HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

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- Announcements
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In our report entitled “Education for Peace & Sustainable Development in the Tana Delta”, we explained our intention to scale up TRLF interventions in 2014 to cover a broader geographical area and to give more depth, value and sustainability to the human development assistance we render.

We started a community outreach programme in September 2013 whereby TRLF staff and youth volunteers visited outlying villages in Wachu Oda, Chara and Mwina locations to speak with communities who have yet to benefit much from our education assistance programmes. We needed to understand their real needs and circumstances to better assist them.

During our visits, we encountered young people with a great thirst for education, such as those at Buyani Secondary School, which has the most basic of educational facilities. The school was restarted with two classrooms borrowed from a primary school after being abandoned during the ethnic clashes in 2012.

We met entire communities, such as in Bilisa village, who are willing to pay a part of the school fees communally by selling firewood to enable the few youth in their village who are in secondary schools to complete their education. Bilisa is populated by the Wataa tribe, traditional hunter gatherers who have often been left on the fringe of mainstream society.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>REMODELLED SPONSORSHIP SCHEME</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2014 SECONDARY SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>US$150 ($$195/RM500)</strong> enables ONE needy student to complete another year of secondary education;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>420 students of all ethnic and religious backgrounds</strong> will be assisted from across the Tana Delta and neighbouring areas;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Beneficiaries selected based on <strong>economic need, family stability, personal character and academic performance.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• A cost effective means of nurturing <strong>independent, discerning and conscientious young people</strong> as future leaders for the delta.</td>
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Bilisa village has only two residents who have completed secondary education to date.
The community outreach programme also benefited our staff and youth greatly as it helped them empathize with other communities in the delta and understand in a deeper way their great responsibilities towards nurturing peace and sustainable development in their communities.

We had meetings with head teachers of all the seven public secondary schools in the delta, as well as headmen from more than half of the delta villages. Based on the information gathered, we remodelled the Secondary School Sponsorship Scheme to be implemented in 2014, details of which are shown in Table 1.
Chara is an outlying area that was directly affected by the ethnic clashes in 2012/2013. Many villages were burnt and abandoned by September 2012. Fearing for their safety, the villagers stayed away until the middle of this year before returning to rebuild their lives. Peace talks spurred by local community leaders from the different ethnic groups have been very effective in Chara, more than in any other location affected by the violence.

Buyani Secondary School is situated in Chara Location, and serves villages in Chara and neighbouring Wachu Oda and Kone Mansa locations. The school restarted in September 2013 with 27 students, down from over 200 before the ethnic clashes. This number is expected to rise to over 100 students in 2014.

Students from Buyani demonstrate a great thirst for education, more than students in the other delta schools. Although their journey to have their own secondary school has been marked by challenges and disappointments, their spirits have not diminished.

### 2014 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO BUYANI SECONDARY SCHOOL

In 2014, US$9,300 (S$11.9K/RM30.8K) will be allocated to Buyani Secondary School in Special Development Aid to fund:

- A generator or solar facility to enable students to study at night;
- Construction of a multi-purpose room for library day and meetings;
- Sports equipment;
- Furniture and equipment;
- Educational trips for Buyani students;
- Sponsorship for participation in County Schools events.

Other assistance includes:

- TRLF scholarships valued at Ksh150K (US$1.8K/S$2.3K/RM5.8K) for Buyani students;
- Pilot mobile library service.

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Mwanahamisi Athman, head-girl of Buyani Secondary School
Ten years ago, the state of public secondary education in Tana Delta was characterized by inadequate and poorly maintained school facilities, poor teaching quality, alcoholism amongst teachers, chronic absenteeism, poor coverage of curriculum before the national examinations and lack of appreciation by the local community on the importance of education. Furthermore, teaching staff were mainly from the local communities, making it difficult for head-teachers to make independent, professional decisions due to communal ties and arm twisting.

TRLF started developing Garsen High School (GHS) upon its inception in 2004 with the aim of providing a viable alternative to existing public secondary education in Tana Delta. Today, GHS is the top school in Tana Delta with an enrolment of over 600.

The development of GHS provided TRLF with a platform for improving the quality of education and professionalism in all the other seven public secondary schools in Tana Delta. The level of competition and pride to excel is now evident amongst head teachers and staff members in all the public secondary schools.

Malika, Furaha and Gwiyo are all studying at Garsen High School and living at the TRLF community home in Idsowe.
The school which TRLF started in 2012 is being registered as the Delta Mustard Seed Academy. Enrolment has expanded annually, from 26 children in 2012, to 58 last year. We are expecting total enrolment of between 80 to 100 children this year from Baby Class to KG 3 (i.e. 4 levels). We now employ 4 teachers, 1 assistant manager and 1 caregiver. Three of our youth interns have been assigned as part time volunteers to assist in the maintenance and accounting tasks. We have built a canteen for the children.

ACHIEVEMENTS

It has been a challenge since the inception in 2012. Our staff lacked the necessary experience and the learning curve has been steep.

Our efforts are starting to pay off. Children as young as 4 years are now able to read 2-syllable words. This is a remarkable achievement as most 8 year olds attending primary schools in the delta struggle to read.
In January 2014, TRLF will launch a pilot mobile library project to provide students from two schools in Tana Delta with access to reading material for the first time in their lives.

Gadeni Secondary School is situated in Salama location, not far off from the tarmac road. The head-teacher, Mdm. Maua is very development focused. Student discipline is very high, probably the best amongst all the schools in the delta. This being a pilot project, we needed a school that had good leadership combined with high discipline to enable TRLF youth librarians to gain sufficient experience and exposure in handling their tasks. Gadeni Secondary School was an ideal choice for these reasons.

Buyani Secondary School, the other school selected for this pilot project will be receiving special development assistance from TRLF from 2014.

A school bus owned and managed by the foundation, loaded with books donated by friends in Malaysia and Singapore, will make two visits per month to each of the 2 secondary schools selected for the pilot project (i.e. four library days per month).

The project will be run by the TRLF youth interns. Once they have gained enough experience, the project will be extended to one or two primary schools neighbouring Gadeni Secondary School and Buyani Secondary School.
Shortly after the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) delegation visited us in August last year, the office of the Chairman, Tun Dr. Ling, informed us of their offer of another four scholarships for our youth to be taken up in two parts in 2014 and 2015.

We are extremely grateful to the Madrinha Trust from the UK who will be funding all non-tuition fee education expenses for these four new candidates.

These costs include:
- passport applications,
- IELTS exams at the British Council,
- air tickets from Kenya to Malaysia,
- full board and lodging during their studies at UTAR.

We are now in the midst of preparing the first two candidates, **Nyale Balozi** and **Gwiyo Solomon**, for admission to UTAR in May 2014.

The two of them are presently with our Youth Formation Programme and have been in charge of the fish and rabbit projects.

Gwiyo is in charge of maintenance of TRLF computers, while Nyale in responsible for starting up the mobile library project.

The other two candidates, Evans Abaganda and Komora Bendecto are preparing to join UTAR at the 2015 January intake. Evans helps with the secondary school programme while Komora helps at the Delta Mustard Seed Academy.
2014 ASIA TRIP

Gabriel Teo will be in Asia from 22 March to 15 May 2014

- 22 March to 17 April 2014 - SINGAPORE
- 18 April to 30 April 2014 - MALAYSIA
- 1 May to 15 May 2014 - SINGAPORE

2014 MITUMBA COLLECTIONS

This will be held from 22-29 March 2014

The venue is the Nativity Kindergarten car park behind the Church of the Nativity of the BVM. Please note that entrance is via Hougang Ave 8 opposite Punggol Park. Further details are provided in a separate write-up entitled.

As in previous years, some of our youth will travel to Singapore to coordinate this project. We are appealing for assistance in terms of donation of Star Alliance miles to obtain their air tickets. A return ticket with Ethiopian Airlines between Mombasa and Singapore requires 60,000 miles. If you have expiring miles in sufficient quantity, and are able to let us use those miles, do let us know.

2014 DONOR VISITS

We were blessed with many visitors in 2013, including Jeremy Neo, Lim Ah Huat, Teo Eng Hong, Alison Kuah, Rocco Hu, Tun Dr. Ling Liong Sik and his delegation from UTAR and Kong Ren Yu.

If you would like to visit us in 2014, please let me know so we can meet to make preliminary plans during my stay in Asia.

Thank you and God bless.
Gabriel Teo Kian Chong
29 January 2014
### Table 1: 2014 Secondary School Sponsorship Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
<th>TARGET NUMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL COST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship (SSP-A)</td>
<td>Model students, good academic improvement, self-disciplined, community-minded</td>
<td>▪ Ksh10,000 (S$150/RM385)</td>
<td>▪ Candidates proposed by Tana Delta school heads and teachers ▪ Vetted by TRLF</td>
<td>▪ 100 students</td>
<td>Ksh1,000,000 (S$15,000/ RM39,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary (SSP-B)</td>
<td>Economically most disadvantaged in each village from ALL locations in Tana Delta</td>
<td>▪ Local/County schools - Ksh12,000 (S$180/RM460) ▪ National schools - Ksh16,000 (S$240/RM615)</td>
<td>▪ Quota set by TRLF, Headmen selects candidates ▪ TRLF shortlists after home visits ▪ 250 from Tana Delta ▪ 10 each from Tana River, Kilifi, Lamu</td>
<td>▪ 250 students @ Ksh12k ▪ 50 students @ Ksh16k</td>
<td>Ksh3.8m (S$57,000/ RM146,200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Sponsored (SSP-C)</td>
<td>Selected students living in TRLF homes who volunteer with TRLF during school holidays</td>
<td>▪ Average of Ksh35,000 (S$520/RM1,350) ▪ Sponsorship of full fees and related expenses e.g. uniform, textbooks, transport, living expenses, school trips</td>
<td>▪ Case by case basis through TRLF office ▪ Emphasis on orphans and single parent families, or neglected children</td>
<td>▪ 25 students</td>
<td>Ksh800,000 (S$11,950/ RM30,800)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL SECONDARY SCHOOL BUDGET**

Ksh5.6m (S$84K/ RM215K)

**TARGET NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL BENEFICIARIES**

425 students