



Engineering/IT/Environmental Sub Group

Summary Report on the visit to Mbale, June 2008

The main aims of the visit were to:

- ✓ Meet Mbale Rotary, Jenga, and the District Water Officer to discuss the Mooni water project.
- ✓ Officially open the container of machines for the Mechanical Engineering Workshop business. Discuss the plans for the project.
- ✓ Investigate locally available alternative materials for use in repairing Murrum roads.
- ✓ Assess progress on the Environmental projects.
- ✓ Investigate the potential for use of a vegetable oil fired cooking stove.

Progress was made on all of these.

1. **Water Project**

The proposed project is to improve an existing GFS scheme at Mooni by discontinuing the current single water source, which does not provide safe water quality, and replacing this with 3 new safe water sources.

Funds have been raised for the project by Pontypridd Rotary, and these are being channelled via international Rotary to Mbale Rotary in order to benefit from matched funding grants. Meetings were held with Mbale Rotary to discuss their involvement in this.

2. **Mechanical Engineering Workshop**

This project is to set up a mechanical engineering workshop which will utilise redundant machines donated and shipped from the UK. The business will be owned by PONT-Mbale and will provide vocational training as well as operate as a business. Profits will augment the funds available to PONT-Mbale for poverty alleviation projects.

The container with the machines had arrived a couple of weeks prior to the visit. Early on during the visit the container was officially opened at a ceremony including the Bunghoko sub county LC3 council chairman and the Mbale county LC5 CAO (Chief Administrative Officer). The CAO made a speech about the project to the assembled crowds and press with considerable enthusiasm being expressed by all.

3. **Roads**

The vast majority of the roads are of murrum and are in a very poor state of repair with repairs degrading within months of completion, depending on the time of year. Discussions on alternative, more durable road surfaces took place.

4. **Environmental**

1. **Solar Power**

The first installation had been viewed which was smaller, and more expensive than originally planned due to the withdrawal of a subsidised government solar power installation office in Mbale. Hence Installation had had to be arranged via Kampala.

Discussions started on possibly funding UWCM to be trained in solar power systems installation. With this in place only parts and in house labour costs would need to be covered to install systems.

2. **Weather recording**

The pilot scheme at a school was proving very useful. The data so far was reviewed.

3. **General**

A very effective meeting had taken place with the person in the Mbale LC5 council responsible for the environment. A PONT/CAP sub committee was set up to oversee the work, and the carbon offsetting in particular. The first meeting of this was held during the week of the visit.

5. **Vegetable Oil Stove**

This cooking stove ran on vegetable oil. It was well received at demonstrations, and potential sources of fuel had been identified. As it was a University of Glamorgan design it could be optimised to suit the fuels available in the area.