



*fosters
economic
and social
development
through
education*



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Layout by Dale Albertson

Edited by Gwen Murray

Photos by Melissa Albertson

Reflections on Sustainability

- Jack Grant

Life in the world of African aid organizations is never boring. Just go on-line and find, for example, the latest quote from high-profile economist, Dambisa Mayo, who has just published a new book, "Dead Aid". Mayo, a former Goldman Sachs, World Bank economist argues that "Far from being all bad news for Africa, the global financial crisis is a chance to break a dependence on development aid that has kept it in poverty ...". (Africa News Blog/Analysis & Opinion....<http://blogs.reuters.com>)

Having not read the book referenced above, I am prepared to argue that ACCES is "breaking the dependence on development aid" in establishing its programs in Western Kenya. Several years ago, ACCES in its wisdom, embraced the concept of "Kenyanization" and this has become the filter for everything we do today in providing support to those in need in Kakamega and surrounding areas. Our model of establishing Community Learning Centres (CLCs) starting with the 'bricks and mortar' and community wells, and moving to establish partnerships within and without the community



Level 2 learner from Ematsayi

and then working towards developing "micro-economies" has gone a long way down the road to achieving independence on the part of individuals, families and the communities as a whole. Certainly, CIDA has accepted that this is a model worth supporting and we are delighted and proud that we are able to expand and develop the model in new communities.

Another quote from the above blog attracts my attention, again from Mayo.

"You could take me to country X in Africa and say 'look at this girl here and she's going to school because of aid'. Yes, that's true but on a macro aggregate perspective these economies are not growing. They are not growing fast enough to ensure that when that girl is done with her schooling she can find a job."

On economy growth, I agree with Mayo that those whose responsibility it is to nurture, grow and sustain a country's economy must get on with it. But my response to her point about supporting education is to say that we don't stop providing the means for that girl to get an education.

And this really underlines for me that any charity, including ACCES has a responsibility to develop programs 'on the ground' that will be self-sustaining and/or sustaining students as is the case for providing scholarships.

There was nothing

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more wrenching to many of us involved when, in 2009, the ACCES Board was forced to limit the number of post-secondary scholarships given to students and there was nothing more joyful when we were able to expand those numbers in 2011.

In Canada we have an obligation to work towards sustainability of funding for ACCES. This has been a good year for ACCES. Thanks to legacies received and to the ongoing support of our donors, we are working towards the time when we will be able to say “ACCES will continue on long after all of us are gone.” When they started, Beth and George Scott may not have believed that ACCES would last ‘forever’, but I’m darned sure they have worked towards this goal for all these many years.



It is a tricky thing administering a charity. Ensuring that the flow of funds continues and that the disbursement of those funds is done properly is an everyday challenge. As I indicated at the top, it is never boring.

*Jack Grant
ACCES President*

The Rafiki Circle

- Beth Scott

“Do you have a vision for ACCES?” The CIDA representative asked us that when George and I met with him in Nairobi this past November.

What? Does ACCES have a vision? I felt a bit annoyed. Answered, “Yes, we have had a vision since ACCES began in 1993. Our mission is our vision: to alleviate poverty through education. We have never strayed from that mission.”

George’s answer was just as direct. “ACCES will exist long after we are dead, and even after you are gone.”

Our host, Solomon Ngeri, looked a bit startled at our responses, but satisfied. He might have asked us how we were so sure of our assertions. If he had asked, we would have told him about the ACCES Foundation and the Rafiki Circle within it: that the Founda-

Anne Mukwaba, ACCES Scholarship Student

tion was formed to accommodate current and future donations of funds that are invested and provide continuing support for ACCES; that the Rafiki Circle was initiated to recognize those who have provided, or have promised to provide, funding through their Wills.



The Rafiki Circle received legacies some time ago from Doris Cunningham, Beatrice Rankin, Susan Sawatzky and Doris Elbe. This very year, ACCES received a significant bequest from the estate and family of Morvan Campbell Johnstone. As a direct result of the of the dividends received from the investment of the funds from the Johnstone bequest, an additional ten post-secondary students will receive scholarships this year alone.

ACCES has not yet named those people who have already made provision for the ACCES Foundation in their Wills. We would like to do so in the next newsletter. Will you please tell us if you have done so and can be named as part of the Rafiki Circle? How encouraging that will be. And if you have not yet provided for such a gift, will you please consider making a relevant codicil to your Will?

“No problem can be solved by the same consciousness that created it. We need to see the world anew.”

Albert Einstein



Centre Management Committee harvesting Indigenous vegetables at Elufafwa.



CIDA Partners with ACCES

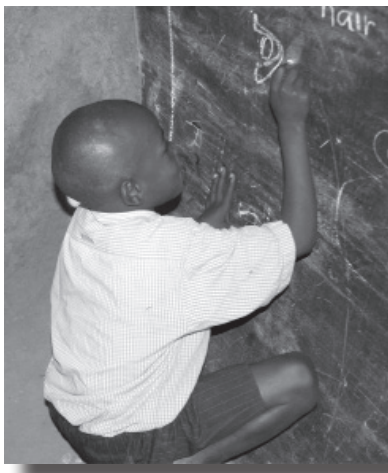
- Dale Albertson

Grants are a significant source of funding for ACCES programs and, once again, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) has entered into a new partnership with ACCES. By approving a three-year project to expand the reach of the Community Learning Centre program in Kakamega district to four more communities, the quality work and far-reaching plans of ACCES have been recognized.

With a small staff of six people in Kenya, the following activities will be implemented:

1. Basic Education:

In addition to expanded grades 1-8 classes for 1,600 youth, the centres will also provide basic literacy, numeracy, language and life-skills classes for women, men and seniors. Classes will accommodate the community's work and farming schedules.



Level four learner at Munasio

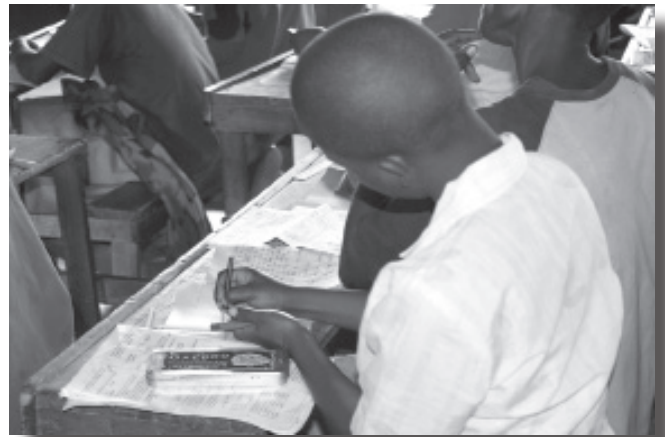
2. Health and HIV/AIDS Education:

Education on these topics will be through classroom presentations, community outreach activities, peer educator groups, teacher-training workshops, essay/poster

contests within the schools, and target-appropriate handouts/information resources.

A nurse will also regularly visit each Learning Centre for consultation, referral and education, as well as to facilitate Mobile Total Health day camps brought into the communities in partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Health and other partners.

HIV essay writing contest at Shivagala

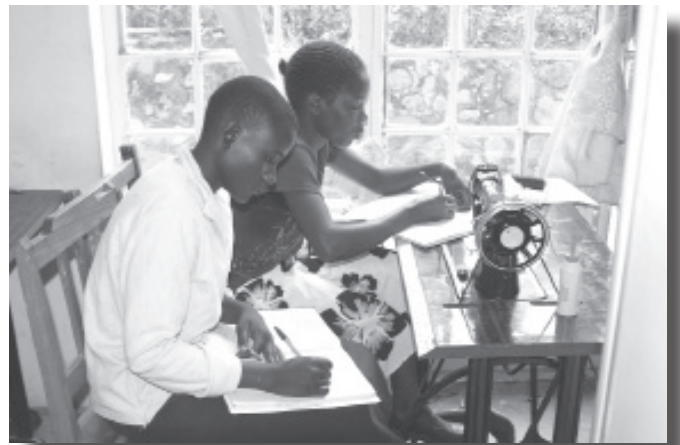


3. Gender Sensitization and Women's Empowerment:

Community awareness will be raised through sensitization workshops, inter-generational peer mentoring groups, training workshops for teachers, staff and committee members, appropriate handouts (printed locally), and essay contests. This material will also be integrated into the school curriculum for both youth and adults.

4. Income Generation:

In cooperation with its bi-lateral partners, ACCES will provide pre- and post- training support for community members to ensure that they are adequately trained and supported to succeed in their businesses. Follow-up workshops will be conducted semi-annually in each community with micro-finance institutions providing financial training and support to the community members.



Boys and girls learn tailoring as Income Generation

"If you are looking for a big opportunity, find a big problem."

Anonymous

5. Agriculture/Vocation Training:

This intense and diverse range of training is specifically for the NFE (non-formal education) Centers to create income for school operations, and is directly linked to the Income Generation component, incorporating appropriate seasonal training in sustainable food and cash crop agriculture techniques.



Tissue Culture banana harvest at Tumaini

By utilizing organic/natural farming and gardening methods, indigenous crops and renewable energy sources for local food production, nutrition and incomes will be improved. Partnerships with Kew Botanical Garden of the UK through the Nairobi GeneBank, Kenya, and the Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI) will provide the seed stocks and all training for the establishment of high value alternative and emerging crops.

This training will increase knowledge of farming techniques and practices such as strategic crop rotation, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), soil preparation, plant spacing, surface water run-off control, etc. Participants will benefit from a greatly expanded knowledge and practical experience with which to obtain work. Approximately 62% of the district is engaged in Agriculture.

Additionally, the training of village livestock agents (Community Based Animal Health Workers) to diagnose and administer basic treatment for common animal ailments will improve the health of the community's livestock and provide another small business opportunity.

6. Construction:

Construction of four 9-12-room schools and 4 community wells, will take place with significant in-kind contributions from the community. All construction materials (bricks, mortar, steel, windows, doors, gates, etc.) will be purchased locally in Western province, and all labour will be contracted from the Kakamega District.

7. Capacity Building, Project Management and Evaluation:

Current ACCES project staff have been trained to ensure effective implementation of these programs. Teachers will receive ongoing training in teaching methodologies and members of the Centre Management Committees (CMCs) will receive training for their planning and oversight role.

The Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology in Kakamega (MMUST) will also perform an initial base-line survey and undertake a mid-term evaluation of the project according the Terms of Reference of the CIDA contract.

Finally, semi- annual "field days" will be held in each community to demonstrate the program progress in a Model Village context. Neighbouring communities



Sanitation behaviour training

will be invited during harvest times to view the crop yields and demonstrations of the organic techniques. Activities will also be held around preparing and tasting food from the new crops, with contests and information hand-outs. Other ACCES programs will be introduced to the neighbouring communities as well.

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What's Happening in the Communities

- Lucy Tengeye has reported the challenges and achievements in the communities where ACCES is working.

Emetsayi:

This center has been raising its standard of academic performance steadily since 2006. In 2010, it received an award for being the most improved school in the district. One of the learners scored a 389, the highest score for an NFE school in the district.

The CMC (Center Management Committee) has very ambitious plans and has already achieved so much success through the tissue-culture bananas, greenhouse, vegetable garden and fish pond projects that it has even brought electricity to the site by securing a grant from the Constituency Development Fund.

Now it is raising funds to electrify the school so that it can move to the next phase of the plans they have made, which is a computer lab and a locally-run TIVET (Technical, Industrial and Vocational Education and Training) offering tailoring, welding and carpentry courses.

Tumaini:

When only seven out of 17 KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) candidates qualified for secondary scholarships in 2010, the parents and CMC collected enough funds to send the remaining ten students to local day schools and TIVET institutions. Last year, no students were paid for by the



Most Improved School Trophy



community or parents. Part of the funds for operating the school are now coming from the tissue-culture banana and indigenous vegetables project. The CMC pays for mama uji (porridge), security, ten secondary students, learning supplies and an early childhood development class and its teacher. This school also won a trophy for being the top NFE school in the Lurambi District for 2010.

Elufafwa:

The most vibrant and active adult education class of all the centers is located here. One of the adult learners has not only learned basic literacy, but has been hired by the CMC to work in the greenhouse, harvesting tomatoes, grading them, tracking the harvest and sales of tomatoes to the community members. This center has also implemented its own performance evaluation matrix for the students and the teachers, tracking student test results and assignments against their teachers to measure how well the teachers are teaching, and the learners are learning.



Tomato Harvest at Elufafwa

Shitaho:

Only last year this center was in a poor state. The CMC was not effective in running the schools and the community members did not trust them.

However, there was a core group of parents and community members that had learned from visits to Emetsayi and Tumaini and wanted to achieve the same results in Shitaho.

They went door-to-door in the community, campaigned to make changes, and were finally able to hold an election to replace the CMC with new members. Today, they have acquired a plot of land with a title deed, a new well from Rotary International, built a mud school on their own initiative and hired several new teachers to replace those who were aligned with the old CMC. Finally, Shitaho is poised to move to the next level of development and will benefit from the new CIDA project.

Emasara:

Formerly called Ikonyero, this center has acquired its own plot of land and has built a temporary structure of mud containing seven classrooms. It still has many issues to be solved, but the newly elected CMC chairperson and the CMC are very committed to moving forward in a positive way. As one of the poorest communities ACCES works in, it has been very encouraging to see them get this far on their own initiative. The new CIDA-funded project will include Emasara.



The new school at Emasara

Munasio:

This extremely poor community has raised 200,000 Kenyan shillings to purchase land and has elected a new CMC to organize the registration of the title deed and the construction of a mud school as soon as land is purchased and a deed is in place. Munasio has many unique challenges, including a dense population and small land holdings, which makes it more difficult and expensive to find a suitable plot of land.

In addition, because it is common knowledge that ACCES is funded by Canadians, those few who

are willing to sell their land want much more for it than it is worth because they think there is 'muzungu' (person of foreign descent) money behind the school. Nevertheless, the community members and CMC have raised a 'muzungu' amount of money and are willing to spend it to get their school. Munasio is also one of the targeted communities for the CIDA project.

Shivagala:

This is also one of the poorest communities and has similar challenges to Munasio in that it has a high population and small land holdings. However, the community has found a suitable plot right across the street from the borrowed buildings it currently occupies, with an owner willing to take terms and transfer the property right away. This will enable the CMC to begin organizing for new income generation activities so they can finish paying for the plot and for the registration of the title deed. Shivagala is the fourth and final CIDA project community.



Mobile HIV outreach in Shivagala

It is encouraging to see such positive results and progressive changes occurring. Your continued support will enable ACCES to continue empowering these communities in their efforts.

*"Carpenters bend wood, fletchers bend arrows;
wise men fashion themselves."*

Buddha

A Reminder to our American Donors

American supporters of ACCES can receive tax receipts for any donation made to ACCES. This has been made possible, at no charge, by KESHO, an American-based non-profit organization supporting students in Tanzania and Zambia. 100% of monies designated for ACCES will be forwarded to either ACCES Kenya or ACCES Canada. Donations can be made by making a cheque payable to KESHO and sending it to ACCES.

These Students Need Your Help

Anne Mbalitsi Waku



Anne was born January 28, 1991 in Kakamega South District, Western Province of Kenya. She attended Eregi Girls' primary school, scoring 333 marks on her KCPE exams. Anne attended Moi Girls High School from 2005 to 2008, achieving her KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) with a B- overall.

She is now enrolled at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kakamega, pursuing a degree in Education Science.

Alex Tom Wabuti



Alex was born December 05, 1989 in Mumias, District, Western Province of Kenya. He comes from an illiterate family, but was able to attend the local primary school while staying with the Deputy Headmaster.

Alex scored 445 out of 500 marks in his KCPE exams and was called to a top Nairobi school.

Unfortunately, financial hardships and his father's death prevented him from going to Nairobi, but he was able to attend secondary school in Kamusinga where he attained an A- in his KCSE.

Alex attends Egerton University and is pursuing a degree in Engineering and Technology.

Anne and Alex need sponsors to complete their degrees. Please contact the ACCES Canada office to learn how you can become a sponsor.



ACCES is Proud of its Kenyan Staff

ACCES wants you to get to know the Kenyan staff and what their roles entail in helping communities in Kenya become self-sufficient and sustainable.

Lucy Tengeye: Program Director



Lucy manages all of ACCES' programs, operations and staff, ensuring that things are running smoothly and according to the strategic plan. Lucy is responsible for ACCES Kenya.

David Jumba: Accountant and CFO



David is responsible for tracking and managing the ACCES payroll in Kenya, donor funds and ACCES remittances in Kenya. Working in cooperation with Lucy, he oversees all financial dealings.

Clarah Muyera: Scholarship Coordinator & Office Manager



Clarah not only manages the scholarship programs and resource centre, but also the office and administration of the other programs. She compiles reports and organizes events.

"A shared vision is not an idea...it is rather, a force in people's hearts...at its simplest level, a shared vision is the answer to the question: what do we want to create?"

Peter Senge

Kenya Staff

Anthony Kikibu: NFE Coordinator



Anthony is responsible for the NFE Centres, coordinating the Centre Management Committees (CMCs) and teachers, ensuring that the centres are performing well in the

KCPE examinations.

Monica Amunga: Health & Gender Coordinator



Monica is a Community Health Nurse, who visits the NFE centres to check on the health of the learners. She conducts training in hygiene, gender, HIV/ AIDS and other health-related topics.

Japheth Muyanda: AVTP Coordinator



Japheth is responsible for the ACCES Vocational Training Program. He manages a tailoring course that makes uniforms for ACCES scholarship students as well as for other institutions.

“We need a multiplicity of visions, dreams and prophecies - images of potential tomorrows.”
Alvin Toffler

Election of Officers

The following names have been placed in nomination for the ACCES Board of Directors, 2011:

David Connop
Jack Grant
Don Larson
Candace McLellan
John Sawatzky
George Scott
Chris Wilson
Eileen Malova (Kenya)

Karen Ford
Sandra Harper
Maureen MacDonald
Leigh Sauder
Elizabeth Scott
Donna VanSant
Edward Youngberg

The eighteenth Annual General Meeting of ACCES will be held:

Saturday, June 11, 2011, at 2:00 pm
2441 Christopherson Road, Surrey, BC

All supporters and interested persons are welcome.
Please let us know if you plan to attend!

Phone: 604-538-7267

ACCES Sustainer's Circle Spring Luncheon



Bring your friends and join us for a delicious lunch and a heart-warming presentation at ACCES' annual Sustainers' Circle Spring Luncheon at:

Eaglequest Golf at Coyote Creek
7778 - 152 Street Surrey

Thursday, May 26, 2011, 12:00 - 1:00 pm,
by reservation only.

** Please arrive 11:30 am*

There is no cost for this event. It is sponsored by an ACCES Supporter.

Phone: 604-688-4880 or 778-240-3183 for your reservations

ACCES | African Canadian Continuing Education Society
#137 – 970 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2R4

phone: (604) 688-4880

e-mail: info@acceskenya.org

web: www.acceskenya.org

