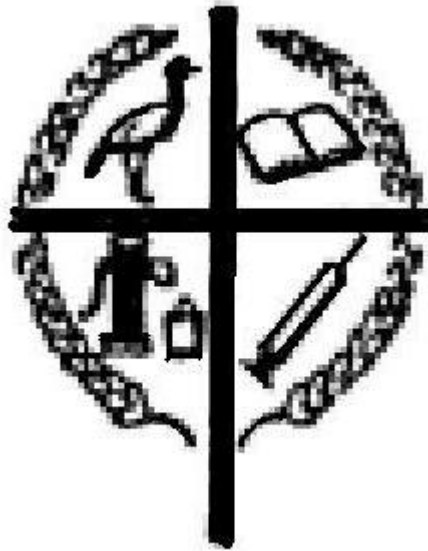


The Busoga Trust



People of Bitterne

Namalembe Home Improvement Campaign Update Report

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1.) Introduction

On Friday 2nd February the population of Bupala village, Namalemba Sub – County turned out in force to witness the third prize giving ceremony of Busoga Trust’s much coveted Home Improvement Campaign. In addition to the large local audience that attended Busoga Trust had the pleasure of welcoming health, water and sanitation officials from Iganga District and the day’s guest of honour Trustee Frances David. The day was a cause for celebration not only for the villagers of Bupala but also for Busoga Trust, and partners, as it reaffirmed their position as one of the most effective implementers of household hygiene and sanitation sensitisation within the Busoga region.

2.)Background

The Busoga Trust Home Improvement Campaign has taken off from the rationale that a clean and hygienic home is essential for the maintenance of clean water. It is a very simple logic but lack of education and ignorance on the matter often results in the clean water, supplied by the Busoga Trust or others in the water and sanitation sector, being contaminated through unhygienic practices such as; collecting water in a dirty jerry can and/or storing clean water without a lid.

However, instead of just focusing on the preservation of the safe water chain Busoga Trust sensitisation has evolved so that the issues of poor sanitation and hygiene are tackled holistically. To do this we sensitise communities to the dangers of poor sanitation and unhygienic behaviours and encourage preventative measures toward poor sanitation and hygiene related disease such as; diarrhoea, worms, conjunctivitis and malaria. Through the introduction of appropriate rural technologies, e.g pit latrines, tip taps, dish drying racks, refuse pits and well drained bathrooms; the Busoga Trust has been able to arm rural Ugandans with the tools necessary to disrupt disease transmission routes. The result has been a massive reduction in the prevalence of many of the most common communicable diseases experienced by the rural poor in Busoga Trust project areas, particularly that of Namalemba Sub – County.

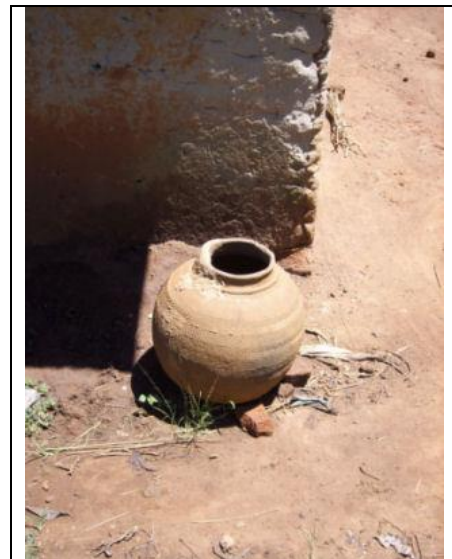


Fig. 1 – Water stored in dirty open containers is easily contaminated

3.)Disease Reduction

“A healthy and prosperous community”– Busoga Trust mission statement.

In accordance with our mission statement the recent running of Home Improvement Campaigns is a direct attempt by the Busoga Trust to realign its effort to focus on bringing good health and prosperity to communities within our project areas, a task which cannot be accomplished solely through the provision of clean water. It is imperative that those who support the Busoga Trust understand that sustained hygiene and sanitation sensitisation is vital if we are to practically realize our mission statement on a regular basis. The results shown in Table 1 are indicative of the success yielded by the, Bitterne Parish sponsored, Home Improvement Campaign.

Population of Bupala – 1860		No. of Households - 330		H.I.C start date – 31/10/06 H.I.C prize giving – 2/02/07	
Disease	% of community complaints pre - intervention	% of community complaints post -intervention	Main reason(s) for improvements		
Malaria	95	50	Improved drainage around the homestead		
Diarrhoeal Diseases	87	09	Increased latrine coverage and hand washing facilities		
Typhoid	57	02	Adherence to the safe water chain		
Worms	85	10	Thoroughly cooking food and better kept compounds		
Skin infections	56	25	Increased knowledge and awareness through health talks		
Trachoma	54	20	Improved mgt of available water and better kept compounds		

Table 1 – Disease prevalence before and after the Bupala Home Improvement Campaign.

The majority of the success, in our sensitisation programs, is due to the hands on nature in which our health education team engages the community. Sensitisation meetings, capacity building workshops, hygiene and sanitation training are all methods in which our extension workers interact with the community in a fully participatory manner. It is a valuable aspect of the work we do, accounting for 20% of our annual budget, and is vital if we are to improve the lives of those we work with.

4.) Enterprising Mobilisation

The underlying reason behind the Home Improvement Campaigns success has been, however, its ability to mobilise a large number of individuals and homes into participating. One of the keys to this has been the recently launched Busoga Trust radio program. Aired on local radio station Kiira FM the program, which addresses hygiene and sanitation issues, is broadcasted to homes throughout Busoga, and Luwero district,

educating listeners on matters such as refuse disposal, operation and maintenance of sanitation facilities and hygiene within the homestead. Not only is the show broadcasted via a medium which is accessible by the majority of rural inhabitants but it also affords listeners the opportunity to have their own say on issues which ultimately affect their health and livelihood. We are giving a voice to the masses.



Fig2 – BT staff Sam Kiiza and Moses Mugabane hosting one of BT’s ever popular radio programs.

The second reason the campaign has been successful is quite simply incentive. When moving into new project areas the Trust staff come up against a number of cultural barriers which have inhibited people from adopting proper sanitation and hygienic behaviours (i.e faeces from a child is bacteria free and therefore harmless). Often sensitisation campaigns fail as they do not give those who they are trying educate adequate reason or incentive

to do so. By placing a, friendly, competitive emphasis on the campaign the Trust has been able to mobilise a large number of households eager to claim the accolade of ‘most hygienic home in Bupala’ and the, modest, prizes that come with the title. It is hoped that improvement in health experienced by the locals will motivate them to continue in improving their homes and communities.



Fig. 3 – An open and dilapidated kitchen is exposed to rain and disease spreading vectors such as rats. In securing the structure and entrance we reduce the risk and allow for cooking during rainy seasons.

5.) Prize Giving Ceremony

The day itself was a huge success. Not only was there a large turnout locally, but the presence of health and sanitation officials from district office gave greater exposure to the work done by the Busoga Trust. The Local Councillor 1 and the LC3 of Namalembe took time to thank Bitterne Parish for their continued support, without which the campaign would not have been able to take place, and requested their future support so that other villages in Namalembe sub-county can benefit from the improved quality of life they are experiencing.

The marking criteria of the campaign focused on the presence and condition of appropriate rural technologies such as the kitchen, bathroom, hand washing facilities, pit latrine, refuse pit and dish drying rack. The cleanliness of the compound as well as the presence of a safe water chain was also taken into account by the adjudicators. With a score of 92% the winning home was that of Kadyesi Mwamadhi and family.



Fig 4 – Ssebo and Nyabo Kadyesi receive their prize for most hygienic home in Bupala. It is presented to them by BT’s Joseph Baisi (right)



Fig 5. – The Kadyesi’s clean compound & dish drying rack.



Fig 6. – The winners pit latrine with ash and H.W.F

6.) Additional Photos



Fig 7 – A community hygiene and sanitation follow up meeting in Namuyenge village, recipients of the first H.I.C.



Fig 9 – The day's entertainment!



Fig 10 – The community's turnout at the prize giving ceremony.

7.) The next step

There is no question that the campaign has thus far produced highly encouraging results, however more can and should be done. For example, of the 330 homes that took part in the Bupala Home Improvement Campaign over 160 of them scored less than 50% on the

adjudicating forms. Does this mean the campaign has been a failure? No, what it does suggest however is that these homes are in need of further monitoring and follow ups so to improve their homes to an even higher standard. Furthermore, Bupala is one of thousands of small villages in Busoga. There are countless families living in sub-standard conditions because they are yet to be sensitised to a healthier more sustainable way of living. There are so many lives we can help change for the better. All we need is the means.

The support the people of Bitterne have given Busoga Trust is invaluable. Thanks to your kind donations we have already had a positive impact on over 4500 lives in Namalemba and surrounding areas. Without your support we simply wouldn't have the resources to intervene and change the lives we have for the better.

On behalf of the Busoga Trust and the villagers of Namalemba thank you.

Signed

Matthew Fay
Busoga Trust Liaison Officer

