

REDEARTH BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is REDEARTH?

It is a small charity we have set up to support the training of teachers in Uganda.

Why REDEARTH?

Red earth roads initial impression on arrival
RED – reflect, evolve, develop.



What are your aims?

To advance the professional development of teachers in the developing world
To enhance and improve the educational experiences of children in the developing world through teacher professional development
To advance the provision of educational resources in rural districts in the developing world

We also aim in the future, to continue enhancing the professional development of UK teachers through using them to deliver some of the training. We piloted this in July 2007 very successfully.



How did this all begin?

Global teacher experience (we were selected as Global Teachers in 2003 as part of a programme led by Link Community Development
Volunteered to return to train teachers

Literacy 2004 – trained 120

Numeracy 2005 – trained 90

New idea – Developing Good Practice in Teaching & Learning
(a central government focus now) This began in 2006 with a cohort of 12 teachers who we are supporting via email and with in-year visits.

A further 12 were trained in summer 2007. Plans to continue for another 2 years.

How has it been developed?

Decision to set up our own small organisation

Planning to build a Resource Centre for Masindi teachers (already have land) to include a nursery, ICT facilities, training rooms and resources for borrowing

Aim for this to be self funding and to be run by Ugandans in future.

District Education Office very enthusiastic

Resource Centre will include:

Training room to continue our training

ICT to continue to keep in contact with trainees

Will also be used by others

Plan to link this up initially with the Harrow network – teachers who have some experience of the context could return to deliver some training.

We have just trialled this very successfully and hope to develop it further. It provides professional development opportunities for Ugandan teachers who have very little access to in-service training; also professional development for UK teachers, to develop their ability to deliver training and to develop their understanding of the issues of developing countries. This also enhances their capacity to deliver the global dimension in their own schools.



What is the education system like in Uganda?

Large classes & few resources

Poor buildings (some have none)

Poor pay for teachers

Very few opportunities for professional development

Large drop out rate

Education system focuses hugely on examination success

A transmission of knowledge curriculum rather than an interactive learning focused curriculum

Teachers who have to sustain their families as well as hold a job

A lot of bureaucracy

Very challenging circumstances, overloaded curriculum with little training and few resources to implement the curriculum

Why do you do it?

'Captured' by the Ugandan people and country!!

We have been fortunate to gain a lot of experience and training between us and Ugandans are looking for support in training their teachers.

We have gained a huge amount through working in Uganda. We have been challenged by the context and the issues which have emerged.

We now have many Ugandan friends

We love doing it.

What are your plans for the future?

Fundraise. £50000 by next summer (2008)

Build centre

Continue our programme of training and continually improve it.

Use Ugandans we have trained to deliver some of the training.

Engage more UK teachers in the training programme.

Use some of the Ugandans we have trained to assist in the delivery of the programme

How are you raising funds?

Contacting as many organisations as possible

Getting publicity

Visiting schools

Bidding to funders

Organising a sponsored bike ride.

All funds will go directly into the building of the Centre.

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