

“I was drowning in a flood of hopelessness until you came along with a boat full of hope.”

Titani Surmaisi, 13-year-old girl, now a grade 8 student thanks to Egmont support

This wonderfully poetic quote from Titani in Zambia vividly captures the effect your generosity is having on children’s lives in sub-Saharan Africa. As Titani says, “It was one fateful morning when my teacher told me KF [Egmont partner Kucetekela Foundation in Lusaka] was sponsoring vulnerable and academically strong pupils. My family would not have managed to send me to school.” It is our ambition to transform the lives of many thousands more children like Titani with your help.

In this newsletter we highlight the work done by some of our projects to alleviate the impact of HIV & AIDS on children: Mitengo in Zambia, recently visited by a group of our supporters at the end of an epic fundraising

walk; Meninos in Maputo, Mozambique, focused on street children; and the inspirational Kimara Peers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. We also showcase a new publication which allows our donors to track the collective impact of Egmont’s portfolio of projects.

AIDS demands an exceptional response, particularly in relation to its impact on children – like the two young orphans below whom I recently met through our partner Imagine in Katembe, Mozambique. **When we visit the projects you support, we are struck time and again by how grassroots solutions, funded with your help, can have such a direct and powerful impact for a relatively small investment.** We cannot stress enough how grateful our project partners are for your incredibly generous assistance, and we very much hope that you will continue to support their fantastic efforts. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Linnea Renton :: Director of Programmes

The right support helps bereaved children in Katembe to thrive



NURTURING SUCCESS

Mitengo Women's Co-operative, Zambia

Trustee Clare Evans and six Egmont supporters (right) recently visited one of our longest standing partners, Mitengo in Chongwe, Zambia. The history of Egmont's involvement with Mitengo is a good example of how the Trust works with small but growing local organisations. It was set up by Charles Banda, a trained agriculturalist, and Mrs Mwale, founder of a local community school. Both were conscious of numerous households looking after orphans who were struggling to find enough to eat – many surviving on one insufficient meal a day – and were unable to send the children to school.

In 2005, their newly established organisation, the Mitengo Women's Co-operative, heard about Egmont and approached us for a small pilot grant to create nutrition gardens. They succeeded and received one of Egmont's very first grants. Within a year they were able to demonstrate measurable improvements in household diets and incomes.

We have supported Mitengo every year since, and have helped them grow from a membership of 75 to over 400 in more than 20 villages, benefiting 3,600 people. The first members are now wholly self-sufficient in food production, eating three healthy meals a day and with surplus crops to sell. The community school has expanded and secured trained teachers. Mitengo members also now have access to small loans with which to start businesses and many of these are thriving. Egmont's support has also unlocked other funding to improve local housing.

It has been an extraordinary experience to witness the success story of Mitengo and the transformation it has brought to the local community. It serves as an excellent example of 'the Egmont effect': supporting small, carefully targeted interventions and thereby significantly improving thousands of lives.



TRACKING YOUR SUPPORT

A handy new tool captures Egmont's impact

We have just produced a summary of our current project portfolio and its performance, which we think is a very useful tool in conveying the range and impact of the projects you support in Africa. For each project, there is a one-pager outlining at a glance its location, overall aim and specific scope, main target groups, sectors of impact, funding committed by Egmont and number of beneficiaries (expected and actual).

Most importantly, each project record lists key achievements and impact to date, challenges faced and indicators of organisational progress. We track problems as well as successes, and use this to help our partners improve performance over time.

The information is drawn directly from partners' proposals, quarterly narrative and financial reports and annual evaluations, supplemented by the direct observations of staff and Trustees on their regular field visits.

We are excited about this major step forward in capturing the essence of what our projects are achieving, and would be delighted to share it with you. Please contact Jane Baker on jane.baker@egmonttrust.org for a hard copy, or an emailable pdf version.

PROJECT IN FOCUS

Meninos de Moçambique

Street children are extremely vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, with HIV infection just one of the dangers they face. Their living conditions are precarious and unstable, and their relationship with anyone in authority is often fraught with fear and mistrust. Working successfully with this difficult and transient target group is full of challenges – so it was heartening for Egmont's Director of Programmes Linnea Renton to see for herself in July the impressive results being achieved by our partner in Maputo, Meninos de Moçambique.

Egmont has worked with Meninos since 2007, committing £84,000 to the project in the past four years. Meninos have 15 staff who work directly with over 230 children currently living and working on the street, to improve their safety, health, hygiene, nutrition and education. One key focus is the provision of identity cards, without which children cannot access any basic services.

Through the Meninos health programme, 1,689 children have been vaccinated against polio, tetanus, measles and bilharzia. 90% of the children now enrolled in schools with Egmont's help had positive performance during the past academic year – a remarkable turnaround for many whose lives were going off the rails.

The organisation also puts significant emphasis on outreach for prevention and follow-up. This means working with families to improve parenting skills and household conditions, to prevent children going onto the streets in the first place. It includes intensive follow-up with more than 200 former street children who have been reunited with families, to ensure successful reintegration and care. In the past two years, 1,182 home visits have been carried out by Meninos staff. 29 children who have tested positive for HIV are now receiving appropriate treatment and care (including antiretroviral



medication for those who need it). Vocational training, equipment and provision of work sites has enabled 32 adolescents to set up shop as barbers and hairdressers rather than engage in begging or sex work.

Meninos are now sharing their expertise with organisations in other parts of the country, such as Tete and Beira. These areas have seen increasing numbers of street children because of the recent growth in tourism and the surge of external investment in mining, creating pockets of relative wealth which act as a magnet to children and youths struggling for survival.

Meninos are also helping to train police and social workers to ensure that they deal with street children in a sensitive and appropriate manner. Your support through Egmont is thus having a wider impact on thousands of Mozambican street children who would otherwise face a bleak future.

NEWS FROM THE HIV & AIDS SECTOR :: Investigators of a new gene therapy approach to HIV treatment, who presented their findings in mid-September, reported that their work represented "significant progress towards a functional cure." Initial results showed no evidence of viral rebound after treatment interruption.... Funding from donor governments for AIDS response in low- and middle-income countries fell 10% from the previous year's level, according to analysis published in August 2011 by the Kaiser Family Foundation....

According to a panel of leading economists, a scale-up of interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission would be highly cost-effective – just \$140 million over five years to avert an estimated 265,000 infections.... Researchers in Uganda and Zimbabwe have found that the majority of HIV-positive children taking daily treatment have sub-optimal levels of the drugs in their blood. Current dosing guidelines are based on adult studies, with only very limited information collected to date about drug absorption rates in children....

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

There is a Swahili proverb that goes “haba na haba, hujaza kibaba” (“little by little fills the pot”). We have had great support this year from individuals and companies, helping to fill the pot for our African project partners.

A huge thanks to the staff of travel company **Imagine Africa**, who completed a half-marathon for us earlier this year, raising £2,677 including £1,000 donated directly by the company. Well done to the whole squad, who are also spreading the word about Egmont through their client communications.

Likewise we are enormously grateful to the seven intrepid women who completed a week-long trek in the Mutinondo Wilderness and Luangwa Valley of Zambia, raising over £36,000. What a sterling effort! The trek was followed by a visit to Egmont partner Mitengo in Chongwe, to witness firsthand the difference being made to the lives of local children and families (see page 2 for details).

Do you have an idea for an exciting fundraising challenge? If so, get in touch! We guarantee 100% of the money you raise will go directly to projects improving the lives of African children and families.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS :: TANZANIA

Jane Baker joined Egmont in December 2009 as Programme Administrator, bringing strong skills in finance and IT. Here she describes what her first work trip to Africa has meant to her.

I have a lot of day-to-day contact with all of the Egmont partners by email, but up to now I had never seen the work on the ground. I was delighted to have the chance to go to Tanzania to gain a better understanding of the circumstances in which our partners operate. In Dar, I quickly learned that heat, traffic and power cuts come high up the list of challenges! Personal experience of a new culture, language and customs was an added bonus.

On the technical side, my role was to verify the financial systems and procedures in place to ensure that Egmont funds are correctly administered. I'm happy to say all three partners came through with flying colours, with particular progress noted at Tukolene. In 2008, finance officer Omari did not have a computer, could not use Excel and did not have any paperwork relating to payments other than a bank statement and receipts. Since then, he has earned a degree in book-keeping, and now carries out electronic analysis and monthly reconciliations. He is keen to acquire new skills, improve the systems being used and produce accurate reports. It was great also to have

time with Philip, accountant at Envirocare, and Joyce, finance officer at Kimara Peers. Most of all, I enjoyed meeting the children Egmont is here to help. It was quite an experience to be surrounded by kids at Kimara all wanting me to look at their drawing, listen to them sing and blow up their balloon at the same time! But also sobering to visit a household headed by 17-year-old Elizabeth, who looks after four younger children. Kimara is helping by keeping the siblings together and putting Elizabeth through school. This trip has really opened my eyes; you can sense the good work from afar, but up close you really feel partners' warmth and commitment to change things for the better.



Jane meets children's club members at Kimara Peers in Dar es Salaam

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