

Bega kwa Beg administration hereby presents the Activities Annual Report for the year ending 28th February, 2005. Although the challenges are overwhelming, we are trying as much as possible to achieve our goals. BkB is only a small organisation but has accomplished several achievements.

To date over 800,000 adults in Uganda are infected with HIV/AIDS, (Ministry of Health survey on HIV/AIDS) and 2,000,000 + children are orphans. This scourge has caused untold suffering amongst all sections of the populace and has left no family unscathed. The number of orphans is always increasing and so problems escalate.

BkB works with village leaders. In each area where we operate, we work hand in hand with Local Council Chairpersons as these are the people on the ground and give us the right picture of what is actually going on in their jurisdiction; but it is the villagers who elect an area coordinator who works as a volunteer and is the go-between BkB and themselves. They know best whom they are willing to work with: someone they trust.

BkB also carries out periodic reviews and evaluation in order to:

- Assess progress on programme implementation
- Identify constraints faced and lessons learnt
- Make appropriate adjustments in the programme.

Education

One of the best ways to ensure a brighter future for these vulnerable children is to provide education. 'It is better to teach a man to fish and he will fish for himself forever, rather than constantly feeding him with fish.' Thus: self-reliance.

Last year BkB paid school fees for 74 orphans. 39 were in nursery school, 30 in primary school, 2 in secondary schools and 2 in tertiary institutes. The total number of orphans sponsored by BkB during its five years of operation is 432.

Some of the sponsored orphans have been able to obtain part-time jobs. This has given them hands on experience which is an added advantage in securing permanent occupation after school. They will now be able to pay for their own educational and personal needs. This has given them confidence. What was impossible to them has become a reality.

BkB also helped with the roofing of a new school for deaf children. Two of the pupils, Maria and Patricia, are sponsored by BkB. Sr. Rose, the school's head teacher wrote: *'I am glad to inform you that we have finished roofing the building using the sixty iron sheets which were bought out of your contribution'*

The girls have changed in so many ways. Maria, who is now 9 years old, used to stay with her aunt. She had never been to school. She stayed home during school days and barely had any other child to play with. She was always sick as a result of not receiving enough attention. However, after a year and half at the deaf school, she can write, play with other children, and is healthy.

4 nursery schools have been supported with educational supplies and building materials. Over 300 orphans have benefited. The four nursery schools are St. Mary's, St. Michael's, Buwanuka, and Alpha nursery schools.



Health

In Uganda, the majority of the poor live in rural areas. Poverty, disease, poor feeding and hygiene have been identified as natural enemies of the rural populace. Diseases remain serious challenges that are yet to be contained. These treatable diseases have been robbing us of our young children. Malaria is one the leading killer diseases. The incidence of malaria epidemics has been increasing with each passing year. It is

recorded that about 11 million cases of malaria were reported last year. With Uganda's population of about 24 million, this means that almost half of the country's population had malaria in 2004.

BkB runs a mobile clinic which moves from one rural village to another treating the locals especially children. We usually do handle cases like that of malaria, typhoid, coughs, colds, bruises and last but not least, de-worming both the young orphans and their providers.

BkB's mobile clinic also carries out training in HIV/AIDS prevention. This has helped to provide information about the disease to the local populace, especially the young people who are vulnerable to the virus. We do our best to make sure both young women and young men are informed about the dangers of engaging in unprotected relationships: HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies. We also educate the locals on the importance of nutrition and a balanced diet. The clinic has taken place once every week but it will now be twice in a week with a new programme of immunisation which the Government asked BkB to carry out. (The serum will be given but BkB will receive no help for the extra work! Ed.) The areas where the mobile clinic operates are those where the people are miles away from the health centers or hospitals. The locals cannot afford the medical fees or travel expenses.

The number of patients is great and as a result BkB will begin carrying out immunisation and antenatal clinics concurrently. 80% of rural women give birth locally at home. They never visit clinics during pregnancy and do not give birth hygienically. 16% of these women die during child birth. They don't even get basic education about the importance of immunisation. The available few midwives hardly have any drugs saying nothing about essentials like gloves.

BkB managed to visit/work in all the 48 villages thereby treating a total of 7,814 patients. As a result of health education hygienic latrine construction and use has increased by 45%. We have also noted an increase by 28% on the number of homes with planted anti-mosquito repellent plants in our area of operation. The number of homesteads with improved hygienic standards has increased by 35%. A tremendous 50% increase in de-worming has been achieved. BkB received a donation of 10 wheel chairs and 3 tricycles. A total of 13 physically handicapped

young people benefited. This has been a big help towards the mobility of these young ones.

Water

The rural people are faced with the scarcity of safe water resources. Lack of clean, safe water has always been a big problem in the rural areas, thus people use dirty unhygienic water for drinking and cooking food. Quite a big number of the rural populace do get sick and end up in hospitals or die before even getting there. It is mainly the women and young children who do the fetching of water. They walk long distances in search of water for their families. This deprives them of valuable time which would otherwise have been used profitably. Our water project will lead to improved health standards and quality of life by reduction in water-borne diseases and the reduction of workload especially on women.

BKB has been promoting and supporting, where appropriate, the development of safe, clean water supplies: i.e. protected springs which enable a community to keep their water clean and safe for drinking. A total of 16 protected springs have been completed, 7 in the past year, benefiting a total of over 2,600 inhabitants.



A further advantage with these springs is that since they are protected, they do not dry out in the long dry seasons thus providing a reliable, clean source of water throughout the year. As a result of these protected springs, the number of people suffering from typhoid, diarrhoea and cholera has dropped by 33% in areas where BKB has constructed these springs. Originally, to draw water the women stepped directly into the water, but now the springs bear a pipe through which water is delivered directly into a container.

Before the springs were protected, domestic animals such as cows, goats, sheep, dogs and pigs, not to mention wild animals, all used to drink from these open springs and in the process some would leave their droppings, rendering it very

unhygienic. The school Director of St Pius Primary School, with a population of 1,300 students wrote; *'our sincere gratitude for the great work done by BkB towards the improvement of our sanitation and hygiene facilities by protecting our only water source with modern construction works. It has created a conducive, healthy environment for the users. They no longer share water with frogs and animals.'*



These springs will be maintained by the local councils and the village water committees which are set up before the construction. We are always being asked for more springs.

Income generating projects

The majority of Ugandans are peasants and work on small farms. Agriculture accounts for 85% of the country's GDP. It is the women who mostly grow food crops for family consumption while men spend more time growing cash crops to sell. Quite a big number of our rural people do live below the poverty line: 70p per day, thus not being able to fully support their families. The low earning orphaned families, the poor health due to poor feeding and the lack of an adequate food supply led BkB to the introduction of several income generating activities which have been of great help to these families.

BkB's heifer project is one of the income generating projects that have made a big difference towards the lives of the orphaned families. More income has been realised from milk sales, harvests from the gardens has shot up as a result of the usage of manure, and land usage has increased for growing fodder.

Caroline, a heifer beneficiary wrote: *"With the introduction of a heifer revolving project the health of the orphans and us, their care providers has drastically improved. What a multi-beneficial project this has been. Milk!!! I have enough milk both for home consumption and the surplus for sale to the near by community. The proceeds have helped me with the education of the orphans who are under my care, and I have also renovated my house. I use the cow dung and urine as fertilizers in my gardens."*

However, the region has had a bad year for animal rearing. There still exist several contagious diseases: east coast fever and foot and mouth disease. These two have been responsible for the death of 3 cows. This has brought down the number of our cows to 16.

Nevertheless BkB initiated a goat project to 22 beneficiaries. Important to note is that among them some were the lame, wheel chair and tricycle users. We have 18 goat owners and we expect them to multiply by the end of next year.

The knitting project has been going on very well with 4 more groups. The ladies go through an orientation course that teaches the basics. This course is conducted by BkB's Scotland based volunteer who normally visits Uganda once a year for a period of not less than a month. Angelina Campbell secures the knitting machines. Volunteers in Scotland collect the used unwanted but working machines. With the increasing number of schools in the countryside, this project has indeed proved to be a lucrative business enterprise. The majority of the schools around have uniforms as their dressing code and sweaters as part of their uniforms.



One knitting machine user writes:

An advanced class

'On behalf of my family I thank BkB for the wonderful project that they introduced me to. My children and husband learnt to knit and the whole family is involved. There was a time when I had to get the machine fixed by a mechanic but because my husband has mechanical knowledge he somehow managed to fix the machine. Everyone at home was eager to learn and we now work at it in intervals. My family problems have greatly reduced. Thank you once again BkB.'

However, just like any other business, problems have arisen, like spare parts, which are not readily available.

Other help to orphans/orphaned families

BkB hosted a total of 80 disadvantaged children to a Christmas and end of year party. The children were served good food thanks to a local caterer who offered to help us prepare the food at a low rate. They also had soft drinks (sodas) and received gifts. (clothes & shoes). The children sang and displayed a number of dances! I realised that it is indeed good to encourage children this way. It actually does help them not to lose hope and it is good to be shown that they are loved. The whole thing brought happiness to the children.

On the day before Christmas, a total of 70 orphaned families received food parcels for Christmas. Each family that benefited had a total of 4 or more orphans. Each parcel had the following items in it: rice, sugar, bread, margarine, beef, salt and cooking oil. These are some of the things that people crave to have on Christmas. The families were very grateful for the help. Most of them do without anything good on Christmas, and yet we all look forward to having some good food on Christmas day.

There have been times where gifts of various commodities have been a necessity, such as sugar, milk, other food, paraffin. . . the basic necessities to orphaned families who too often have little or no food and no adult to help provide.



Training

Uganda's population is growing at an unbelievable rate, thus the need to educate the locals about better farming methods in order to maximise their harvests and income from the little space and resources available.

Agricultural workshops entitled "BETTER FARMING METHODS" aimed at equipping the farmers with modern farming methods have been provided. Training in local bird / chicken rearing, feed preparation and nutrient mixing, disease identification, pen construction, marketing, budgeting and juice production were offered. Such training is vital to villagers as they teach and equip them with knowledge of using local available resources.

These seminars have given them a source of gainful income. Local chickens, used to the environment, can easily be left to roam around to feed and treated when necessary using local herbs which grow almost everywhere. The people without these seminars have remained rearing chickens in the old way without putting in new technology which is easily available. The workshops have given people an advantage, adding value to their livelihood.

On behalf of BKB, and the community at large, we are very grateful for all the help. We really do appreciate everything. Many thanks to all our friends for helping us help the needy children. May God bless you.

Ssagala David
Project Manager BkB.

