

## **PONT OVC Project Report – June 2008**

### ***Use of an income generating activity to benefit families with needy children***

#### **Overview**

<b>Link</b>	RCT <--> Mbale (Uganda)
<b>Project Title</b>	OVC (Orphan and Vulnerable Children) Goat Rearing Project
<b>Goldstar areas</b>	Social Harmony, Children
<b>MDGs</b>	(1) Poverty and Hunger (2) Education
<b>Summary</b>	Goat rearing is used as an income generating activity for families with needy children.

Mbale like much of Africa has been devastated by AIDS/HIV. One of the effects has been the large numbers of children who have lost one or both parents. They are raised either by their surviving parent or taken in by grandparents or other relatives. These children are typically the most needy and disadvantaged in the community. They often have a poor diet and do not attend school due to lack of a school uniform or secondary school fees.

PONT is working in partnership with local NGOs to meet some of the needs of these children and their families. An OVC sub-committee has been formed both in Mbale and RCT to address these needs.

In keeping with the principle of “empowerment, not dependency” an income generating project was felt to be more appropriate than direct sponsorship of children. Rearing of improved goat varieties was chosen as it has the potential to give a good return within 2 years. Compared to the local goats improved (hybrid) varieties produce more milk, grow larger and often produce twins.

#### **Origins of the Project**

A conference was held in Mbale in June 2005 with about 50 participants. This marked the official start of the PONT partnership following previous exploratory visits. Ugandan representatives at the conference included representatives of NGOs, Education officials, Health Officials and Church Leaders. From Wales our party included Church Leaders, Health Workers, Teachers. At this conference the needs of Orphans was agreed as one of the priority projects that the partnership should address. After discussing various possible IGAs a proposal to use Goat rearing was agreed.

It was agreed that the project would focus on the following children

- Children who had lost both parents and who were cared for by relatives.
- Children with only one surviving parent.
- Children in poverty.

According to the 2002 census there were 5,489 orphans under 18 years old in Mbale region and a further 30,233 who had lost 1 parent.

## Mbale NGO activities

The participating NGOs have work together in the OVC committee to devise and implement the Goat Rearing project. This has included the following

- Prepare joint proposals and budgets
- Select recipients in conjunction with community leaders
- Organise training of recipients by experts from the government Veterinary Service.
- Arrange purchase, transport and distribution of the goats.
- Monitor the progress of the project and produce reports.

The original participating NGOs are :-

1. Share an Opportunity (SAO)
2. Ugandan Women's Concern Ministries (UWCM)
3. Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities (FDNC)

By July 2007 the number of goats distributed was 261 females and 5 males.

## PONT OVC activities

The PONT OVC committee has the following responsibilities

- Scrutinise project proposals and budgets.
- Check that best practice is being followed.
- Seek the involvement of churches, schools and individuals in supporting project.
- Review progress and agree next steps.
- Produce content for the web site and supporters newsletters.

To date over £16,000 has been raised for OVC project from the local community. The bulk of this money has been given by regular monthly donations.

## Outcomes

### *Impacts in Bubutu*

In April 2008 we received the following feedback from the work SAO has been doing in Bubutu :-

<b>Funding round</b>	<b>Female goats distributed</b>	<b>Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Generation</b>	<b>Kids 2<sup>nd</sup> generation</b>
2005/2006	37	86	16
2006/2007	53 + 6	188	44
December 2007	19	6	
<b>Totals</b>	115	280	60

Six of the goats distributed in 2006/2007 were purchased with donations raised within the community itself.

By July 2007 79 of the kids had been sold. The money was spend on the following

- School fees

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- School uniforms, books, stationery
- Medical treatment
- Improvements to goat houses
- Investment in food production e.g. seeds

All the recipients have been using the goat droppings to fertilise their crops with dramatic results. They also give the milk to the children to drink.

A single hybrid goat (75% cross) was purchased to serve the females. It served local females in addition to the 96 hybrid females. This proved to be a particularly virile buck which sired many sets of twins and 1 set of triplets. Unfortunately it died in April 2007. Six new hybrid bucks have been purchased recently.

### ***Other Communities***

As yet the other communities and NGOs have not seen the same rate of goat production as SAO has achieved in Bubutu. By July 2007 the 162 females distributed had produced 110 kids.

We are now involving 2 new NGOs in the project with expertise in goat rearing. By sharing best practice between the 5 organisations we hope to see the program flourish in all the communities.

### ***Benefits to Welsh community***

We have sought to involve many individuals and groups in the community in the OVC project. Those who have joined us have been able to gain an insight to a very different culture and way of life. This includes children in the local schools who have taken a particular interest in the OVC project.

## **Appendix 1: Abbreviations**

FDNC	Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities
IGA	Income Generating Activity
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable (Needy) Children
SAO	Share An Opportunity – A Ugandan NGO
UWCM	Ugandan Women;s Concern Ministries