



Engineering/IT/Environmental Sub Group

Summary Report on the visit to Mbale, November 2008

The main aims of the visit were to:

- ✓ Survey pipe line routes for the improvements to the Mooni water scheme.
- ✓ Commission the machines at the workshop and generally assist and advise in the setting up of the business.
- ✓ Assess the solar power installation at Butsemayi school.
- ✓ Investigate potential Fair Trade links with UWCM.

These aims were achieved in full, with the exception of the workshop where considerable progress was made, but time constraints resulted in there still being some outstanding work to complete. Some of this work can be progressed locally, but some will need to await future visits. This will not significantly delay the start of the workshop at a basic level of operation.

1. **Mooni 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.

During the visit a survey was completed of the route between the Namiko source and the existing system. This information will enable the new pipeline to be designed.

2. **Mechanical Machine Shop IGA Project**

This project is to set up a mechanical machine shop IGA (Income Generating Activity). It will utilise redundant machines provided and shipped to Mbale by Cogent Power Ltd (part of Corus). 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.

Since the previous visit the container of machines, tools and equipment had been fully unloaded, and the electrical wiring of the workshop commenced. Also there was now full access to the all of the building.

During the visit assistance was given in setting up the business processes, and in installing and commissioning the machines. In particular initial Health and Safety procedures were set up and training given.

3. **Mbale General Hospital**

It was found that the various disjointed parts of the engineering support at the hospital have now been brought together into a single department for better co-ordination. This is a definite improvement.

One of the members of the newly formed hospital engineering dept led a tour of the site to view the network cabling that has been installed, and the associated PCs. The system was however suffering from speed problems, particularly in certain areas. Advice was given on addressing this.

4. **Environment**

A visit was made to Butsemayi school where the pilot solar power system had been installed. The benefits of this to the school and local community were apparent through various conversations. On arrival it was discovered that the system had failed in the last couple of days. A temporary repair was made and the system returned to full operation.

An agro-forestry project at Salem was reviewed.

5. **Fair Trade Links**

A meeting was held with UWCM (one of our partner NGOs) to discuss the potential for them to manufacture bead jewellery for sale in the UK. A sample of their produce was brought back to the UK to trial the arrangement.

6. **Survey of Mbale Study Centre Campus**

A survey was also made of the Mbale Study Centre Campus. This will assist them in plans they have to develop the site. Drawings from the survey will be issued a few weeks after the visit.