



# Engineering Sub Group

## Summary Report on the visit to Mbale, November 2005

The main aims of this first visit from the Engineering group were to:

- ✓ View possible water projects.
- ✓ Gain an appreciation of other PONT projects in Mbale

These were both achieved. Additionally some engineering work was begun at the hospital, having seen a clear need during the visit as part of seeing the medical projects.

### 1. Water Projects

We are hoping to work with Jenga, an NGO in Mbale, to implement the water projects. Jenga took us to view various water projects during our visit to Mbale.

We viewed a project at Mooni that had been rehabilitated by Jenga. This was a project installed previously by others, but had fallen into disrepair. It had been restored to back into working order by Jenga using local people to do the work. Unfortunately the water source was not clean enough to provide safe drinking water and the design did not allow the addition of further filtering to achieve this. As a result the people still had to boil this water, but it was at least now supplied to taps close to their homes.

We viewed a second water project that was in need of refurbishment and improvement. This, when fully operational, would supply 6000 people. There was potential to add an additional water source to the system to expand its capacity. This would allow the system to be expanded downstream to supply a further 6000 people. The water sources had been tested and found to be satisfactory.

A potential project to supply water to 66,000 people was discounted as this was considered to be beyond the resources of PONT at this time.

We also saw rain water harvesting projects. These consist of fitting guttering to homes with tin roofs which discharge the water into large butts. This water is clean and safe to drink, and convenient during the wet season.

A meeting was held with the local District Water Officer. This enabled us to ensure that any proposed projects fitted in with the overall strategic water development plans for the area.

### 2. Hospital IT

The hospital has limited IT, consisting of one PC in the main office, and 2 PCs available for general use. These 2 PCs have internet access via a telephone land line modem. A computer system has been offered to PONT consisting of 2 servers and 12 clients. We would investigate the feasibility of installing this system in a room at the hospital. A satellite based internet connection would be required to provide sufficient bandwidth for all the clients to access the internet simultaneously.

### 3. Hospital Equipment Repairs

During the initial visit to the hospital by the team it soon became evident that much equipment in the hospital was out of use due to various faults. There was very little engineering support there to enable these to be repaired. Fortunately we had brought a small tool kit with us and it was possible to make various repairs.