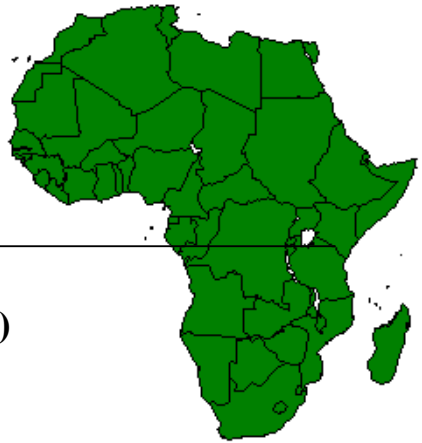


PROJECT'S PROGRESS



VILLAGE EDUCATION PROJECT (Kilimanjaro)

Registered Charity No 1041672

Registered as an International NGO in Tanzania: SO No 9680

In association with Education Projects Committee

Tanzanian Co-ordinator: Dilly Mtui

Trustees: Miss KJ Allen MBE, Ms AG Beldam, Mrs ML Branson, Mr MA Richmond

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SUPPORTERS' NEWSLETTER – Summer 2002

The charity's work is now established in 4 main areas:

- primary school building renovation
- gap year programme & English language teaching
- teacher in-service training and development
- vocational skills training

But first some exciting new dimensions:

ON THE WEB AND ON THE ROAD

The charity now has a website to be found at www.kiliproject.org. It has details of all our activities, and is very clearly set out. Along with the website, we are now on e-mail – info@kiliproject.org. Our thanks for this go to Tony and George Bone (father and brother of Pippa Bone who was on our gap year programme in 2001) who donated the 'site', their skill and their time to design and compile the web-site.

With funds in hand from a very successful year in 2000-2001 the charity has purchased a vehicle in Kilimanjaro. We have a second-

hand Toyota Hilux double cabin pick-up, with 4-wheel drive for the mountain tracks. We were hiring a pick-up nearly every day for transport of materials for our school renovation work, and we had started planning projects further afield; a vehicle was becoming a necessity. Our new vehicle is used for transport of materials, transport of teachers to attend sessions at Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre, and transport of our TRC staff to some of the primary schools. Dilly Mtui's son, Bob, is the main driver, and having had motor mechanic training he is excellent. The car cost the equivalent of £2,730 and is having £800 spent on an overhaul for it to be in tip-top condition.



Dilly at the helm of the new Toyota pick-up

GUERBA'S SPONSORED CLIMB OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO FOR A COMPUTER CENTRE

Guerba World Travel Limited, the safari company, have supported the charity for many years. For 6 years they have donated a week long safari to the Serengeti for 18 pupils and 2 teachers, and they have made other donations on top of this. Now they are running a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of the charity. Each of 14 climbers will raise a minimum of £2,200 – every penny of which comes to the charity. Guerba World Travel Limited are themselves donating the flights and the holidays, and are being assisted by the Marangu Hotel with the cost of the mountain climbs. The climb takes place in October this year. Among the climbers who are signed up so far are Michael Kitchen the actor, and Charlie Dimmock of TV gardening fame. The money raised is to be used to build a computer learning centre for adults. Guerba proposed this and our immediate reaction was that a computer centre for adults would not be a good use of the money. However, we had a meeting of headteachers, teachers, village officials, and villagers and put the idea to them. They were emphatic that computers are now part of the modern world and are here to stay, and that they would like to learn about them. They did not see the centre necessarily as training people to find jobs using computers, but to train people to use computers and know their potential use and usefulness to themselves for information, learning, help in their work etc. We propose to build this next to the Teachers' Resource Centre, and to have specialist volunteers to design the courses and course materials. We also plan to have some specialist English training for the computer learners, so that local people can understand more about the computer programmes. Building should start by the end of this year.

This is the first time that we have had such concentrated fundraising for a single project, and we thank all those taking part and

especially Guerba World Travel Limited for instigating the venture and for undertaking the cost and organisation.

Meanwhile our main work continues

RENOVATION & BUILDING AT VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In February 1995 we started our very first work: the renovation of one classroom at Mauo primary school. Since then we have renovated the whole of Mauo primary school, the whole of Mshiri primary school, Ashira primary school and Samanga primary school.

We have now all but finished the complete renovation of Palangeny primary school. This is in the area of Samanga, in East Marangu. The renovation has been largely funded by Kibo Breweries (part of Guinness), and also by Reginald Mengi, a leading entrepreneur in Tanzania, who gave money for an unfinished building at the school to be completed and made into a new staffroom and library. These grants, as well as money from the charity's general funds, have enabled the school to be transformed with a veranda outside all classrooms, new iron sheets on the roofs, ceiling boards, plastered walls, concrete floors, new window frames and shutters, new doors, and paint inside and out.



New classrooms at Palangeny

The whole school has been wired for electricity. New tables and benches are being supplied, and new desks for the staffroom have been installed. Work remaining is the shelving in the library, and a covered way between the top and bottom blocks of classrooms. The total cost on completion of the work will be equivalent to £8,900.

We have started our sixth renovation at Lyasomboro primary school in Lyasongoro village, also in East Marangu. This school has over 750 pupils, and has two classes for each year. The project is as big as the renovation of Samanga primary school. The renovation work has been partly funded by The Embassy of Ireland, which is their third grant to our renovation projects. As well as renovating each classroom the work includes building a new office for the headteacher, and joining three blocks of classrooms with covered verandas. The whole project is estimated to cost £11,000, which shows how far our money can go in Kilimanjaro.

In September last year the charity was asked to visit Kochakindo primary school in Kahe area. This is on the hot, dusty plains, miles from any tarmac road. The school had been told that it could not enrol a Standard I class for 2002 unless it built a new classroom. The villagers showed their commitment and raised over 200,000/-, and the charity pledged 2,000,000/- (about £1,600) to build a new classroom, office and store. The classroom is now being used, although ceiling boards have yet to be put up and the building has to be painted. Over 50 new pupils have enrolled this year. The school only had 4 classrooms, and unfortunately some of those will not last as they were built using clay bricks that do not properly adhere to concrete – in time the walls will become unsafe. For lack of space one class was outside sitting on logs in the semi-shade of a tree. The charity supplied some poles and iron sheets and some old desks, and now this class is at least sitting under a shelter.

The community in Kochakindo is ecstatic about the new classroom and shelter, and throughout the work the school committee and members of the village government were exceptionally co-operative. The charity too is delighted that its work has reached out to the lowland areas. If our general funds are sufficient we may consider further work to help Kochakindo.



Kochakindo's new shelter is an improvement at least

Meanwhile, our future plans are to renovate completely Mbahe primary school in West Marangu. Funds are in hand, and we hope work will start later this year.

ENGLISH FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

Since Katy Allen started teaching in village primary schools in 1995 the charity has focussed on the teaching of English as a foreign language. English is an important subject in the primary school curriculum, it used only to be taught from Standard III upwards but now is taught from Standard I up to Standard VII. English is of great importance for Tanzanian children to learn and this is recognised by their parents, teachers and the government. Children doing any skills training after leaving primary school will need English as invariably the technical terms and nearly all manuals are in English. Formal education beyond primary level is conducted through the medium of English. The language of computers is mostly English, and for those living in Kilimanjaro, the language of tourism is

English. To have a solid foundation in English during primary education is, therefore, crucial. It is a shame that the English language syllabuses in the primary school sector set by the Ministry of Education do not follow the stages and sequence of language items adopted by leading Teaching English as a Foreign Language books for children. Departure from these accepted practices has led to an ambitious and, in some areas, misguided syllabus which is very difficult for both pupils and teachers. The charity has repeatedly tried to address this issue, which is at the very heart of the standard of English in Tanzania's education system, but to date the views of native English speakers and TEFL experts are not being sought to address the matter. We are one of very few projects working in the government primary schools and, therefore, able to monitor the effectiveness of materials at teachers' disposal, and as our reputation grows we hope that our help on this important subject will be accepted.

In 1998 the charity started its own 'gap year' programme for native English speakers to help to teach English to the primary school pupils. These student-teachers have an intensive two week training course in England before they fly out to Tanzania in January, and they stay for eight months or more.



The student teachers this year in Lake Manyara Park

Last year, for the second time, the student-teachers did some of their training at St Thomas RC primary school in Sevenoaks, Kent, using their year 6 pupils as if they

were the Tanzanian foreign language learners. This worked well, and the links between St Thomas RC primary school and the activities of the charity at the TRC, and with Mshiri primary school are continuing.

Our 'gap year' programme is run in agreement with the Ministry of Education & Culture in Tanzania and is very successful. The student-teachers teach in five different primary schools, and as well as teaching English they take various extra-curricular activities, mainly in sport, art and music.

The 'gap year' programme revenue continues to sponsor two school outings each year. In August last year 54 pupils in Standard IV went to Pangani on the Indian Ocean for four days, and in March this year 66 Standard IV pupils from 7 different primary schools went to Lake Manyara National Park for 2 days. They were excited to see three lionesses who had killed a pregnant buffalo, and elephant who strolled by our two hired buses so closely that their scale and bulk was not lost on a single pupil. Local teachers also join in these outings, and many of them are as overjoyed as their pupils to see new sights and learn about their own country.

In April this year we held a very lively and successful re-union in London for all our student-teachers who had worked on the projects since 1998.

COMPUTERS, SEMINARS, VIDEOS, AND SOLAR ENERGY AT MSHIRI TEACHERS' RESOURCE CENTRE

Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre (TRC), opened in April 2000, is now offering something for everyone. The Centre has 12 primary schools in its cluster, and a full-time VSO volunteer, Julie Greenwood, from England. Julie is an experienced primary school teacher as well as a TEFL teacher. Julie has carried on from the work Anne Haycock did last year. She is going to the cluster schools giving demonstration

English lessons and helping the local teachers with their difficulties in teaching the language. Julie has also run several English classes at the TRC for the teachers to improve their own English. These have proved invaluable in building the teachers' confidence in the foreign language.



Julie prepares pupils for a video to help their English

Using the video at the Centre Julie has classes of pupils from several schools who come to study with a video – be it a video on the rift valley or volcanoes for their geography, or a specialist English language video for young learners. Out of school hours the 'gap year' student-teachers run a video club showing wildlife videos, cartoons and musicals, and these showings are packed with wide-eyed, giggling children.

In February Eleni Pithis returned. Eleni had spent three months with the primary school teachers last year. Armed with experience of their language level, Eleni prepared 5 seminars. Each syllabus from Standard III to VII had a seminar devoted to it. Eleni covered all the grammar in the syllabus and gave the teachers a full written record for future reference. Then she concentrated on methods of reading passages from the text books to encourage the teachers to use mime, gesture, role-play etc. Eleni introduced the teachers to different methods of drilling new items of vocabulary or grammar. She also helped them with methods of correction so that pupils could learn from their mistakes and from each other. Each teacher was given a large envelope containing flashcards for new vocabulary items, and given suggestions of different ways to revise and practise

vocabulary. These seminars were well attended and very successful.

The TRC now has a wide selection of science equipment donated to us by LabAid in England. A science teacher from a nearby secondary school gave 6 days of seminars for primary school teachers on the use of the equipment and how to teach the pupils. For years primary schools have had no science equipment, and yet science is still expected to be taught. Teachers will now be able to bring pupils to the TRC for science lessons.

In February a computer specialist, Mike Clarke, and his wife, Brenda, a primary school teacher, came to install 3 Acorn computers they had donated and to introduce teachers and pupils to them. The Acorn computers are taken from UK primary schools and all have colour screens and CD drives. The programmes develop the pupils' motor skills in using the mouse: eg dressing a teddy bear by dragging items of clothing with the mouse and placing them on the correct part of the teddy bear. They help them with their mathematics: questions appear on the screen testing multiplication tables with encouraging slogans when the correct answer is typed, and simple pictorial puzzles show e.g. 41 passengers boarding a train of 6 carriages, and 4 carriages must have at least 7 passengers – 'type how many passengers in each carriage?' Freedom of expression and artistic skills are encouraged with various art programmes, and most importantly there is help with their English: one programme is a 'talking alphabet'; on another programme the computer will read out loud the words written once they are highlighted. Needless to say the children are picking it all up much more quickly than the adults, but everyone is enjoying learning. Mike trained a local girl, Happiness Mtui, who already had some computer knowledge, and the computer learning is now under her guidance. Groups of children come in regularly after school and at weekends. They are benefiting from the attractive, interactive way in which learning is presented by these programmes which is motivating and

stimulating after indifferent teaching in the schools with few resources. We hope that the education authorities will recognise the benefits of young children learning about computers and the help they can be to their studies, and that permission will be given for pupils to attend in school hours.



Mike Clarke shows children at the TRC the new computer programmes

With the TRC being used increasingly for video lessons and computer learning we are more and more dependent on electricity. Since the national electricity supply is not reliable we have recently obtained a grant of £4,800 from The Ashden Trust for a solar/battery back-up system of alternative energy so that the equipment at the Centre can run for 2 days if the mains electricity fails.

We have planned a series of seminars for villagers and parents to assist them on matters of general concern. We hope to raise awareness of the importance of education generally and of the work of the TRC, and eventually to enable parents to be more involved in their children's education. We started with a seminar given by Vodacom, the mobile telephone company. More and more villagers have mobile telephones and many wanted questions answered. Our second seminar was for a large women's group and was given by the Chairperson and the Secretary of the United Women's Movement of Tanzania for the Kilimanjaro region, Mrs Vicky Swai and Mrs Mary Moshi. This was enlightening, and the women's group was given a clear direction in which to move forward, and was instructed in how to be more serious and

professional about its work. Vicky Swai and Mary Moshi delighted the group by enrolling as paid-up members!

Other planned seminars are on Child's Rights to be given by a leading women's and child's rights lawyer, and a series of seminars on HIV/AIDS to cover prevention, symptoms, and caring for victims. Also we plan some seminars on farming methods and small income-producing projects.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SKILLS

Mshiri Vocational Training School, which opened in early 1999, has now established its reputation: its student places are full, and the workgroups of students who have graduated from both the carpentry & masonry course and the art & craft course are working well.

The carpentry & masonry year 1 and 2 students are busy building a new lavatory block for the school (long-drops). They dug the pit to 5 metres and then handed the job to some experienced adults who were used to climbing in and out of such a deep pit. Now they have laid the slab, and are building the walls and will then put on door frames and doors. These students have also built and stocked the school's own woodstore, so that it can ensure a supply of properly dried wood. The wood is also for sale commercially which is bringing some extra income into the school. The carpentry workgroup have made the office furniture for Palangeny primary school and are making tables and benches for the pupils there.

The art & craft course is flourishing. This has been helped by the third visit from Susan Lowe a volunteer from British Executive Service Overseas (BESO). Susan set up the course in 1999 when she came for three months. She visited again in 2000 for 6 weeks, and this year spent 4 weeks at the school. Susan worked with the teachers and the pupils giving them new ideas for designs and products, and improving the quality of their work. New screen-printing and wood-

burning techniques were introduced and developed. The students have also had a course in sewing and are now competent at making clothing, bags, cushion covers etc. To build on Susan's visit the school has arranged for a leading Tanzanian batik artist, Merinyo, to work with the teachers and students for ten days on batik techniques and design.

The school shop at Marangu Mtoni, 'Village Crafts', which sells the art & craft produce was also part of Susan's work. Susan has now changed the layout and improved some of the systems of liaison between the shop and the school. The shop is being extended with the foundations already laid. Susan designed the new extension, and the plans are for the shop to be a café and craft shop combined.



Susan Lowe from BESO with some of her students

Susan also helped the students to market their products in the tourist shops in Moshi and Arusha. Their products were very well received, but unfortunately because of the very low tourist numbers compared with previous years shop owners were reluctant to buy new stock. If the students and the workgroup can make consistently high quality products we will consider operating a website to sell them on the internet.

A transformer has now been supplied and connection to three-phase high tension electricity is imminent. Electricity will make an enormous difference to the school, and will enable the carpentry students to have lathe and planing machines, and will assist the art & craft students with irons, and electric heaters for fabric dyeing etc.

The school plans to build a new office as the present office is within the storeroom, and to expand eventually to teach welding. The school is also preparing a programme of tree planting in its grounds so that in the coming years it will have its own supply of wood.

ADVISERS AND COLLABORATORS

Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro) has since 1996 worked in association with a committee of local people specifically set up to assess the needs and to assist the charity in its work. The committee was called Mshiri Village Education Committee and the membership, restricted to 9 for legal reasons, was people from Mshiri village. When the work of the charity expanded outside Mshiri village the committee had no hesitation in continuing its work, but at a meeting in September last year it was recognised that changes were needed. The name was changed to Education Projects Committee and the membership was changed by replacing 4 members with people from different areas. The membership now is representative of all the geographical areas in which the project operates, and of education, business and religious interests.

For some time now Katy Allen and Dilly Mtui have been trying to encourage people from the villages in the Marangu area who now live in Dar es Salaam or Arusha to form organised groups, and to raise money to work alongside the charity. The results are encouraging: villagers from Mshiri village have now formed groups both in Dar es Salaam and in Arusha, and are raising money. They want work done on two bridges which cross the river on the village's western and southern boundaries, and they will also form a management board for the Vocational Training School. Villagers from Lyasongoro had already formed their own group in Dar es Salaam, and Katy and Dilly attended one of their meetings to give details of the work to be carried out at Lyasomboro primary school. This group is now raising

funds for a special computer room to be built at the primary school.

GENERAL NEWS & UP-DATES

The Commissioner for Education in the Ministry of Education & Culture in Dar es Salaam, Mr A S Ndeki, very sadly died in February this year. Mr Ndeki had been of enormous help to the charity, and supported all its projects wholeheartedly. He was a dynamic, forward-thinking man and he will be greatly missed. The charity has enjoyed co-operation and support from many officers in the Ministry of Education & Culture, and we look forward to working closely with the new Commissioner for Education.

We are very pleased to announce several volunteers who have come forward to help with the administration and fundraising in the UK. This is of particular importance when Katy Allen is in Tanzania. Sandy Todd heard about the charity when she was on holiday in Tanzania, Simon Leonard, like Katy a retired solicitor, heard of the charity through an article in a local newspaper, Jackie Eves contacted Katy after retiring from her business and remembering Katy when they worked together, and Amanda Benton contacted Katy after hearing her on Midweek on BBC Radio 4. As our work expands in Kilimanjaro the administration and fundraising necessary in the UK escalates too! We are grateful to these volunteers for their invaluable help and support.

The school cows, both those originally bought with funds from The Leggatt Trust and those bought with money raised by

Anne Haycock, are doing well. The children are enjoying milk in their school lunch, and in return religiously bring their armfuls of grass to school each day. Calves are growing up, and we are just about to hand calves to two more school so that this project can benefit others. Also one bull and a calf have been sold and the proceeds used for school projects – such as putting window frames in Mshiri primary school's new dining hall.

Now in our eighth year we can reflect with satisfaction on what has been accomplished: we are renovating our sixth complete primary school; we have our fifth group of 'gap year' student-teachers; we are in our fourth year of training at the Vocational Training School; we are in our third year helping teachers at the Teachers' Resource Centre; we have taken over 700 children on school outings; we have had 12 adult volunteers and 13 groups helping on various projects in Kilimanjaro, and we are responsible for the salaries of 10 full-time employees in Tanzania. All this is achieved with your help. Thank you very much, everyone, for your generous support of our work. We are achieving excellent results in many varied areas, and our administrative costs last year were just 3.55% of our income. All of the beneficiaries – the pupils in the primary schools and their teachers, the students and graduates at the Vocational Training School and their teachers, and the villagers who benefit from all our work – are immensely grateful. They are appreciative, and they are developing. Developments are slow, but they are there to see and they show every sign of lasting and growing. Thank you.



Our overall aim is to enhance the quality of education, especially for village children, in order for future generations to become confident and responsible citizens.

There are rules to help charities reclaim tax on donations of any amount from donors who are taxpayers. If you would like Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro) to be able to reclaim the tax on your donation, or future donations, please complete the following declaration:-

Full name & title: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone number: _____

I would like my donation(s) to be (a) Gift Aid donation(s). My donations are:-
The donation of £_____ made to you on _____ 2002*
All donations I make under the direct debit mandate/banker's order below* *please delete if not applicable
All donations I make on or after the date of this declaration.*

Remember, to be Gift Aid donations you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations (28p for every £1 you give).

Date: _____ Signed: _____

◆ **If you would like to give again please make your cheque payable to 'Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro)' and send it to Mint Cottage, Prospect Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3UA.**

◆ If you would rather donate by credit card (Visa/MasterCard/CharityCard) please complete the following:

'I wish to make a donation of £_____ to Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro)'

Card number:

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Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____
Name: _____ Address: _____ Post Code: _____

◆ **BANKER'S ORDER/DIRECT DEBIT MANDATE**

I (full name and title) _____

of (address) _____

instruct my bank (name) _____

of (address) _____

_____ (bank code is _____)

to pay the sum of £_____ starting on _____*
and on the same day each month/quarter/half year/year for _____
(state period)/until further notice.**

*this cannot be earlier than the date you sign this order

**please complete or delete as applicable

Signed (signature) _____

Date _____ Account Number _____

Pay to Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro) a/c 13643487,
National Westminster Bank plc (60-19-02) 67 High Street
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LA. Reg. Charity No: 1041672

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
VILLAGE EDUCATION PROJECT (KILIMANJARO)

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