

Background Information for Sustainable Communities Network (UK)

Status

Established by a Declaration of Trust on 5th May 2005 Charity Registration No. 1109945 (England & Wales)

Contact Details

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Aims

- To benefit and assist communities facing financial hardship and social/economic disadvantage.
- To work in ways which advance the education of residents of all ages within beneficiary communities.
- To promote socially, economically and environmentally sustainable activity amongst beneficiary communities.
- To advance the education of the public in the subjects of peace, cultural diversity and sustainability.

The primary focus of our work is in Uganda, with educational work undertaken with schools in the UK.

Trustees

David Renton (Chairman)
Lindsay McKenna

Jennifer Karaalp
Steven Sparkes

- David Renton has 20 years voluntary sector experience and was Chief Executive of East Anglian based disabled children's charity The Out & About Trust (Anglia) for 12 years. He has 3 years experience of overseas community development work.
- Lindsay McKenna is the Provost of St Pauls Cathedral, Dundee and was previously Director of Cara, a London based charity offering pastoral care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Jennifer Karaalp is a primary school teacher in Suffolk and has travelled and worked in developing countries.
- Steve Sparkes is a Technology teacher in an Essex secondary school.

How it Began

SCN (UK) began as a result of David Renton visiting Uganda in 2004. He was struck by the contrasts between life for the small number of well-off Ugandans and the poor majority, as well as the more obvious contrast with life in the UK. The warmth of the welcome from local people and the number of people making real efforts to improve their lives was impressive. He recognised that he could use his voluntary sector skills and experience to work alongside local people to support them in developing their initiatives for improving their lives. A 7 month volunteering stint followed in 2005, based at Lake Bunyonyi in the south west of the country, which is when the Beans Means Brains lunch programme began. In 2006 and 2007 he made a number of self-funded trips back to Uganda to progress the projects and from February 2008 will be based primarily in Uganda - a move which is important to enable the charity to fully understand the complex needs of its beneficiaries and the culture within which we operate.

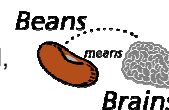
The Trustees have the range of skills needed to enable them to effectively develop and manage SCN (UK), and sufficient experience to maintain the balance between close personal involvement in its projects and a level of realism and professionalism which is essential in overseas development work.

Achievements to Date

- Provision of solar power system to Lake Bunyonyi Secondary School.
- Provision of science and art equipment at Lake Bunyonyi Secondary School.
- Provision of computers and books, assistance towards the costs of solar power, and orchard planting for the Byoona Amagara Community project at Lake Bunyonyi.
- Healthcare training workshop at Lake Bunyonyi.

Ongoing Projects

- Beans Means Brains school lunch programme for 670 children at Buhumba Primary School, south western Uganda.
- Global Kitchen Garden Project - linked with Suffolk County Councils Schools Catering Service.
- Support of school partnership links and reciprocal visits between UK and Uganda schools.
- Participation in the BT Education and Social Inclusion Community of Practice Global Challenge - www.easicop.org
- Support for Koch Goma Secondary School, northern Uganda as they rebuild and return to their village after 20 years of displacement due to war.



Future Plans

Trustees have made a commitment to developing the charity and extending its activities. The addition of the Koch Goma School project in February 2008 is the first part of this growth. David Renton is now based primarily in Uganda and is currently a full-time volunteer for the charity, overseeing the school project at Koch Goma and the Beans Means Brains Programme.

To date, all travel, accommodation and living expenses whilst working directly on the projects in Uganda have been met personally by the Trustees concerned. Trustees recognise that stepping up the charity's activities mean that this is not viable in the long term and will therefore be seeking to raise an additional £3,600 per year from the 2008/09 financial year to facilitate its effective, locally based approach to its work with Ugandan communities.

Financial Information

To date, fundraising has primarily been from individuals, small events and a combined education/fundraising programme with schools. In December 2007 we launched a regular standing order donation scheme to support the Beans Means Brains project. This currently raises around £3,000 per annum including the Gift Aid and is a scheme we continue to promote.

Accounts are independently examined in line with Charity Commission requirements and submitted annually to the Commission. The following figures are extracts from the accounts.

	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	<i>2007-2008 Estimated</i>
	Total	Total	<i>Total</i>
INCOME			
Donations	4,046	3,038	<i>5,750</i>
Fundraising	6,142	3,890	<i>3,700</i>
Grants	1,000	-	<i>3,260</i>
Bank Interest	7	2	<i>20</i>
Gift Aid	655	-	<i>1,500</i>
TOTAL INCOME	11,850	6,930	<i>14,230</i>
EXPENSES			
Admin costs	349	34	<i>240</i>
Charitable Activities	5,193	13,000	<i>13,040</i>
Fundraising Costs	-	-	<i>200</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,542	13,034	<i>13,480</i>
Balance b/f	-	6,308	<i>204</i>
Balance c/f	6,308	204	<i>954</i>