



Jericho Primary School Wakiso District



# Feilden Foundation 2021 Annual Newsletter

**The last year has been a real challenge for all of us. Covid came latterly to Uganda with a huge spike in cases from May to July. Fortunately, that now seems to be more under control partly due to severe lockdown measures imposed by the government. But schools have been closed for long periods and that has impeded our work there and in neighbouring Rwanda.**

During last summer we helped out with the issue of infrared thermometers to schools in the Kampala region as they began to open up again in the autumn, but our programme for installation of water purification systems for the Community of Practice schools in Kabale was delayed. We hope it will be undertaken shortly under the direction of our field officer Paul Kimera.

Finally, as a follow up to our work on Climate Responsive Design we have

begun talking to the Department of Education about revisiting the 'Uganda School Design Guide' that we published ten years ago. With most new schools being funded privately, there is a need for more comprehensive design guidance within the secondary school system. This is an area where we can maximise our influence on architecture for education.

**Peter Clegg, Chair of Trustees**

## TEMPERATURE GUNS

**In September 2020 the Feilden Foundation sent 100 temperature guns to Uganda to enable 100 schools to re-open, after Trustee Mike Kironde explained the problems of reopening schools during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Schools in Uganda were ordered to ensure Covid-19 safety measures were in place and standard operating procedures (SOPs) followed before reopening. These requirements include hand washing facilities, isolation rooms, availability of face masks and disinfectants. Many of the schools not able to reach these safety measures, and therefore not allowed to reopen, would result in numerous children unable to carry on their education for the foreseeable future.

One of the requirements given by the ministry of health to guide schools so they can reopen was for each school to have a well calibrated working temperature gun provided at each entrance, something too costly for the majority of schools to afford.

The Feilden Foundation, keen to support the schools in the current crisis, sent 100 temperature guns to Uganda allowing 100 schools to re-open.



The ministry of Education of Uganda was so grateful to learn about the news of the donation through the Feilden Foundation, that they have pledged continued support to the same schools.





Zecobricks is a joint initiative by Heather Owen, a primary school teacher from Gloucestershire who lives in Nungwi, Zanzibar and a Zanzibar local Rajabu Salum (Roger), who has experience working with Kindergarten children, is passionate about the environment and has donated his land for the project.

Single use plastic is relatively new to Zanzibar and so the local community are not fully aware of sustainable disposal. Huge amounts of plastic waste is discarded around Nungwi with no appropriate collection system. What is taken to landfill blows out over the island and into the sea and waste is also often burned.

Heather and Roger's team work with volunteers to provide free education in government schools and the local community – teaching about the dangers of single use plastic, recycling and providing fun, art lessons around up-cycling plastics. The team also collect clean non-recyclable plastics, which is used to make ecobricks, a sustainable building block.

Feilden Foundation will be providing a volunteer design service to construct a small building, collaborating with Momentum Structural Engineers, using local skills and ecobricks as the primary construction method. This building would consist of; two classrooms, resource spaces and external breakout space for play and making ecobricks. The classrooms would offer a space to provide free English literacy lessons, which are creative, encourage discussions and where children can learn motivational skills.

The objective of this project is to continue the teams services, offering education in the impacts of non-compostable waste and how to improve the situation by recycling and reusing plastic collected from the island and local village shops. The collection, sorting and cleaning of the ecobricks, will create jobs for local unemployed women, offering a fair wage, and provide fun activities for the children. It will also encourage locals to reuse plastic to create their own industries, buildings, furniture, etc. which can be a way for them to start their own initiatives.

**'Learning outdoors is the natural way that children approach discovery across the world.'**

John Cleverly has recently completed a new Outdoor Learning Toolkit which takes the approach of Active Teaching and Learning (ATL) outside, using available space to explore a range of ideas and suggestions.

Ugandan children living in a rural setting are generally very connected to their natural environment in their daily lives, however, teachers and schools are used to a classroom-based learning mode and will often only use outdoor spaces out of necessity. This guide hopes to bring some inspiration and creativity to utilise outside space for stimulating learning.

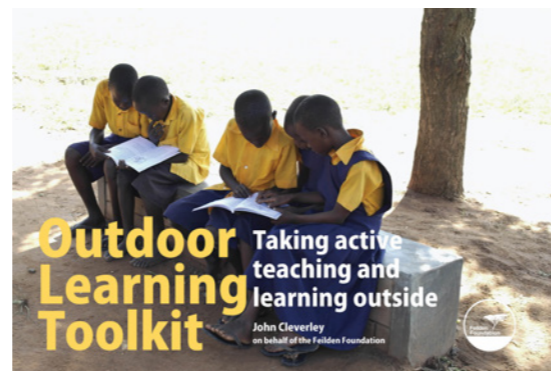
ATL is about making schooling lively and engaging, encouraging pupils to play a part in their learning rather than passively listening to the teacher. It keeps the students at the centre of their education and sees the teacher as a facilitator in the learning process.

The guide begins with ideas and examples of ATL aimed to spark interest and ignite creativity. The intention is that these ideas can be developed and adapted to each school's specific context and site. The examples include: use of subject relevant materials, building dens, creating gardens, and making maps of regions or schools.

Following on from these examples is the project planning stage, where aims, objectives and activities can be set.

The toolkit is written for teachers, head-teachers and other education practitioners who wish to develop their practice and their schools, founded on evidenced based approaches to learning.

The Outdoor Learning Toolkit is available to download from the Feilden Foundation website for **free**.



Despite the significant difficulties facing schools in Uganda which have experienced a 42 day lockdown recently with local communities lacking necessary vaccines and hospitals running short of oxygen, the energy of the Community of Practice (COP) in Kabale shines through.

In addition to a 'Washalot Project' funded by the Feilden Foundation which will give all 11 schools in the COP with a pupil population of over 5000, clean filtered water supplies and hand washing stations, the Project Leaders have launched a Training Project to ensure all girls have access to necessary sanitary pads.



Project Director Peter Tumuhekyi is seeking support for this project and writes:

**'Due to the economic shocks occasioned by COVID 19 pandemic multiple school lockdowns in Uganda, poverty, domestic violence and sexual violence against women and girls have all led to widespread school girl dropouts, teenage pregnancies and early marriages.'**

**The organisation would like to embark on the training of school girls and young women to locally and independently produce eco-friendly, reusable, washable sanitary pads instead of relying on buying the unaffordable expensive and environmentally-unfriendly disposable pads.'**

PROJECT SUMMARY

Although the government of Uganda provides free, accessible, affordable universal primary and secondary education, only around 45% of the girls starting Primary 1 and Senior 1 complete their academic cycle. Many obstacles prevent girls from their successful education in Uganda but mainly these obstacles relate to poverty, puberty, teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

This Project will increase chances for girls to progress and complete their school cycle by reducing absenteeism, through shame and embarrassment while at school. This will be done by

supporting the production of locally produced eco-friendly, reusable, washable sanitary pads. Menstruating girls and young out-of-school women will be trained to sew these pads, use them and sell some in order to raise some income. It is planned over time for some 500 girls to be involved in production of the Sanitary Pads as a business enterprise and the project is seeking funding of £3.5k to launch and deliver its programme.

Full details are available from the Contact person for the Project:

PETER TUMUHEKYI, PROJECT DIRECTOR Tel. +256 772524191 Email [buhurapatel@gmail.com](mailto:buhurapatel@gmail.com)

# CLIMATE RESPONSIVE DESIGN EVENT

Following the publication of **A Manifesto for Climate Responsive Design** and the launch of **FCBStudios Climate Responsive Design** microsite, we together hosted the first in a series of events, aimed at sharing knowledge, expertise and skills in this field.

The thought provoking and insightful online event included a fantastic line up of international guests who discussed a range of topics including education systems, employment, materials and bioclimatic design principles. The event was well attended, attracting over 200 people from around the globe.

Hosted by **Peter Clegg**, with:

**Fatou Dieye:** Regional Coordinator, PROECCO Program, Skat

**Peter Oborn:** Chartered Architect and Strategic Client Adviser

**Isabel Sandeman:** Architect and co-author of **A Manifesto for Climate Responsive Design**

**Mark Olweny:** Programme Leader, Bachelor of Architecture, University of Lincoln and Research Associate Professor, Faculty of the Built Environment, Uganda Martyrs University

We are pleased to be able to share the recording with you online [here](#)

## Climate Responsive Design



After being closed for over a year due to COVID-19, the Ankarafa Field Station site is now open and works are set to recommence within the next month. The design team are finalising phase 2 construction drawings, including a design for a tiger worm toilet; an innovative sustainable strategy for managing human waste on site. Other works include minor repairs to the fresh water pump after being struck by lightning earlier in the year.

# ANKARAFRA FIELD STATION



# RUBENGERA TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The construction of the girls' dormitories for Rubengera Technical Secondary School was completed in March 2020 and the girls were finally able to move in to the new boarding house in November following a delay due to Covid-19. The new building has enabled students to live in the security of the campus and close to all its facilities.

It can house up to 24 students and has showers, eco-san toilets and a room for an animatrice.

We have begun to discuss the next phase of the masterplan with the school which will be to design and construct dormitories for the boys. We plan to revisit the masterplan and brief and build on the lessons learnt from the girls' dormitories for the next boarding house.



**As always we extend our gratitude to you - our friends and entire support network, for your continued interest in FF activities - your support is hugely appreciated.**

FCBStudios kindly support our administrative activities, but we rely on the abundant time and expertise given by our volunteers in addition to donations made generously by our long-standing supporters to carry out the breadth of work we do in East Africa. 100% of donations received go towards building projects or supporting education for African children. We're sure you agree the impact for local communities and children is worthy. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website, or contact us at:

[info@feildenfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@feildenfoundation.org.uk)

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