

Ugandan Registration
Number 2869

BEGA KWA BEGA

UK Registered Charity
Number 1130378

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Towards the end of March, David Ssagala, Manager of Bega kwa Bega and the only paid worker in the organisation, came to Britain for 7 weeks, ostensibly for the first holiday of his life. He was so much in demand in places around both England and Scotland that we doubt whether he had much of a rest. We discovered that he seldom takes a day off, working right through the weekends. 'There is so much to do'. There is also the need to consider his salary, which was low when the work was put on a formal footing in 1999. Since then it has not increased. He would not expect to get as much as those community workers employed by the larger charities (£500 a month), however, £150 a month is poor recompense for the work that he puts in.

The work of Bega kwa Bega is carried out in 45 villages in the Wakiso district. In Uganda charities have permission from the Government to operate in a particular district and cannot operate outside the given area. Imagine a semicircle around the eastern and northern parts of the 'Kampala district' (Kampala being the capital): this is 'Wakiso.' Driving long distances daily is standard as the villages are far apart, scattered throughout the district.

BkB has 4 main projects: Water & Sanitation; Income Generation; Sponsorship of Orphans and the Clinic.

WATER & SANITATION:

Three **Bore Holes** have been completed and 6 **Protected Springs** will be finished by the end of the month. Around 25% of the village people now have clean water available adjacent to their homes. The bore holes are very expensive to sink, but much of the work on the springs is done by the village people themselves. Before a spring is begun, the

local people need to promise to undertake this

work, BkB coming in with the money to buy the cement and expertise for the last stage. (£460)



THE DIRTY SPRING

The villagers dig a trench leading from the original spring to the planned protected spring



The completed spring

JUST TESTING



The building of **latrines** in schools: 3 have so far been built (£230-£250 each) and 3 for orphaned families where there are a large number of children living and no adults (£100 each).

INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS:

HEIFERS have been given to families in 17 different villages. This is one of the most successful projects. The family is given the heifer, training in how to look after it, and a shelter is built. (£700). The first female calf is given to another family. All other calves are the property of the family. 30 further families are awaiting their chance to receive a heifer. A family received a heifer recently, donated by a school in Luxembourg.

KNITTING machines continue to bring in an income, especially to groups of women working together.

OTHER SMALL PROJECTS;

Pig / poultry rearing; gardening (ie renting land for 2 seasons) and selling the produce in the market; baking and selling in the market or to local stores; brewing and selling to local bars; entertaining (shows); brick making. All these projects are run by women including the brick making.

There are some 70 small projects running and 40 good proposals being put forward. Others wish to expand. For this to happen loans are needed. David looked into this in some detail while over here. **A LOANS SCHEME** would be a project in itself.

Elder sister & baby using the new protected spring



THE CLINIC: The Mobile Clinic has been running for the past 2 years working in the 45 villages. David writes: *"We have been stationed in one of the villages and offer medical services to over 120 people at each station, most of these being young children aged between 0-15 years old. The people who receive our services are those who are staying over 8 miles away from the nearest health centres. We do have health/medical workers who come out with us as volunteers. The medicine and the equipment we use have to be bought from private pharmacies. The cost of the services for each station is £35 and this includes: the cost of medicine, material and equipment used, transport and lunch for the workers. The total cost each year is £1,680.*

The clinic has not been running for the last few months as a result of shortage of funds in the Charity." In a recent e-mail, we learn that the clinic is now back on the road. *"The community has been craving for our services."*

SPONSORING ORPHANS: (nursery school fees)

BkB works with the Education Authority. Local Councils will let BkB know who are the children in most need and BkB then decides which children they can sponsor according to the funds. On average £50 a child is paid out for the year.

BkB also helps with the building of the nursery schools. Most villages will have 2 schools. Villagers will make the bricks and fund raise for the cement. But the iron sheet roofing is beyond their means and is paid for by BkB, £200 for each classroom.

Orphans brave the steps down to the protected spring



While David was in this country he spent time in Walthamstow where CREST, a voluntary charity working in the community, gave him the opportunity to visit their projects for the elderly, children out of school and the disability group. He was able to discuss mental health work, grant applications and loan schemes; all invaluable experience. He visited High Wycombe where 4 nursery school teachers have benefited from training, and fund raising is continually in progress. On his way to Scotland he visited CAT, (Centre for Alternative Technology) in Wales, and gained from being shown round by a specialist in, among other things, waste disposal. In Wishaw, a few miles East of Glasgow, he was much in demand as large numbers have given so generously to BkB, and others have worked for short periods in Uganda. The local press interviewed him and wrote an excellent article.

Here our application for BkB in this country to the Charitable Commission is in its last stages. When this has been approved, we can start making applications for funds!

Now I don't have to walk 6 miles for water

