



Engineering/IT Sub Group

Summary Report on the visit to Mbale, November 2006

The main aims of the visit were to:

- ✓ Evaluate the work required to rehabilitate and possibly extend the existing GFS water scheme at Mutoto.
- ✓ Further develop engineering links with Mbale General Hospital

1. Water Project

Two Civil Engineers from EFOD in the UK came with PONT with the intention of evaluating the rehabilitation work required, specifying the extension works, and subsequently producing a full report.

Following an initial assessment of the system it was identified that it was in need of more than just basic rehabilitation to bring it back into full operation. The geography of the area, together with the arrangement of the system, meant that some re-design was required to prevent on going problems.

As a result of the above faults with the system it was not possible to design the extension works yet. This could only be done once the current system had been rehabilitated, including the required modifications.

2. Mbale General Hospital – IT

Previously a proposal had been considered to utilise a small computer system that had been made available to PONT in order to provide multiple access points to the internet. During the year an assessment of the costs of providing suitable internet access had resulted in the project being deemed not to be viable due to PONT being unable to support the resulting ongoing internet connection charges.

On visiting the hospital this year it was found that another charity had now installed a satellite internet connection, linked to a laptop for the use of the Hospital Superintendent. This connection could be readily extended to provide the required standard of internet connection for the PONT system.

In the light of this PONT would reconsider implementing the original project.

3. Mbale General Hospital - Engineering

As last year, some limited repairs to equipment were made during a visit to the hospital. Also 12 replacement theatre light bulbs, donated by the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in the UK, were provided. These were left with the local maintenance personnel for installation.

It was hoped that further links with the Royal Glamorgan Engineering dept could be established in the future, with someone from RGH Engineering joining a PONT visit next year.