



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



In 2005 The New Build Uganda ran a very successful project. A group of 40 British students and young professionals worked to raise funds to construct workshops and classrooms for a new Vocational Training Centre attached to Keyo primary school, Gulu, northern Uganda. They raised over £15,000 through fundraising and 14 travelled to Gulu last July in order to help with the building work. This is your opportunity to be part of The New Build Uganda 2006 project.

Gulu District is not alone in its need for additional educational facilities. Maaya Primary School, linked to The Erme Primary School, Devon is situated in Mubende District, Central Uganda also has a problem with lack of school buildings. The original school (above) was built in the mid 1990s. Currently it consists of only six classrooms, although there are seven years in primary school. The remaining classes 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 recruitment and retention of teachers for the school. The school is very remote, difficult to get to, without suitable living accommodation locally. There is a need for teachers' houses on the school site. It is thought this will improve security at the school and enable the school to keep animals for teaching purposes.

There is also a lack of 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 country where 25% of all child deaths are due to dirty water this is a necessary part of the curriculum.

The New Build Uganda 2006 Project will be carried out in the summer months of 2006. There will be a team of approximately fifteen volunteers who will travel to Uganda to help with the building work. They will help with the construction of a new classroom, a block of teachers housing and a 10,000 litre water tank. The additional classroom 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. It is not a requirement to have previous building experience as there is always a large amount of labour intensive work to be carried out.





people and be a real part in doing something truly amazing with their time off.

Each volunteer will be expected to fund their own expenses of approximately £1000 for a four week stay and will also be expected to assist with the fundraising for the project. The current budget stands at £20,000. There will be events to assist volunteers in their fundraising such as participation in the Manchester Bogle Stroll and live music events. In return for this volunteers will gain an insight into real life in a Rural Ugandan environment, stay in an area where few tourists have ever

been, work closely with the local



The school is very remote and so accommodation will take the form of a campsite at the school grounds. Living

conditions will be very basic but not unlike those of the local residents. There will be weekend trips including a white water rafting trip on the river Nile and primate trekking in the forests of Western Uganda. The project will take place

during two phases. These will be three weeks long each and volunteers will be expected to stay for at least two weeks. The first will take place during the last three weeks of July and the second will take place during the first three weeks in August.



Uganda is an amazing country and it is strongly recommended that you take time to see other parts of the country after your involvement in the project. Among some of the highlights of the country is the Murchison falls national park in the north of the country and the spectacular scenery that can be found close to the Rwandan border in the volcanic South Western area of the country.

I hope that you will be interested to join us and travel to Uganda in order to help to improve the lives and education of Ugandan primary school children at Maaya Primary School.



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