

# The Banana Tree Project

Registered with the England & Wales Charity Commission (1116669)

Quarterly Newsletter: April 2008

## Re-visiting friends

I have just returned from a visit to Mwanza to check on the orphanages supported by The BTP, meet the staff, children and teachers and buy new resources where required. The Project is working very well with all funds effectively spent on bulk discounts and local market prices, with no admin costs. The staff and children supported by the BTP are very keen to say thank you for all assistance given.

## Fonelisco Orphanage

35 Fonelisco children are currently supported through the local Illemela Primary School (below) with uniforms, shoes, books and stationery.



Conditions in primary schools remain basic. There are 950 students and 11 teachers at Illemela Primary,

with class sizes up to 150. The key to children's education remains making the step from primary to secondary school.

All 21 of the Fonelisco secondary and vocational children are progressing well with their studies at Kirumba Secondary, Lake Secondary, Sunrise



Secondary (left), and at their Mechanics and Tailoring colleges. The BTP is working with another charity (Affirmation) to

ensure that all students retain their places. I met Headmasters and form teachers to confirm attendance and results, and the students are working very hard. One of the Sunrise children, Benedict Daud, was diagnosed with both typhoid and malaria during my visit. He is making a good recovery.

## Bukumbi Leprosy Community

In line with the BTP's aims of helping street children and orphans in Mwanza, we are now funding a scheme, alongside a locally based UK

charity called Bridge2Aid, to help the children and orphans of Bukumbi leprosy community with their primary schooling. The children will receive extra tuition 3 times a week to help them get through their studies. These children are hit twice, by losing their parents and having the stigma of being linked to leprosy, although they do not suffer from leprosy themselves. This is a good example of a small scheme that will have a big impact on the small number of lives affected.

## Hands of Mercy Orphanage

A visit out to Buswela showed that the 44 children at

Hands of Mercy Orphanage are living very happily within the parameters of poverty and disease. They were tremendously grateful for the donation of school shoes, primary exercise books, paper, pens, pencils, rulers and uniforms.



## Banana Tree Project video!!!

During my visit I made a 20 minute video to show the work of the BTP. It includes interviews with children, staff and teachers. If you would like a copy, please



get in touch. I apologised retrospectively for the chaos I caused whilst filming in the schools!

## Donating to the Charity

Account Name: *The Banana Tree Project*  
Account Number: 000 297 00  
Sort Code: 30 95 37  
Bank: Lloyds TSB, 18 Week Street,  
Maidstone, Kent, UK  
ME 14 1RW

Ed Beavington  
Project Coordinator