

YOUTHWORX-East Africa

Annual Report

September 2015.



To our faithful supporters.

It is with great pleasure that I can share with you the Annual Report on the activities of YEA in Uganda. This is based on information provided by Collin to contribute to the Trustee Annual Report for the Charity Commission in the UK.

Introduction

The past 12 months have been characterised by steady growth in the work of YEA. This is encouraging considering the tight financial position and small team.

Ugandan Board.

The oversight and management of YEA in Uganda is undertaken by a local board. The Board is chaired by Silver Innocent and the members are Blessing Nshaho, Anne Grace Fiedler, Lazarus Seruyange and Godfrey Buro. Ian Wardle has a place on the board as Founder Director.

This local board has met 3 times over this period and helps to focus attention on the core aims of YEA:

- Training local Youth Workers that will most likely never receive any youth ministry training/support and leadership development,
- Discipleship
- and a relational approach to ministry.

These values are the DNA of YEA as an organisation.

The board is also taking seriously the need to generate a local income base in Uganda and is looking for ways to achieve this.

YEA Core Team

The core team of YEA is Collin Muwonge (Director) and Eugene Kavuma (Field Worker). Winnie Kavuma (Central region), Richard Semiti (Eastern Region) and Richard Tumwesigye (Southern) are also regular volunteers. This team is complimented by area key volunteers as and when needed.

The Team regularly evaluate and review their work and their SWOT Analysis for YEA over the last 12 months can be summarised as follows:

Strengths: Integrity, Unique service delivery, Relationships over the years, Super team, Growing Board involvement, a big alumni base

Weaknesses: Poor documentation, over stretched team, Dysfunctional website, Slow in local support raising

Opportunities: Great need for YEA in region, Technology, New Partners

Threats: Dwindling finances, Access to hard to reach areas, Poor organisation of partners

North West: New work has started this year based in Arua (West Nile). The partnership is with the Church of Uganda and is expanding via the Archdeacons'. This area is large and fairly remote bordering Congo and Sudan. One clinic (on-the-spot meeting with youth workers and leaders on the ground) and 2 trainings have taken place so far but there is an expectation that the work will grow in the coming year. Although YEA is currently just working with Church of Uganda there is potential to partner with other denominations in the area.

Central North East: Soroti/Amuria. This is a huge area of Uganda that we started work in back in 2013. Again the partnership is with Church of Uganda and is organised for us by Rev. Ogwang and Joseph the local Youth worker. In the past 12 months we have worked in 6 sub-counties. 7 visits have been made, with 5 locations being covered in each trip. This means that over the past year 5 clinics and 30 trainings have taken place with an average of 20 Youth Workers at each place.

The aim now is to hand over the expansion of work here to a local team with Eugene overseeing. This process is in hand and the local team have already received training for this.

Eastern: This area centred on Iganga is handled by Richard Semiti and overseen by Eugene. The partnership here is with Baptist Union of Uganda and Compassion International. The work is currently covering Iganga, Kamuli and Namwendwa with regular trainings taking place on a local level. Palissa district is on hold at the moment as the team there has received a lot of training but is being monitored for when we need to go back.

Central West: Hoima and Masindi. In Hoima we work in partnership with Nelson who is the cathedral Youth Worker for Church of Uganda. In the past year there have been 6 visits for training. We have now worked in Hoima for 18 years and the need is still there.

The partnership with Echoes of Glory in Masindi district is still going strong. This is a local youth mission team. Eugene has made 4 visits in the past year. 2 for town based training and 2 when he has joined the mission team on outreach and done training in the evenings.

Central: Masaka/Mityana: YEA worked in Masaka area for a period covering 5 years (2007-2012). In 2013 we stopped working there to redirect resources to Mityana region. Jackson, one of the key young people at that time is now a senior pastor for a church in Masaka town and a very good example of some of the fruit from the investment over those 5 years. Working together with Jackson we have now started to engage the new crop of youth leaders. We have had 1 clinic and 1 training for these young emerging leaders. Mityana area remains a place with a lot of potential. Over the last year we have been to the region 5 times working together with the Anglican Church youth workers and leaders in the communities.

South West: Kabala/Kisoro: Our partnership with the Baptist churches in this region has rapidly developed in the last 1 year. We have made 7 training visits in 3 districts in this region and interfaced with 200 young leaders from both Baptist and Anglican churches. Richard is one of our key volunteers in this region and organises all our work engagements.

North East: Karamoja: Moroto is the major town in the very remote Karamoja region and lies 504kms from Kampala city. It takes 12 hours to reach this town from Kampala city. This region is still listed by the British Foreign Service as no go area. Working together with the Anglican Church leadership, we have conducted 2 trainings for young leaders from 7 districts in this region. This region is very large and sparsely populated and travelling from one place to another is still a huge challenge.

Volunteers:

Collin reports "Christophe from Netherlands joined us for a period late summer 2014 and Chris and Leo from UK came over summer 2015.

On both occasions the work was split between Kisoro and Hoima. Plus Christoph made a trip with Collin to Karamoja

We always love to have volunteers coming over to join us for periods of time as they bring a new dimension to the relationship with our up country partners.

As we move forward we are looking at how to encourage Interns to come over to Uganda for longer periods of time to join us."

Potential Work:

There are outstanding invitations to Kajo Keji in South Sudan and to return to Burundi when the political unrest settles.

Collin is looking at how best YEA can support local Youth Workers in Mwanza (Western Tanzania). This area is hard to reach from Dar es Salaam city so misses out on support from churches there. However it is quite accessible from Uganda.

Networks:

KAYNET and NAYNET: The network of Youth Workers in Kampala is still meeting monthly to support and encourage each other. YEA has a key role in ensuring this team grows. We also maintain our strong relationship with NAYNET in Nairobi and Collin has just returned from the annual conference there. He went early this year to join a small focus group of East African Youth Workers to discuss the needs of young people in the region.

Vehicles:

YEA has 2 vehicles: A Toyota Prado is used principally for heavy up country work and a Toyota Rav4 mostly for local use. Both vehicles are running well and the team see no immediate need for any change or replacement.

Finances:

The Team report that, although tight, with careful management and a few austerity measures, they are managing to keep running and see the work grow. They testify to clearly seeing a "loaves and fishes" situation in action.

UK and Europe support and funding

The UK Charity YOUTHWORX-East Africa, charity number 1081113, has four Trustees all founding members since 2000. Email newsletters from the Ugandan Team are circulated via the UK to supporters across the world, and a meeting for prayer support takes place each month, hosted by Opengate Church in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, where the charity was first formed.

The funding for YEA is based on relationships with those actively supportive of its ministry. Due to changing personal circumstances, the bulk of the regular monthly financial support has declined in recent months and now rests with just 19 supporters. We are delighted to receive occasional additional funds during the year, one of our supporters takes advantage of a work-place matched funding scheme and the annual major fundraise is undertaken by one of our Trustees on a FunRun. These, along with accountable stewardship practices in Uganda, have helped to keep YEA operating over the past year. However, the decrease in

funding is a cause for concern as it is a limiting factor in the work the YEA Team are able to undertake in Uganda.

Due to the relational aspect of the support base, we feel we are a little like a family and are grateful to you all for your partnership in the gospel. This may be through taking an interest, through prayer, by financial giving or visits and volunteering. Over the years, you have all invested a lot in the ministry of YEA in East Africa and there is much fruit to be seen, seeds sown, and lives changed. As one supporter put it recently: *"The work they do is hugely worthwhile and has the potential to impact a whole country for good"*.

We welcome your feedback on this report. If you have any questions please contact me or one of the YEA Team below.

There are opportunities for you to become more actively involved too. We are looking for the following volunteers :

1. Someone interested in communication who can become part of the UK based team to improve the way we connect with each other, pass on information, and develop relationship between supporters and the YEA Team in Uganda.
2. Our UK based supporter co-ordinator who has been sending out the newsletters for many years would like to pass this on to someone else at the beginning of 2016. If you would like to take on the email newsgroup, please contact me for more information.
3. We have no one responsible for fundraising so if you have a skill in this area, or have ideas on how we can increase the funds so that more can be done, this may be for you.
4. As you have read, volunteers are welcome to visit to join with the Ugandan YEA Team in their ministry for short or long term mission opportunities. If this interests you, please contact the team.

Together we can make a difference and we are praying that the Lord will inspire others to join in the volunteer mission team and help take YEA into His future.

1st November 2015

Thelma Edwards, YEA Trustee, Chair and Treasurer

Email: Thelma.edwards@btinternet.com

On behalf of the UK Trustees:

Kay Attwell, YEA Trustee Secretary

Paul Attwell,

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Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Youthworx-East-Africa/308134772604779?ref=ts&fref=ts>