



The New Build, Uganda 2006 Food For Thought School Building Project, Uganda, July/August 2006.



During 2005 a group of approximately 25 British students and young professionals have been working to raise funds to construct workshops and classrooms for a Vocational Training Centre in Gulu, northern Uganda. We have met our fundraising target of £17,000 and 14 members of the group will be traveling to Gulu in July in order to work on the construction.

(above) was built by in the mid 1990s. Currently it consists of only four classrooms, although there are seven years in primary school. The remaining lessons are held in improvised shelters, under trees, in the school office and local church. Until the introduction of free primary education for all, following debt relief in 1997, this system was bearable if awkward but now some classes have soared to 150 pupils. There are other problems with teaching outside. When it rains, classes have to be abandoned and when it is too hot the pupils are very weary. It is also very distracting to be outdoors! There is always something more interesting to look at rather than be studying!



There is also a problem with water at the school. The nearest water source is far away and the school motor bike cannot carry sufficient water for the pupils. Some pupils have a 5km walk to school and there may be no water for them to drink when they arrive. The lack of water also makes it very difficult for pupils to learn clear lessons about water hygiene. In a county where 25% of all child deaths are due to dirty water this is clearly a necessary part of the curriculum.

The New Build Uganda 2006 Project will be carried out in the summer months of 2006, again volunteers from the UK, who will travel to Uganda to help with the building work. The project will consist of the construction of four new classrooms and a 100,000 litre water tank. The additional classrooms will enable all of the classes to be held indoors and the water tank will be sufficiently large so that all of the school children have access to safe drinking water at school. (In 2004, an earlier project constructed a water tank (see above) in another school in Mubende. The impact on the children's ability to concentrate has been incredible!

It is estimated that the project will cost approximately £10,000. All of this money will be spent directly on building materials. Local volunteers will work alongside their UK counterparts to ensure that this project is a success!

Please help us to improve the lives and education of Ugandan primary school children at Maaya Primary School.



For further information about this project contact Mark Errington, Devon Development Education, The Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG. Registered Charity: 1102233