



Project update from Teach A Man To Fish in Uganda



Thanks to our supporters and in-country partners we have seen some exciting developments and successes in recent months in Uganda. As we are halfway through the two year project with our partner school Mackay Memorial College in Kampala, we are excited to share all the great progress which the school has made and which you have helped to make possible!

Background

Teach A Man To Fish supports schools to provide high-quality, low-cost education in developing countries, reinforcing academic learning through hands-on experience. We have been working in Uganda since 2009 and supporting Mackay Memorial College since 2012. Mackay College is located on the outskirts of Kampala in a poor, overcrowded area of the city suffering from high unemployment. Currently around 1,065 students aged 12 to 18 attend the school, many of whom live in nearby slums.

By setting up school businesses, we are helping to improve the financial sustainability of the school and introduce entrepreneurial education to boost students' skills. With youth unemployment in Uganda at a shocking 83%, the students really need these skills to improve their chances of getting a job or setting up their own successful business after school.



"I do not see students as job seekers but as job creators" – Simon Mukambwe, teacher at Mackay Memorial College

News Update

With support from Teach A Man To Fish, the teachers at Mackay College have chosen and planned two school businesses which have a high demand locally, are educational and simple to run. The first business is The Mackay Troupe – a dance troupe with musicians that can be hired to perform at special occasions. The second is an egg production business.

Both businesses give the students plenty of opportunities to learn and practise new skills, including things like marketing, budgeting and leadership. These practical skills will be extremely useful in the job market and life after school. The two businesses are also starting to generate profits which will support the school and help the poorest pupils to attend.

[The Mackay Troupe](#)

Thanks to your support, the Mackay Troupe has been able to invest in a range of traditional instruments and costumes, which they have used during recent performances at weddings, graduation parties and carnivals.



With the help of our two Field Officers, Jenny and Fran, the Mackay students have developed their own marketing and sales strategy. They created their own logo, as well as business cards and flyers to give to potential customers in the local area. The students are currently working to advertise their service through the radio, local hotels and even their Facebook page! As you can imagine, the business, I.T. and life skills they are gaining from this experience are invaluable.

In addition the students love getting the chance to perform, learn musical instruments and share traditional dances from across Uganda. Ignatius Tumusiime, the entertainment prefect, said *“much has changed due to the new instruments and costumes that Teach A Man To Fish has helped us buy. I like having the instruments at the school, as I can play them all the time and teach others how to play them too... Music is the thing that I grew up in. It's my talent and career”*.

[The Egg Business](#)



After months of business planning and preparations, Mackay Memorial College eagerly welcomed 250 new-born chicks! The students introduced them to their new home, complete with lighting, a walkway for the students to observe them, and a ‘play area’ complete with swings for happy, healthy hens!

Getting the chicken coup refurbished and prepared in time for the chicks’ arrival really helped develop the students’ teamwork, problem solving and creative skills. Now they are learning about chicken care and rearing as well as putting their business and sales skills into practise once the hens started laying eggs in September.

The School Enterprise Challenge

Jenny and Fran have also been doing fantastic outreach work with other schools in Uganda for our 'School Enterprise Challenge'. This is a global competition which supports pupils and teachers to set up a socially responsible, profitable, business at their school. In 2013 Teach A Man To Fish staff helped over 170 teachers from 48 different schools in Uganda develop educational business plans, and we are set to break that record in 2014!



"Thanks to the School Enterprise Challenge the disadvantaged children are being turned into advantaged" – Ssimbwa Kayondo, teacher at Stand Tall Training Centre, last year's winner

Our international conference



We are delighted that Mackay Memorial College was chosen to host the Teach A Man To Fish annual conference 'Education that Pays for Itself' in October 2014.

This year's theme was 'Empowering Young People With The Skills For Success: From Job Seekers to Job Creators'. The conference was a huge success and brought together educators,

NGOs and government bodies from all over the world to discuss sustainable education. Over 200 participants came from over 20 countries including Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, India, Paraguay, Afghanistan and many more!

Thank you for your support!

A big thank you for your support as all donations make a real difference - none of this work would have been possible without you. Please do read our Field Officer blog for regular updates directly from the school: <http://teachamantofish.org.uk/tamtf-blogs/Uganda> - and thank you for supporting Mackay Memorial College and Teach A Man To Fish.