

Welcome to Africa Unplugged

Promoting greater awareness and understanding through communication and education



JANUARY 2009 UK NEWSLETTER



Lakeside sponsor Alice with MD Happy

Great Support for New Projects

We are absolutely delighted to feature 2 new projects initiated by friends of africa unplugged.

Alice Jackson, who lives in London, has already raised almost £1,000 for Lakeside Nursery School in Nkhata Bay, Malawi. The money raised will be used to purchase text books for the children, repair classroom furniture and complete some essential building maintenance.



Artist Helen and Phil (left) from aup UK

Helen Tyler lives in St. Ives Cambridgeshire and recently raised £1,001 to help fund aup's work in Malawi. Helen is an artist and some of the money raised will support creative activities in the Childrens Shelter.

Together with Headmaster Peter from Lakeside and Frighton in the Shelter, Alice and Helen really are 'making a difference'.

REGIONAL NEWS

In Mozambique the UN's World Food Programme reports that 7 of the country's 11 provinces face acute problems because of poor harvests. Torrential rain, widespread flooding, high food prices and, in Sofala province locusts, are all making the situation worse. The agency needs 11,000 tonnes of cereals, beans and cooking oil to supplement household reserves and help up to a quarter of a million destitute people.

Last year Zambia was ranked the 17th most corrupt country in the world on the International Corruption Perception Index. The majority of reported complaints were against government officials. Now Britain's Overseas Development Institute has launched a new project called 'Strengthening Citizen Demand for Good Governance Through Evidence Based Approaches'. Hmmm . . .

According to health officials in Zimbabwe the current cholera epidemic has now claimed over 2,200 lives. The number of reported cases since August has also risen sharply to almost 44,000. the epidemic has also claimed over 30 lives in South Africa and 28 lives in Zambia as desperately ill Zimbabweans seek treatment in neighbouring countries.

Heart warming success for Food Programme

Five nursery schools now benefit directly from the support we raise. Our photographs tell their own story. Each school is given a monthly budget of 10,000Kw (approximately £50) to help supplement their own meagre resources, Working directly with aup Malawi they purchase such basics as rice, maize, cooking oil and soap. Our support helps to ensure that the children do get at least one meal a day while at school. This is a very challenging programme to maintain so if you would like to help please get in touch.

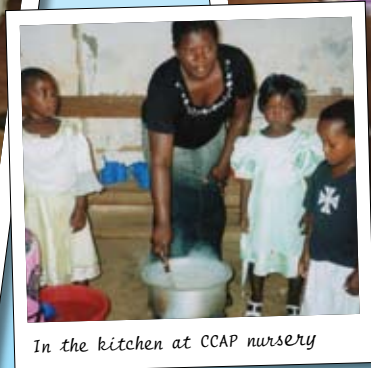
We also donate 15000Kw a month towards teaching support – 10000Kw goes to Lakeside Nursery and 5000Kw to Siliva Nursery



Salawe nursery inside and out



Happy preparing lunch at Siliva nursery school



In the kitchen at CCAP nursery



Breakfast at CCAP before quiz time



Lakeside



Nkhata Bay Hospital

Our photo shows MD Happy with the hospital Matron displaying some recent purchases funded by aup. In this case, the hospital had requested help to purchase sterile goods including gum boots and hand towels. It is an unfortunate fact that the hospital rarely has enough official funding to cover even the most basic essential goods so we hope we can continue to provide some regular support

Fundraising breaks the one million barrier

Our very generous supporters have already raised over one million kwacha (£5,000+) since April 2008 but we have not been immune from the global financial crisis. The Western Union rate in Mar 08 was 273Kw = £1 - this month we could only get 197Kw, a depreciation of almost one third. Recent fundraising activities have included the following.

Social Evening in St.Ives

Sincere thanks to Helen, see front page, who held an art show and social evening at Oliver's Lodge Hotel, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire at the end of August last year. The event also supported the National Blind Childrens Charity as well as aup.

Car boot Sale

A big thank you to Liz and Phil who got up at the crack

of dawn to run a car boot sale at Crystal Lakes near St. Ives on 12th October. They raised £186 in support the aup administration in Malawi.

Dog and Duck

No stopping Alice who organised a fun evening at the Dog and Duck pub in Soho, London. A raffle raised £155 which has been added to the pot in support of Lakeside nursery school.

Frighton in the spotlight

Frighton Kachule is 28 years old and has been living in Nkahata bay since 2002. His family lives in the Ntcheu District which in the Central Region of Malawi. He has fostered his young brother through primary school and he is now in form 4 at Kunyanja School. Frighton has worked for aup Malawi since 2005.

As well as running the aup library and acting as aup secretary, Frighton is also the driving force behind a new project which we have called the Childrens Shelter. Three afternoons a week a group of up to 30 children between the ages of 4 and 12 meet in the aup shelter where they take part in both educational and recreational activities. Some of the funds Helen raised are earmarked to support creative activities including drawing and clay modelling. We hope we can also provide the children with a simple meal. Many of the children are orphans and/or street children so the programme has been warmly welcomed locally.



Frighton



Tryness, Hava and Charity who all help in the shelter



The aup Shelter



Frighton in 'his' library

A classic African Journey

If you have been to Malawi but not travelled on the M.V. Ilala you have missed an opportunity to make a 'classic' African journey. This 620 ton vessel was assembled on the lake in 1949. The parts were brought from Scotland and hauled inland through

Mozambique. Once a week the Ilala, chugging along at a steady 10 knots, does a return trip covering the entire length of the lake. It is a lifeline to many of the villages along the lake shore and a marvellous way to meet them too.



M.V. Ilala

Nkhata Bay Sisters

It is now the end of the football season. Disappointing to report that the Girls did not make it

through to the finals of the FAM cup but we wish them good luck for next season.



Great effort was expended

Where is he now?

Our founder and erstwhile field director has been taking a well earned sabbatical from aup. For the past couple of months he has been travelling in India, indulging his passion for trekking and walking in out of the way places. However, he has not missed the opportunity to see how grass roots community based organisations operate in India. We look forward to hearing some interesting tales of derring-do.



Chris going native at a friends wedding

If you would like to know more about any of the projects that we have mentioned or you would like to help in any way please contact:

info@africaunplugged.org.uk

Any donations would be very welcome.

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