

Bega kwa Bega

Uganda Orphans

BkB Annual Report 2006-2007

BkB is a non-government organization registered with the Government of Uganda under the Registration Statute. (No. 2869)

Our mission is to work together with communities to improve the living conditions of orphans, other children and their care providers.

HIV/AIDS continues to devastate communities. There are more orphans, fewer care providers and limited health services. More and more communities are asking for assistance. Often it feels as if our work has just begun, but thanks to your generosity we continue to provide vital support to the most devastated villages in 6 districts including Wakiso, Masaka, Mubende, Mityana, Hoima, Kibale and Lira.

BkB activities have been made a lot easier by the availability of a four wheeled vehicle. Off road vehicles are a necessity in community out-reach programmes. Some areas are quite impassable during the rainy season when work may come to a halt. Thanks again to two BkB well-wishers who donated an all-terrain vehicle for the mobile clinic and other BkB field activities.

EDUCATION:

BkB places great emphasis on the education of children. Research shows that orphans are more likely to drop out of school at a young age, live in greater poverty than other children and, because they are more vulnerable to abuse, orphans are more likely to contract HIV/AIDS themselves. BkB works hard to ensure that orphans under our care go to school, receive good education and thereafter live a better life. Last year BkB supported 78 orphans and our efforts resulted in:

- 100% of orphans sponsored by BkB stay in school and perform better than their peers.
- Literacy levels of orphans and their providers continue to improve.
- Orphans continue to receive information and develop life skills regarding health, nutrition, economic development and personal safety.
- Eight schools received instructional materials.
- Two schools were renovated which improved their learning environment.
- We installed 3 boreholes for three schools which now have safe drinking water for over 1,600 school children.

Total number of orphans Sponsored:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
49	58	62	62	74	78	78

BkB education support 2006:

School	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
Orphans	39	33	4	2	78
Schools given supplies	4	4			8
Schools renovated	1	1			2
Schools given safe	1	1	1		3

water sources (bore holes)					
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HEALTH:

In order to have a programme that is successful health issues must be addressed as a priority. Without proper health services, most projects will not succeed to promote lasting development among participants.

BKB continues to operate a mobile clinic twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. The mobile clinics are manned by 5 BkB staff including two nurse-midwives, one nurse, one community development specialist and an assistant. The mobile clinic serves 50 remote villages.

Number of patients treated in 2006:

Patients	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006-7
0-5	1,684	2,055	1,851	2,014	7,453	8,331
5 and older	3,004	5,047	2,800	3,284	8,907	9,203
Total	4,688	7,102	4,651	5,298	16,360	17,534

A total of 17,534 patients were treated in 2006.

The most common diseases and infections were malaria, diarrhoea, worms, various fevers, measles, typhoid, eye infections, skin disorders and scabies, minor wounds, stomach complications, sexually transmitted diseases. Additional services include antenatal care, and immunization of children. High medical costs and inadequate medical services in the remote communities are responsible for the growing demand for our mobile clinic services. The number of patients is always overwhelming.

Indicators of achievement:

- During all these clinics health education seminars are conducted on general health issues for 45 minute workshops (total: 88 sessions)
- 9,000 participants received accurate information on key health issues including malaria, HIV/AIDS, STDs, child nutrition, personal hygiene etc.
- Beneficiaries can now easily identify diseases and not think of witchcraft.
- Beneficiaries can list causes of the main diseases.
- Beneficiaries know how to prevent some of the main diseases.
- Young mothers can identify dehydrated babies, make/mix and administer oral re-hydration salts.
- Young mothers can prepare balanced diets for children and sick members of the family.
- Over 50% of participating families now eat fruits and vegetables daily.
- Families have planted fruit trees including avocados, mangos, papaws, oranges etc.
- Participants know how to boil and store drinking water.
- More participants wash hands before eating.
- Over 40% of participating families use mosquito nets.
- 36% reduction in malaria cases.

WATER:

The country is experiencing a climate change. Weather patterns have changed. Lake Victoria has registered a drastic drop of 20cm in water level. Lower water tables reduce the availability of water for most rural communities. Lack of clean water leads to a wide range of diseases including cholera, typhoid, malaria, yellow fever, sleeping sickness, guinea worm, bilharzias, trachoma and scabies. Most importantly dirty water is often the cause of childhood diarrhoea, a leading killer of young children.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that approximately 1.1 billion people have no access to safe water. BkB works with communities to improve access to safe, reliable and sustainable water supplies and sanitation facilities. We are also working hard to reduce the prevalence of water and sanitation related diseases and improve the general hygiene standards among impoverished

communities by providing safe and adequate water sources. The need for construction of boreholes and the protection of springs is still critical.

Number of water projects:

Type	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	Total Units
Water Tanks	17	5	3					25
Protected springs				9	7	12	12	40
Boreholes	1			1	1	2	3	8
Total units								73

Each well/borehole serves 2-3 villages
 Each village has an average of 120 families
 Each family has an average of 7 members
 Each well serves over 1,680 people
 48 wells serve 8,064 people

Indicators of achievement:

- Over 96 villages and institutions now have clean water.
- Over 8,064 people have access to safe drinking water.
- Mobile clinic records indicate a dramatic reduction in water born diseases and a reduction in malaria.
- Women and girls spend less time fetching water
- The availability of clean and reliable water sources has made it easy for households to have time for other beneficial activities.
- When springs are protected the flow of running water resumes. This creates an atmosphere where mosquitoes that cause malaria can not remain or breed.

INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS:

KNITTING:

There have been knitting workshops from January through February to March. These workshops were conducted by a volunteer, Angelina Campbell from Scotland, accompanied by Sister Martina Boylan. Knitting machines and wool have been donated to Bega kwa Bega from people in Scotland and England. They are used for the workshops and then left in the villages, one machine for three people. To date, around 190 knitting machines have been donated. On this last trip Angelina trained over 124 women knitters in Wakiso, Masaka, Hoima, Lira and Kibaale districts. New groups received training in basic knitting techniques while more experienced knitters learned new, advanced designs.

Indicators of achievement:

- More children attend school as a result of an increase in income from knitting.
- Knitters save money by making sweaters for themselves and their families.
- Selling sweaters to nearby schools results in an increase of household income by over 50%.
- 25% of knitters have used knitting revenues to start new income generating businesses.

MILK COW PROJECT:

One of the income generating projects being operated by BkB is the milk cow project. This self-revolving project started in 2,000 with 10 in-calf Frisians which were given to 10 families with orphans. The first calves are always passed on to new needy families.

Indicators of achievement

- By drinking a mug of milk a day orphans receive a protein rich diet.
- There is a reduction of malnutrition for orphans and their families.
- The sale of extra milk generates more income.
- Crop production is increased due to the availability of cow dung which is used as fertilizer.
- The sale of food surplus increases family income.
- Orphans use the additional income to pay for higher education.
- Ability to use animal waste as a natural, free pesticide promotes organic farming.
- Formation of groups by farmers which gives them a forum for helping each other and asking for assistance.
- The beneficiary families have recorded a raised interest by young family members in farming and animal rearing.

GOATS:

Most sponsored orphans have been given a goat as an income generating project. It is not logical to give hand outs each time to the sponsored child. It is best to train a child in survival skills. Since goats need very little attention, the orphans' academic time-table is not interfered with.

Indicators of achievement.

- Animal rearing skills have been taught and grasped.
- Orphans develop basic knowledge about construction of animal shelters.
- Some goats were able to produce milk which has greatly helped in the diet of the orphans.

CHRISTMAS 2006: *was once again quite different and special to our orphans and their providers. Bega kwa Bega, with the help of the local leaders, went around villages giving out food parcels to 75 families in 2 sub-counties. The parcels contained food stuffs that are rarely eaten by the poor. food they crave to have BUT can not afford to buy. The parcels were filled with rice, beef, sugar, butter, bread, cooking oil, salt etc. This year we bought them a little more than we usually give thanks to your generosity! Your gifts always make a big impact on the lives of the orphans and their families. These are people who had lost hope. There is no one else to turn to for anything. Your help continues to bring hope to our children. Knowing that someone out there cares makes a big difference.*

NEW and FUTURE PROJECTS:

Knitting:

When Angelina next visits Uganda her role will change. Bega kwa Bega will train a group of our advanced knitters to become trainers. Her future role will be as a consultant.

Demonstration farm:

We have started the demonstration farm by clearing, tilling and planting food for the farm animals. A parent stock of 20 goats will arrive as soon as the animal pens are ready.

Demonstration School:

We are in the final stages of finalising arrangements for the site for the demonstration nursery school. Some of the materials and equipment are ready. Staff recruitment is in progress.

Environment:

In partnership with WATCHA, BKB participants in Kakiri are being trained to construct and use fuel saving wood burning stoves.

Your help makes possible a positive future for the many orphans in our Bega kwa Bega programme.
It is not possible to thank you enough
for your continued support

Ssagala David

Manager:
Uganda Orphans Bega kwa Bega