

Organisation	WORKAID
Project	Tools For Life Uganda
Sponsor	Rob Levine
Presented by	Jane Bucknall, Publicity Officer

Aim

To provide tools & equipment to vocational training projects to enable people living with HIV/AIDS to acquire skills so that they can learn a trade and become self-supporting.

Background to the project and organisation:

WORKAID was established in 1986 with the aim of taking a practical approach to tackling poverty. We have been working with training projects in Uganda for more than 20 years. We supply refurbished donated tools and sewing/knitting machines to pre inspected training centres. Students are trained in skills ranging from tailoring to carpentry and motor mechanics. All equipment is donated by the UK public and is brought back to working order by our 300 volunteers.

What problems is the project addressing?

Uganda has one of the worlds' highest percentages of population living with HIV/AIDS (4.3% or 1.5 million people). Many of these are widows with dependant children and orphans who face real economic problems frequently made worse by the social isolation that they also experience. The problem we are seeking to address is poverty – while relative poverty incidence in Uganda is dropping, the absolute numbers in poverty continue to increase as population grows. Uganda ranked 161st of 187 countries on the UN Development Programme's Human Development Index and Research by the International Fund for Agricultural Development shows that a lack of resources is a key barrier to escaping poverty. Providing the equipment that enables vocational training to take place, means that the people we reach can acquire skills which in turn mean that they can earn a living and not just put food on the table but also pay for their children to go to school, thereby helping to break the cycle of poverty.

What do you propose as a solution?

Working with partners in Kampala and Western Uganda, suitable training and self-help groups are identified. WORKAID collects, refurbishes and ships donated equipment to these projects. Without this equipment the skills training could not be undertaken. Goods are shipped in 20ft containers, and reach an average of 23 projects per container. Whilst the size of projects varies, experience has shown that each container of goods will help an average of 1000 people. In the 2013/14 year we shipped 7 containers, supplied 177 projects, and reached over 8,000 people.

The types of projects we support vary from St. Elizabeth's Home for Girls in Kampala, which currently has 150 girls rescued from the streets, to Mountain View College in a small village in western Uganda where the population are subsistence farmers. These projects give people the opportunity to learn a skill and the chance of an alternative future.

How do you plan to assess the impact of your work?

All projects are visited by our independent partners (often through charitable arms of church organisations, such as Caritas), prior to WORKAID agreeing to support them. The projects are then required to report back to us on receipt of the goods, and 6 and 18 months later to give updates on the impact they are having. Additionally, individuals from WORKAID in the UK visit Uganda every 2 years to evaluate the work being done both by our partners and a selection of the projects supported.

I have recently returned from Uganda and seen at first hand the impact one or two sewing machines can have on a group of HIV+ single mothers. One of the women described it as

"remembering she was human". From being socially isolated with her children she now has friends and an income.



What would you do with a contribution from TFN?

WORKAID would use a contribution from TFN towards the costs of a container to UGANDA. The cost of shipping a container is £8100. This is comprised as follows:

Purchase of container	£1500
Shipping	£4100
Clearing & taxes	£2500

The balance of the funding we would raise through our own endeavours including sales of donated equipment that is not suitable for the projects we support, through our shop and eBay.

Annual Turnover

Average for the past three years is approximately £300,000.

Sponsor's Note

I am Workaid Chairman and was introduced to TFN by my employer, Macquarie. Workaid takes great care to assess the projects we support and to evaluate the effectiveness of the support we give. This we hope gives donors confidence that anything they give will be well used, and it is clear from the number and nature of applications that we receive that there is a huge demand for what we provide.

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