



An opportunity to set up a social enterprise in Bupadhengo, Uganda

Background

Girls in Uganda often drop out of school. This is for a number of reasons associated with poverty- families may have to chose who they can afford to educate- people have to buy uniforms, books and food for children to go to school- and often girls are more useful to keep at home. Girls may also fall behind in their education after puberty, as there are limited toilet facilities so its acceptable to stay at home during menstruation.

There are a number of campaigns and initiatives to address this.

This Project

One such project has been set up by Wessex Social Ventures (WSV) run by Southampton University - a Social Enterprise training people in making and marketing washable sanitary towels (samples are available!)

A few folk from Shirley have met with the team from WSV and discussed the possibility of setting up a Social Venture with our link parish in Bupadhengo. The Ascension Church in Bitterne Park are also involved in this project, partnering with their link parish of Namenage.

Pastor Peter (the vicar) and two senior teachers at two of the local schools (Bupadhengo School and Itakulu School) were very interested, and completed some feasibility surveys for us.

Finances

The total cost of the project is £2500 to each parish

Enable Busoga (a charity that works in Bupadhengo) plan to offer some funds from their reserves (£1,000).

We want to raise a further £1500.

This is a one off start-up cost for materials. The business should be sustainable and generate income almost immediately, as the products are made and sold by women in the village. The team from WSV offer business management training, as well as how to make the products.

You can support this project by giving online at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/sanitarytowels. Donations will be handled via Enable Busoga.

Racheal Mwanga (Head Teacher, Itakulu School), Harriet Naminda (senior female teacher, Bupadhengo School), Esther Clift (St James' by the Park)

