Matugga News – Launch of Agriculture Project June 2009

Introduction

As you know from previous reports the price of food in Uganda continues to increase and affording even the most basics food (posho and beans) for all the children at Revival is becoming a serious struggle. The point has been reached where some control over food costs and variety needs to be taken. Accordingly, a proposal for an agriculture project has been drawn up. The idea is to buy a plot of land initially around 5 acres on which to establish a small farm to grow crops and raise livestock.

The farm will benefit the Revival Centre in three ways:

- income will be generated from the sale of crops and will help make the Revival Centre more financially self-sufficient
- growing a range of crops will improve the diet of the children supporting their growth and giving them increased resistance to illness and disease
- having their own farm will enable vocational training to be given in a range of farming skills.

Start Up Requirements

To establish a farm project funds need to be raised for the following:

- purchase of 5 acres of land (£5,000)
- construction of farm buildings (£5,000)
- wages of farm manager and labourers (£2,000 in first year)
- purchase of seeds (£500)
- preparation of land and irrigation works (£2,000)
- sowing and management of first seasons crops (£1,000)

The establishment costs represent a one-off capital investment of around £15,500. Research into crop yields and local market prices indicates that a farm of this size could generate an annual income of between £5,000 (based on one crop of Cassavas) and £10,000 (based on one crop of Irish potatoes). It may be possible to have two harvests per year of some crops such as Irish potatoes.

The first and subsequent harvests should generate sufficient income to meet the running costs of the farm and produce a surplus to support the Revival Centre. The farm has the potential to cover up to 25% of the costs of the Revival Centre when combined with school fees which already meet 25% of costs, the Centre could move towards being 50% self-sufficient. The challenge now is raising the initial investment capital.

For Further Information Contact Phil or Libby Chappell on 01943 430744 or at philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk