

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to offer you thanks for the voluntary work, donations and general support which you have given to SGG during 2011. It has been a year when many of you have had personal or family concerns about employment or income, but also a year when you have continued to

show commitment to our cause, which is to contribute to Millennium Development Goal No 1, the eradication of extreme global poverty and hunger. We would like to focus in this letter on some of SGG's successes during the previous twelve months.

Support for orphans in Western Kenya

Our biggest single financial commitment is Project 2, that is support for some 500 orphans & vulnerable children in Busia County, Kenya. Much of that commitment is invested with 8 community groups who provide a nutritious meal once a week for these orphans. Although we have field evidence that the provision of only one supplementary meal can improve the growth and health of these children, we have been discussing with community leaders how to provide a more

comprehensive support for orphans and the households where they live. Thus we are now continuing the feeding programme, but also establishing a wide range of income generation schemes which directly impact on the problem of poverty and which offer the possibility of sustainable income growth for households with orphans. Such income generation has been one of the great successes of the year.

Some of the orphans waiting for their daily food at Khuyala, one of the 8 community groups who work with SGG to improve the lives of such vulnerable children. SGG is doing more than just feeding these children. In 2011 we have completed the construction of a nursery at Khuyala.



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This nursery at Khuyala has been operational for over one year. In October 2011 their classroom was plastered and painted. We are now funding the construction of a second classroom and the training of a teacher to work at Khuyala.



Other orphans have been supported by tree-planting. Banana suckers and mzizi seedlings will be planted in the garden plot of a household caring for an orphan. They provide an orphan at Siguli Orphanage with better nutrition and income to pay for education.

Income generation schemes

SGG is very pleased with the progress made at Siguli & other community groups to establish income generation schemes. The problem for SGG now is that other orphanages wish to establish such tree-planting schemes as the economic basis for provision of greater humanitarian care.

SGG has been looking for ways to promote greater use of composting in Busia County, where soil fertility as well as water supply is critical for the maintenance of adequate harvests and food supply. After SGG sponsored a training course in organic gardening in November 2010, a group of local farmers have adopted these techniques and trained some of their neighbours in compost-making. Improved harvests, increased incomes and better food for the family are the results.



After being trained in organic gardening techniques based on compost-making Camullus has planted bananas and increased his production of indigenous vegetables.

SGG has noticed that in the last few years there has been a growing desire among local farmers to plant trees. There are several different reasons they give for wanting to plant: trees can improve family nutrition; they provide an income from spare land with only a small investment of money and labour; and they offer protection against both loss of soil & soil moisture. Thus, nearly all SGG's projects involve tree-planting for one purpose or another. At the start of this year it was hoped that SGG would facilitate the planting of 40,000 seedlings, and after my visit to Kenya & Tanzania in October we are almost certain to exceed that total for this financial year.



A small woodlot with 50 trees on a piece of spare ground can be a useful additional income, which can be used to pay the costs of education. Remember SGG can 'plant a tree for 20p'.