

MARCH 2010 NEWS LETTER

THE JOURNEY OF LIFE



The HIV/AIDS pandemic in Kamengo Sub County in Mpigi district Uganda has caused untold suffering to the people there. There are over 5000 people who have been directly or indirectly affected by HIV/AIDS in the Sub County and their lives have been impacted by this scourge for now over 20years. Most of those affected are children and women. The areas where the children are settled are poor, isolated and rural where employment opportunities are scarce and difficult to come by.

The mode of livelihood remains chiefly subsistence farming. The children have therefore found themselves trapped in this situation of poverty, insecurity and general unemployment. Fathers, mothers and guardians find it difficult to feed their children, paying school fees, school dues and medical expenses are not possible.

Having realized this situation many parents have resorted to self help employment and self help project to redress the situation. For instance OVC (orphans and vulnerable children) and PHA (People living with HIV and AIDS) guardian parents started and established a make shift school. For their children, the school now boasts of an increased enrolment figure of 200

pupils but these schools are out competed by schools in part of Uganda which these parents can't afford.

It is in the context of the above situation that some concerned individuals came together to form basic support for children education project (BSCEP). The provision of scholastic materials to orphans and vulnerable children is geared towards improving on their retention at



school in the sub county-Mpigi district.

This project will raise the status of those poor and vulnerable school drop outs and enable them to access education once again.

BSCEP is well organized, with various committees formed for governance and management purposes.

In a situation where parents themselves are poor and cannot get employment, it becomes even a greater difficulty for their children to access quality education and other scholastic materials. The state of abject poverty facing the children needs to be addressed. The children themselves have become increasingly concerned about their own poverty. They have felt for the need of some sort of action by either themselves or benevolent agencies to redress the situation. For example, seeing that nothing was forthcoming in regards to their education, some children have started brick laying and crop production to raise capital for school dues. It is on this spirit that some group of individuals formed themselves into a project (basic support for children education project) to try to revive the hopes of these children

The school dropouts find themselves in a vicious circle of poverty and helplessness, they cannot afford basic necessities for school, they barely have enough to eat, and they cannot buy school uniforms.

BSCEP has started offering scholar materials for some needy children, but the scheme requires financial support for procuring items such as exercise books, pens, pencil, geometric

sets, uniforms, supplementary food for weak PHA's (infected orphans) and some IGA for OVCs. .

Mountains of Hope have the necessary capacity to ensure that this project attains or realizes its objectives. As an established organization, it has the basic infrastructure in terms of staff and material support to this project. As for the project team, all the members have the zeal and enthusiasms for the project. The fact that they have gone this far is a good indication. As regards beneficiaries 200 children have already been identified to benefit from the project.

The group has formed a local management committee from amongst themselves, consisting of chairperson, secretary, treasurer and two others members.

The committee is responsible for the running of the project, it also reports to Mountains of hope meetings.

Community and other contribution

The community is very positive in contributing to this project; they are willing to continue identification of more children from the community to participate in this project, however since the poverty level is very high; they are unable to contribute financially and materially, therefore Mountains of hope so far has not secured any funding for this activity. Mountains of hope would like to support this already established group to help make a difference in the lives of those children, it therefore takes this opportunity to invite all possible funders to join them to support this group, the group only needs 25,000 US dollars for one year, as a way of sustaining this project, Mountains of hope has researched and found that the community can rear local goats, these goats will produce and multiply which the children will be selling to raise money for their continued education.

The beneficiaries.

The direct beneficiaries of this project are orphans and vulnerable children and PHA's (People living with HIV/AIDS) (orphans) estimated at 200 individuals. The general population of children living in the project area will also benefit from the project estimated at 400.



Characteristics of beneficiaries.

99% of the beneficiaries are vulnerable children living in villages.

These are poor people earning less than US \$ 5 per month.

All are dependent on subsistence farming as farming as their only means of survival.

Many are young girls and boys.

They are illiterate

They are vulnerable.

They are low esteemed

Some have psychological handicap (HIV trauma)

Most depend on remains of their parents no longer there.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Malinga', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Malinga
CEO- MOUNTAINS OF HOPE
CHILDRENS MINISTRIES