman	Hon Treasurer	Hon Secretary
Dave Watts	Dr Hugh Mason	Christine Moyes

Andrew Third	Martin Frize	Dr Winnie Bedigen
Rev Robert de Berry	Pat Smart	Dr Dundas Moore

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Photo above shows the welcome committee at Okerai A.