

Swaziland Charitable Trust

Newsletter: April 2006

Reg. Charity No. 257666 England

The first quarter of 2006 has been busy with Swaziland Charitable Trust (SCT) activities spread across the four regions of Swaziland. The provision of targeted, flexible assistance through small grants at grass-roots level in the Education, Social Welfare and Agricultural sectors continues to contribute to development and have maximum impact for pledged assistance. Most importantly, these interventions are community initiated, driven and owned.

In the Education sector SCT is currently assisting seven rural primary schools with a variety of projects including; roofing a home economics block, three classrooms and a computer lab, electrification of two agricultural labs and the establishment of a poultry project. Two secondary schools are being assisted with sinking boreholes in the South of the country and the building of two pre-schools in the far North of the Kingdom will be supported over the coming months.

In the Social Welfare Sector, SCT has pledged assistance to Hospice At Home for food parcels to patients who find compliance to antiretroviral medication difficult due to food insecurity. The Swaziland National Association of the Deaf will be aided with funds to develop national educational materials.

The SCT initiative for assistance to include 'non-monetary' donations which began in 2005 will continue. Specific, targeted capacity building activities and workshops for organisations and groups that lack the necessary skills in resource development and communications continue to be undertaken. SCT were able to assist in the preparation of project proposals which resulted in Swaziland receiving money from the European Union for theatre training at the Mantenga Cultural Village and from the Australian Overseas Aid Programme (AusAID) for digital training equipment for FLAS and to start an Egg Production project at S.I.T.C.

SCT will continue to build upon 90 year history of working to address the many challenges being faced in Swaziland.

Gabrielle Brabander
SCT Manager - Swaziland



Mfundzi and Menzi Dlamini (*pictured above*) are double orphans. They are taken care of by their elderly grandmother in her one-roomed home. The boys attend the Ekutsimleni Lutheran P.S., a rural primary school of approximately 800 students in the North of Swaziland. Some students walk as far as 10km to get to school each day. Mfundzi and Menzi both receive sponsorship through the SCT OVC Student Sponsorship Programme. This assistance provides them with school uniforms each year .

With a predominantly rural population, Swaziland faces serious challenges including; 36% unemployment, 40% infant malnutrition, 42.6% HIV infection rate and 66% of people living below the poverty line (as high as 80% in some rural areas)

**In Swaziland, by 2010 it is expected that there will be
120,000**

Aids Orphans (10% of the population).

With little government support and the continuing breakdown of family structures there is an increased need for supporting the marginalised and vulnerable. Drought and food shortages are exacerbated by HIV/AIDS. Families struggle to raise the necessary money for school fees, uniforms and learning materials.

In addition to our Educational, Agricultural and Social Welfare Programmes, orphans at selected schools are linked to sponsors. In 2006 thanks to UK sponsors 53 primary school students are being assisted with their education through the Swaziland Charitable trust (SCT) Orphan Support Scheme (OSS).

Individuals are encouraged to support children throughout their Primary School education. Children who have lost both parents and those suffering the greatest material hardship are targeted. Children commonly experience extra difficulties at school and continued sponsorship is not linked to performance or health £50 normally covers Primary School fees or a full uniform. High School costs can be 3-4- times higher.



Above: SCT sponsored St. Benedict Primary School Students in their new uniforms—Feb 2006, Above Right: Students are normally provided with a uniform of: jersey, shoes, socks, windbreaker, tracksuit, t-shirts, soap & face washer. Boys receive long pants and shorts and girls a tunic/dress.

Sponsors can join the student support programme at anytime throughout the year. We currently have many children who are in need of sponsorship. To assist a child's education, or support Swaziland Charitable Trust activities contact *The Manager* at sct@africaonline.co.sz

ELWANDLE R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL – MANZINI REGION



Led by the dynamic and tireless work of Head Teacher Mrs. Busisiwe Mamba, Elwandle R.C Primary School provides more than education for its 687 students. It is also a place of care and support. Students are encouraged to think of their school as a second 'home' and the community are actively involved in many projects at the school.

SCT began supporting the school in 1999 with some sewing machines, gas cookers and equipment for the home economics class. This was followed in 2001 with a poultry house and in 2004 with a classroom for pre-school students. The latest project is an income generating poultry raising activity.

Mrs. Mamba explained the objective of the broiler project, 'We aim to raise chickens in an effort to generate funds to support the Grade zero class. Elwandle have offered this pre-school class since 2004 when SCT built a classroom for the activity. Parents pay the salary of the teacher and it is hoped that this income generating activity will contribute towards this'.

This task will be jointly conducted by the parents and the Grade 7 students who will learn poultry raising techniques.

Initial startup costs including feedstuffs, equipment and the 600 day-old chickens were purchased as part of the E13,000 (£1,300) grant from SCT. Mrs. Mamba is confident that the project will sustain itself long-term 'with the initial inputs we will be able to continue this project after the first batch – we already have buyers who have indicated they will take all we can produce'. Some of the chickens will also be consumed under the daily feeding scheme the school offers.

60% of the students at the school are registered as Orphaned & Vulnerable Children (OVCs) with the government. SCT currently sponsors 20 students at Elwandle R.C. Primary School.

Photos: Above Right – SCT Board Member Mr. Ian McLeod inspects the chicken project with Mrs. Mamba. Above: Mrs. Mamba, Mr. Adrian Brabander (providing technical assistance) and Mr. Ian McLeod inspecting the Grade 6 student's vegetable garden.

Each student has their own plot which they are responsible for. This activity is a vital component of teaching students how to enhance their own food security and as a way of ensuring that the students receive a more balanced meal as part of the daily school feeding scheme.

Many of the students at the school suffer a variety of ailments related to poor nutrition.

Approximately 10kms out of Manzini, the largest city in Swaziland, 204 primary students (half of them registered as Orphaned & Vulnerable (OVC) by the government) attend the Elwandle Community Primary School.

Though in a poor rural area and despite being a relatively new school (est. 2003) the local community are working extremely hard to improve facilities for their students. Elwandle PS is growing with an increasing number of enrolments each year. Seven teachers at the school are led by the extremely hardworking and dedicated Head Teacher Thembisile Nxumalo. Thembisile's student's welfare is an ongoing concern particularly when it comes to the school feeding scheme.

Despite having no electricity or running water at 10.30am every morning the school provides a hot meal for each student. For many of the children this is the only food they receive for the entire day. Parents and the school committee raise the E35,000 (approx. £3,500) needed each year for the feeding scheme.

Up until recently the school was using a temporary shelter to cook in. This structure had been destroyed by fire once and it was very difficult for the women cooking as it did not provide adequate protection from the elements. In February 2006, Swaziland Charitable Trust provided financial assistance for the building of a kitchen (as per Ministry of Education specifications). Before the building was even completed it was being utilised for cooking (see *pics at right*).

Elwandle Community Primary School—Kitchen:

Total cost of project E25,032 (£2,500)

SCT Input E16,032 - Community Input E9,000

Elwandle Community Primary School Kitchen Project



For more information about some of our partners and/or development issues in Swaziland:

www.flas.org.sz (Sexual & Reproductive Health Information & Services for Swazi Youth)

www.nercha.org.sz (National Emergency Response Committee on HIV/AIDS in Swaziland)

www.moya.co.SZ (Empowerment & support of communities in health, lifeskills, agriculture and OVCs)

www.fawe.org (Forum for African Women Educationalists)

www.swagaa.org.sz (Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse)

www.teenchallenge.com/swaziland/ (Teen Challenge & The Lighthouse Care Centre)

In 2005, Swaziland Charitable Trust provided financial assistance to the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society to establish backyard garden for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the Shiselweni Region.

The Shiselweni Region in the South of the country is amongst the poorest in Swaziland and food security is an ongoing concern. The majority of the populations in these areas rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood.

Forty families benefited from training and the establishment of gardens including fencing, seedlings, fertilizer etc (see pics at right). The project is being monitored by the Red Cross Food Security Officer on a weekly basis. This officer is also able to offer ongoing technical horticultural assistance.

Total input from SCT E60,000 (£6,000)



SCHOOL LIBRARIES

In 2005 SCT granted funding assistance to FUNDZA to establish a library at a rural high school. A broad selection of reference, specific subject and general reading material was provided and teachers were trained. This activity proved so successful that FUNDZA will again be supported to establish a library - this time in the Lubombo Region of Eastern Swaziland.

Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society - Backyard Gardens Project for People Living with HIV/AIDS

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