



29 November 2011

## Christmas Appeal 2011

Dear SMOAT Supporter,

### **“Hitting Hunger Harder” in Sudan: Practical Action**

SMOAT has supported Practical Action in the past and has always been very satisfied with the reports on delivery of their projects. The organisation is well known not only for its inventiveness (Schumacher: Small is beautiful, became Intermediate Technology), but for the excellent way it devises and implements its projects to take full account of local circumstances, provide innovation and make full use of the capabilities of the local population. This year's project, “Hitting Hunger Harder” in the Sudan is no exception.

Sudan suffers climate change, devastating droughts and recurrent food shortages which impact on three quarters of the population mostly in the rural areas. These people exist on the cusp of starvation.

Traditional farming practices are scarcely capable of producing sufficient food to sustain people at subsistence level. The project aims to support traditional crops but also to introduce new ones along with methods to preserve water by terracing and introduce irrigation using earth dams. The understanding of new crops and farming methods will be spread by community centres and demonstration plots. Forty farms, led by women, will be established.



But the project extends beyond food production. New ways of preserving food for the bad times and the marketing of surpluses such as fruit juices, jams, biscuits, and pastas will be introduced. Improved animal health and husbandry will be effected through vaccination and the training of Para Vets. More donkeys for transport will be provided.

This is a project which has looked the many substantial and varied difficulties in the face and found solutions. I hope you will support it.

### **Project Uganda**

Project Uganda was created in the year 2000 with an initial focus on supporting “The Gables” Vocational Training Centre in Rukungiri. Project Uganda has built classrooms, dormitories, workshops and a wash room block, as well as equipping the centre with good quality second hand tools. From its early successes it has branched out, and work now includes a Health and Welfare project and an Agricultural project.

The Health and Welfare project is proving to be a major success story involving the designing and installing of mosquito frames and nets, protecting approximately 5000 boarding students

continuation of this project they are now planning to build a wash room for a nearby girls secondary school. This is what the Christmas 2011 appeal will support.

Rukungiri Central Secondary Girls School is a school in desperate need of washrooms. This school has 330 female students with access to 5 pit latrines and a wash area consisting of a concrete floor, no roof and no partitions to provide privacy, and no running water. It is overlooked by people moving outside the school grounds.

As you approach the school office you are overcome with the stench from the existing latrines and wash area, a smell that students and staff have to live with all day, every day. It is no surprise that illness associated with poor sanitation and hygiene is very common at this school. It is proposed to build a large washroom block which will make such a considerable difference to the health and welfare of the students studying here.

Building a wash room similar to that installed at The Gables would cost £3000 and make use of local labour, including graduates from The Gables.

Project Uganda is a small UK organisation supported by the voluntary organisations, churches and individuals of the village of Winterslow and surrounding areas in Wilshire. Its annual income is about £9,000. The day-to-day running of the project in Uganda is now managed by a Local Project Representative, who is closely monitored by the charity's committee in the UK. Members of the committee make regular annual visits to Uganda ranging from 1 to 3 months in duration. These trips are entirely self-funded. In this way the work of Project Uganda is well planned and supervised at every stage. Projects are piloted. The results are impressive.

This is a cash stretched organisation doing good, dependable work in a very poor rural area of Uganda. What is planned is delivered.

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I recommend these two excellent projects for serious consideration for your Christmas giving. Times are difficult here, but in Uganda and Sudan they are considerably worse. Looking forward to economic recovery is not on their agenda. In Uganda it is how to improve their low standard of living now and in Sudan it is how to survive the coming year.

With best wishes from the SMOAT committee for a very Happy Christmas and New Year,



Harry Ingram (*Chairman*)



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### SMOAT Christmas Appeal 2011

I wish to contribute to SMOAT's appeal for Practical Action and Project Uganda.

I enclose £ ..... Date: .. / .. / .....

Signed: .....

(Cheques payable to SMOAT. Please post to the Treasurer in the envelope provided, or hand to one of the committee.)

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