

**Project Visit and Impact Assessment by Phil Grant
29 September – 4 October 2015**

TDT Ref. 262 and 262a

Kasulu Youth Development (KAYD), Makere, Kigoma Region

Since TDT funded the equipment and classrooms for the Makere Vocational Training Centre (MVTC) and later the boys and girls dormitories Philippa and I have kept in regular contact with KAYD.

I last visited in November 2013. The reason for this recent visit was to help KAYD with their Strategic Plan, and also assess whether the DAAT and TDT funding had been used correctly and what benefit this has had on the MVTC and its students.

Because of the enrolment criteria changes made to VETA courses i.e. Form 4 Secondary School leavers who can afford to pay the fees, MVTC are in a key position to accept students who are of a much lower educational standard, from poor families, and who are therefore marginalised. This fits well around KAYD's Mission Statement.

I was pleased to see that since my last visit, the new buildings funded by TDT had all been completed satisfactorily, and water catchment was all in place, which backed up the photos sent to Philippa in one of the TDT reports from Mr. Rulakizuye, KAYD Managing Director.

I was also delighted to find that Rula had engaged several new staff; a Programme Manager (Dodoma Uni. graduate), an MVTC Co-ordinator who also carries out M & E, and 2 new Project Officers. This brings their staff up to 8 which was a recommendation I made after my last visit, when I was very concerned Rula was carrying too much on his shoulders.



Using income from selling items manufactured in the VTC (e.g. door and window frames, chairs, tables, water carts, security grills, and school uniforms etc), they have installed a hand-dug well, built a kitchen and mess hall from local materials, plus a tool store, meeting room for the trainers, and extended the girls dormitory to double the size. They now have capacity to accommodate 50 of each gender in 3 dorms, and those living close by attend as day students.

Due to the close proximity of the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp with Makere village, there are a great many relief agencies working in the area. Community land has been taken from Makere to extend the Burundian side of the camp since March this year (a road bisects the camp of 200,000 people, the other side being Congolese.)

I believe to 'compensate' the area, KAYD was lucky to gain a contract with WEKEZA which is funded through International Red Cross (IRC), and paid by Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). This was to train vulnerable youths in vocational skills and they were paid 300,000/= per student. This will come to an end in November 2016.

As is so often the case in NGO's such as this they have no core funding.

Apart from obvious expenses for food, cooks, guards etc. this WEKEZA contract has given KAYD the opportunity to pay allowances to the volunteer staff, and purchase a motor bike for visiting the outreach areas where graduated students have set up businesses. DAAT paid the trainers' salaries up until last year again giving KAYD a 'breathing space' to really establish itself, which they have now done.

Now KAYD's biggest challenge is to establish a Partnership with a funding agency so they can continue to expand and improve the facilities and services they are offering, to poor and often vulnerable youths in and around Kigoma Region. Their priority will be researching and writing proposals to several lead funders of similar projects in Tanzania. If securing a partnership fails it will pose a serious threat for KAYD and could mean they have to seriously scale-back on their activities, as they would again be wholly dependent on income from the sale of VTC products, and school fees. At present only about 25% of students pay fees, the rest being paid for through KAYD.

For me I could see that one of the limiting factors holding training back was the lack of good tools available for practical classes.

The tailoring room now accommodates 22 sewing machines (they bought several more themselves) and one embroidery machine and there was evidence of plenty of material and threads, scissors etc. which they buy from sale of garments and uniforms.

The welding machine supplied by TDT was still in good working order and the VTC regularly get orders for making metal chairs, security grills, doors etc which provides a good income.



However it was the carpentry and construction tools that were considerably lacking. Although they can buy Chinese and Indian tools locally, they are of very poor quality and often break quite quickly when put under pressure! African wood is remarkably dense and heavy and tools such as sash cramps break when over tightened. I saw a cramp less than one month old in a village business that was already useless, and the carpenter was improvising with using large stones to weigh down the wood after gluing.



Getting more tools is another priority for KAYD and I have suggested they should look at the possibility of getting a shipment from Tools with a Mission (TWAM). These tools are old but reconditioned

As you can see from the pictures there has to be a lot of improvisation!



Some more innovative carpenters have managed to make some of their own tools! I saw an amazing home-made rebating plane.

In the villages, many students who have graduated from KAYD have set up their own small businesses. Either in the case of sewing machines they hire them for 5,000/= per month, or work together in pairs and share their meagre tool set.

Impact of TDT's inputs

During my 5 days at Makere I visited a number of graduates who have set up their own businesses. KAYD make regular follow-ups to as many students as they can on a monthly basis. Obviously some students have gone to look for work elsewhere so KAYD have lost contact with them, but those I met certainly were full of enthusiasm and praise for KAYD and how their relatively short and basic training has turned their lives around. They **all** had the same messages:

1. If KAYD had not given them the opportunity to learn some basic vocational skills, they would have no job and no way of earning an income. They would only have their farming skills and this would limit their income generation to the sale of any excess crops, having used some for the family. As it is they now had an alternative especially during the dry season, so all those I met, without exception, said their skills were allowing them to generate extra income.
2. During their training there was a deficiency in tools. This meant they often had to observe rather than be practically involved. Also that some of the tools were of such poor quality or broken they were difficult to use. Having to share tools meant they were often held up as another student was using something they needed.
3. The carpenters all told me that because KAYD had a planing machine (supplied by TDT) this made wood preparation very easy. Now in their business they didn't have such luxury, so they were finding it very hard work to prepare the wood by hand. KAYD have monitored this and will now only use the planing machine to prepare wood for their commercial work. Students will prepare wood by hand planing for their learning.
4. All told me their accommodation was very basic and often cramped, but they were happy as without somewhere to sleep they would not have been able to afford accommodation in the village.



Nathan graduated from Makere Vocational Training Centre just over a year ago. He set up his own business making windows and doors outside his house in Makere village. He told me that to start with 'business was slow', but now he is known, he gets plenty of work. 'Tools are a problem but I make do with what I have.' I asked him if having his small business had helped him improve his income. His reply was with a huge confident smile, saying he regularly makes 90,000/- a month profit! 'Sometimes it is more if I am lucky but now with the rains approaching, there will not be the same demand for windows and doors, as people will be farming, not building houses'



After her course at KAYD, Agatha set up her business with her sister in the village of Kigadye almost on the Burundi border, 45 km from Makere. Her sister already had some training in tailoring, so now they are able to help each other. She hires her sewing machine from a local businessman at 5,000/= a month. She told me sometimes they have very little work, but sometimes they get plenty, and (this was whispered to me) on average she

makes 50,000/= a month after her expenses. Money she would never have had before her training.



This picture shows John who finished his training at KAYD almost two years ago. He has a thriving business in a workshop in Herushingo 30km from Makere. He proudly told me his business has meant he has been able to afford bride price for a wife. He also added “ before my training I had nothing, and I was just helping on the farm but my business has given me enough money to build a small house with a tin roof and also buy some new tools”

KAYD staff and all the graduates I met extended their “greetings and heartfelt thanks” to TDT and DAAT for their generous support, and said Asanteni saaaana!