

## **Busoga Trust Annual Report 2006**

**2006 has been another year of significant progress for the Trust. At the same time as expanding the scope and range of water supply technologies, this year the Trust has made a paradigm shift in the emphasis we place on personal and environmental hygiene.**

Many studies have shown that 50% of the value of clean water can otherwise be lost. This has meant a change of strategy. We have adopted a more holistic approach so that, at the same time that a community receives the benefits of clean water, the whole community, not just the enthusiasts, are strongly motivated to participate in a variety of social and hygiene activities. These include: the construction of domestic pit latrines for each household using locally available materials; the promotion of handwashing using both soap and ash; the encouragement of personal bathing; the construction of rubbish pits for every homestead; the construction of drying racks for kitchen utensils; better kitchen construction, including mud ovens for greater efficiency and energy conservation; and the advocacy of kitchen gardens to provide easily accessible vegetables and healthy sauces. **Over 36,000 homes have been participating in these activities, benefiting over 300,000 people.** These activities have been carried out in partnership with local area health assistants and sub county officials in the same way that we work with local government water officers. By their authority they create a sense of responsibility from each home towards the wider community. Whereas before the uptake of personal and domestic hygiene was patchy and variable, so that 'good' citizens were penalised by the poor practices of their careless neighbours, now whole communities participate and are changed. This is necessary because flies are no respecters of domestic curtilage. We have also established model villages which show the beneficial impact these improvements can make. In addition we now sponsor a local radio programme of one hour each week. This has proved popular, creating awareness and provoking a public debate on all these questions of personal and community hygiene and conservation.

**In 2006 we completed the construction of 38 hand dug wells, 8 protected springs, 20 boreholes, 18 community rain water harvesting tanks and 133 6,000 litre domestic rain water tanks.** This increase in domestic rainwater harvesting is in accordance with our policy to go to the most needy and desperate areas. Where other agencies, including government, have decided that there is no ground water to be found, we have offered this solution of conserving their rainfall in domestic tanks. The enthusiasm of the local people when offered the chance of building their own 6,000 litre facility has been immense. However, it is a more expensive and slower method of meeting the water needs of a community – though the benefits are immediate – the water being literally on the doorstep. On

average 10 people are served by one domestic tank costing £165 excluding the local contribution. This means that for the average number served by a community well (500), 50 tanks are needed. This costs £8,250 compared to £2,000 for a hand dug well, though the cost differential is less for a £6,000 borehole. These tanks have been specially funded. **We have also completed the rehabilitation of 49 old sources, some needing major work, as well as renewing and updating a comprehensive well database with GPS siting, bringing us closer to our target of 95% functionality.**

**This year we opened a new office in a new district – Mpigi in the west.** We are carrying out a major 5 year programme there for Water Aid. We have also continued our growing partnership with a Church group in the USA working in Tanzania and Kenya and 2007 will see a substantial increase to this project. **We thus have 4 major areas of work: Busoga, Luwero, Mpigi and Tanzania/Kenya.** We are also delighted to have developed significant partnerships with a Dutch group and with Plan International in Luwero District.

But we remain, as always, largely dependent on our UK private supporters – individuals, churches, schools and trusts. **We are very, very grateful to all of you who have helped us in 2006, another very good year for the Trust.** Our budget remains tight, for example we are in the process of replacing ageing vehicles and the need always for new pumps and equipment adds to capital expenditure. The year brought its trials, notably the serious illness of our outstanding Ugandan manager, Johnson Waibi, now happily restored. New staff have been recruited. It is the enthusiastic efforts, initiative and resourcefulness of all our staff which have made our support a joy to give.

Andrew Pearson  
Director