

JUNE 2019

Newsletter of the VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

Over 30 years supporting development work in Africa

Welcome!

Over the past year or so we have noticed a change in relationship with our partners in Africa. We have been receiving more requests for funding than we have had for some time and, with one exception, the requests are not for large, ambitious programmes, but connected with building skills, gathering evidence and understanding impact. Thanks to the generosity of the Village Volunteer supporters and our ability to engage with other members of the ICA global network to work together, we have been able to meet several of the requests, and are planning to raise funds from other donors for the remaining projects.



A farmer showing his young eucalyptus trees after training from Safe Neighbourhood Foundation in Uganda- more on page 2.

In this Newsletter we report on a new grant from the Department of International Development that we have received for Uganda (p2); we report from Kenya on how the Village Volunteers grant for research in Kenya has been spent and share progress on work with people living with HIV/AIDS (p3); on the planned facilitation training in Benin, partly funded with VV funds (p4). We also provide the usual updates on work in Nigeria (p5) and Cote d'Ivoire (p7). On Page 9 we introduce the International Association of Facilitators, its presence in Africa and our possible collaboration with them. Finally, p10 shares other snippets of news from our network in Africa.

Do you know anyone who could become a Village Volunteer sponsor?

With the focus on supporting the development and growth of local organizations in Africa, and on investments which other donors do not often support, our approach is both unique and vital for sustainable development.

Please visit www.ica-uk.org.uk/village-volunteers for more information and sponsorship forms

ICA:UK has been working in partnership with the Safe Neighbourhood Foundation in Uganda since its inception in 2005. Over the years we have been successful in raising a number of grants for different programmes, most recently from the Small Charities Challenge Fund of the Department of International Development (DFID). Implementation will commence in the next month or so, once we have all the various arrangements and agreements in place. Here we describe the intention of the programme and outline some of the key activities. We will report on progress in future issues of the Newsletter.



Named “Developing Farmers Skills in Budaka” this two-year programme focuses on improving the livelihoods of over 4,000 farmers and their families by training them in both agrarian and business skills and by establishing demonstration plots to show how the skills can be applied. Village Savings and Loan Associations will also be supported and strengthened. The £50,000 programme builds and expands on previous SNF programmes in the area, all of which are based on what the community needs/demands. As the District Chairman, Samuel Mulomi, wrote in support of the programme,

“Over the years I have seen the work of SNF make a big difference in Budaka, increasing the skills of community members, supporting improvement of water and sanitation, supporting vocation training for vulnerable youth, local schools. The planned programme to strengthen agricultural skills amongst farmers is much needed as it is the main occupation of the communities and will help improve the lives of many.”

In addition to the programme activities, we have been able to build into the proposal and the budget some capacity development activities for SNF. These include further training on the Technology of Participation methods for SNF staff members and facilitating a new strategic plan for SNF, possibly using the Theory of Change approach.



Researching the Impact of ICA in Kenya

In the last issue of this Newsletter we reported that funding had been granted from Village Volunteer funds and from ICA Canada for Henry Ikatukhu and Patrick Mbullu to carry out research on the impact that ICA has had in Kenya over the 50 years or so that it has been active there. The initial research has now been completed, with 35 people interviewed from five project sites visited (Kabiro, Kamweleni, Isinya, Il Ngwesi and Mariakani). In addition, 21 ex-members of the ICA Kenya staff shared their own experiences and memories.

The resulting report, which is still being worked on, begins to paint a fascinating picture of what ICA has been able to achieve, what has really lasted, what hasn't, and what differences it has made, not only to the target communities but also the individuals involved in carrying out the development work, and how they remain involved and committed to such work, years after their time with ICA. We will be reporting further on this once the report is completed, sharing some of the stories of impact that have been gathered and highlighting lessons for the future.

The Positive Self-Management Programme (PSMP)

Some readers will remember that ICA:UK and ICA Kenya were instrumental in introducing the Living Well/PSMP into Kenya for people living with HIV/AIDS. With funding from the Elton John AIDS Foundation we were able to train a number of people living with the virus, centering our work in Nairobi and Mariakani (near Mombasa). In addition to the individuals trained, several self-help groups were established and supported- places in which people could gather to meet, share, support and embark on learning new skills and approaches together.

The initial training programme ended in 2007, with a comprehensive evaluation being carried out with researchers from Thames Valley University and the Aga Khan University (Nairobi). Now, at the request of some of the self-help groups, ICA:UK partner Support for Community Response are developing ideas on how to both explore how the groups and individuals have fared over the past 11-12 years, to capture the lessons learnt and design future interventions. ICA:UK will help them identify and access funding for this work. Two examples of groups still active:



Tsangatsini support group being trained by a Government livestock officer on local poultry



SCR Director Beatrice Imali having a Positive Self Management session with Afya support group.

The ICA:UK Board recently approved a grant from the Village Volunteer funds as a contribution towards the training of both women's groups and ICA Benin staff in the ICA's Technology of Participation. This article describes how the project came about and what is planned in the training.



A women's group in Benin- women from groups such as this will make up 50% of the participants in the training

women's empowerment. In 2009, ICA Benin became a member of the Huairou Commission, a global network focused on empowering women. Through this membership, they are working on initiatives such as Women Land Link Africa (WLLA) and Volunteer Care Giving for people living with HIV. As members of the Huairou Commission, women's groups involved in projects participated in several activities of this network in Benin. Women's leaders participated in numerous meetings in Accra, Ghana in 2009, Lesotho in 2010, Zambia in 2011, Tanzania and Kenya in 2012.



But, on the ground, they need methods like the ToP for community mobilization and the launch and implementation of projects. That's why they are looking for the support of ICA France, to give the training in French. This workshop will also be an excellent opportunity for members of the ICA Benin board to learn more about project planning methods and special training in graphic facilitation. That's why Nicolas and I decided to go help Benin in their initiative.

The training will take place over 5 days in July. In addition to ToP methods the training will also introduce graphic facilitation to the participants. There will be 30 participants all together, drawn both from the Huairou Women's Groups and from the ICA Benin staff members.

The project will be financed through a contribution from Village Volunteers, by Fourmis du Changement who will cover the cost of the trainers' travel to and from Paris and who have been successful in attracting sponsorship from two companies to cover the cost of facilitation materials (Neuland and Good, and by ICA Benin who will contribute to some of the costs through in-kind donations.

African update: Nigeria

In this article, **Hannah Anighoro**, Director of ICA:UK partner and ICA International Associate member, the Esta Perpetua Development Initiative (EPDI) reports on their recent work with schools, colleges and Non-Government Organisations.

While EPDI continues to offer training and facilitation services to other organisations, it is also concerned with its own development. The Board held its first meeting this year on May 28, 2019. All members, except one were present at the meeting with decisions taken to re-position the organization for more impact this year.

Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) Envisioning for Souls Harvesters Missions Frontiers, December 18 -19, 2018

The Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) is a potent tool for helping the Church fulfill her mandate i.e. implementing integral missions. It empowers and equips the Church to impact her community by working with community members to develop their community. The objective is to empower the Church and Community holistically to transform their situation using their God-given resources.

“People are the best experts of their situation. They know how best they can solve their problem. It’s just that they have not been given the opportunity to look hard at what they have and what they can do. Therefore, we began creating that opportunity, and it is empowering and powerful.” Francis Njoroge, Consultant and CCMP Facilitator



Hannah has been trained as a CCMP facilitator and for the fieldwork stage (where Trainee Facilitators have to practice what they have learnt) she travelled to the Souls Harvesters Missions Frontiers (SHMF) which is the Missions Arm of the Souls Harvesters Ministry, Delta State Nigeria. There were 20 participants and Hannah took them through a three-stage process: visioning, bridging the gap, and building commitment.

#ASAP – Anti Substance Abuse Project Lagos Roundtable Event

#ASAP is a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral initiative focused on advocacy, awareness creation and education for behaviour change aimed at discouraging first-time use and dependency on drugs and harmful substances. The state-wide conference was convened to discuss opportunities and jointly commit to a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platform for collaboration and impact. All core and sub-stakeholder groups including NGOs, Secondary Schools, various regulatory and policy-making institutions and experts actively working in the substance use ecosystem were in attendance.

One of the highlights at the event was a movie presentation which enlightened participants on the dangers of drug and substance. The movie was well put together and stakeholders donated towards the project. ‘Say No to Drugs Abuse’ is everyone’s responsibility beginning from home i.e. the Family, Church, Community leaders and the government.

Life Skills and Sexuality Education for Melville College, Ojodu-Berger, Lagos

We started discussion on the above theme with this set of students. The essence of this program is to equip the students with knowledge and skills that will enable them develop and release their potentials for a purposeful and fulfilling lives. We had two meetings where we introduced EPDI as an NGO and the objectives of the programme with them, definition of life skills and sexuality, three stages of a human being and characteristics of the adolescent stage the students are in and changes (development) taking place in them – spiritual, physical, mental/moral and social/emotional development.

We treated “Life is an Adventure” in the second meeting comparing adolescence to a journey one has never gone before and the need for proper preparation, the right tools/techniques/skills and the right guide for clear and right directions that will lead them to have fulfilling lives. A total of eighty-five students (27 males and 58 female) attended the first meeting while fifty (50) were present in the second meeting.

Catch Them Young, Mepol Nursery & Primary School, Ojodu, Lagos



We visited the school twice also this term and treated two topics namely: Love and Chastity. The essence of these topics is to enable the children know what genuine love is and be able to walk in love and show love to one another; to decipher between true/genuine love and lust, and to keep themselves from being defiled or molested by paedophiles. They were also reminded of the MAIN rules

we discussed previously. It was quite encouraging that many of them still remember what they are.

Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN) Zonal Congress And Election

Hannah was recently re-elected to the Zonal Committee of CRUDAN: The members of the Committee serve for a period of three years, for two terms. This year, three members including the ED of EPDI, were returned to the Committee for the second term while election was held for the remaining three seats.



The new Zonal Committee Members (Hannah is second from right)

ICA Cote d'Ivoire's work in rural development, supported with funding and technical assistance from ICA Japan, has helped them raise their profile in their home territory and established them as a more visible presence in the eyes of the Government. As Eugene Kouame reports, this has led to their involvement in more and larger projects.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has obtained additional funding of US\$50 million from the International Development Association (IDA) to finance the implementation of the Youth Employment and Skills Development Project (PEJEDEC). The project has three components: Temporary employment opportunities; Skills Development and Employment Support; Institutional Capacity Building. The aim is to improve the skills and access of 31,500 young people to employment through internships in companies (2,000 young people), apprenticeships (10,000 young people), the entrepreneurship (5,000 young people), additional qualifying training or requalification training followed by internships in companies (2,000 young people) and labour-intensive work (12,500 young people).



A village meeting held during the mission

Under Component 2 of the Project, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are being set up to finance the creation of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in rural areas. The objective is to promote entrepreneurship in rural areas through the development of the savings and credit culture. As part of the activities of the World Bank-financed project in the four departments of Agneby-Tiassa, a mission was carried out with ICA Cote d'Ivoire to review and learn from the work they had done with VSLAs and to consider how this

experience could inform the new programme. Overall the learning from the visits was that the VSLAs were making good progress, and while there were some challenges, in general the impact of the VSLAs was positive and people were seeing the benefits of being part of them.

March 2019 saw the launch of a new 4-year project funded by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) through ICA-Japan. This new project is called **"Creating sustainable agriculture and reducing poverty through a resource-based agriculture that links livestock and culture in Agboville"**. The project, which is a continuation of the one started in 2015, focuses on 585 vulnerable young people in 11 villages in the Agnéby-Tiassa region.

ICA Japan will support the project by placing a coordinator with the team. As part of his introduction, Yusuke Takaishi went to some of the villages involved in the project to evaluate the progress of the livestock, agroforestry and market gardening, one year after the end of the project of the third year. N'gorankro is one of the villages that has made a good sustainability of all activities of the project, with more than 1000 chickens in breeding.



In April we welcomed Shizuyo Sato Executive Director of ICA Japan in April, and visited not only the project villages but we also went to Bouaké and Brobo in the centre of Côte d'Ivoire to assess new projects. ICA-Japan and ICA-Côte d'Ivoire have in the past worked on several projects for reintegration, awareness raising on HIV / AIDS, the introduction of market gardening, cashew nuts and improved palm trees in this region. We

also visited the construction site of a community training centre for teaching hairdressing, sewing, embroidery and weaving of traditional Baoulé loincloth. This centre was once the pride of the city of Brobo because it is the only centre offering vocational qualifications to young people out of school in this locality, but it has been closed following the crisis experienced by our country.

We also took advantage of the visit to go to places where previous projects had taken place. We visited the village of Ayabo-Abouokro where the Japanese Embassy built a school of four classrooms plus the Director's office and latrines. After Ayabo, we went to Boka-Kouamekro, about 17 km from Brobo. This village is one of many that benefited from the HIV/AIDS awareness project funded by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan (MPTJ) in 2003. Boka-Kouamekro today has just opened its first bamboo classroom, and now the village authorities have asked ICA-Japan and ICA-Côte d'Ivoire to help them with the construction of some more permanent classrooms for their school.



Training in the village sometimes means making do with whatever materials you can find!

In May the new project really took off, and we carried out activities such as soil sampling, training in compost making, establishing vegetable growing plots for (e.g.) okra, eggplant, cucumbers, cabbage and tomato while some villages, exploring ideas of agro-forestry, have mixed maize, palm and citrus trees and cassava. We have also imported chicks from Japan, which are now growing well.



African Collaboration: International Association of Facilitators

The International Association of Facilitators (IAF) is the professional association that promotes the profession of facilitation and supports and governs the global community of facilitators. Started in 1994 it now has around 50 chapters established in seven regions. One of these regions is Africa, where there are now 80 members across 17 countries, and chapters in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda. ICA has been connected to the IAF since its inception and there is currently a global agreement encouraging collaboration between IAF and ICA at the national/local level. Here we give some background to the current IAF chapters and their activities and focus on a possible joint initiative in Uganda. For more details see <https://www.iaf-world.org/site/regions/africa>



Facilitation is not yet a well-defined concept in Africa, although there have been different forms of the approach being utilised in different contexts across the continent for many years. ICA's own facilitation work in Africa dates back to the 1970s, when community volunteers were trained in effective methods and set off to help villagers develop visions and plans for their own communities, often literally walking from village to village. As well as the community level, there was a growing demand for facilitation in Non-Government Organisations, multi-lateral agencies and the private sector. By the 1990s there was enough demand for individuals to be setting themselves up as freelance facilitators and earning enough to make a living. It was during that time that it became an important income stream for ICA Kenya.



Small group work at the IAF Conference in Mombasa, Kenya in 2018



John Cornwell (left) with members of the Uganda chapter, January 2019

This growth in the number of professional facilitators has been one of the factors enabling the establishment of IAF on the continent. Under the leadership of John Cornwell (well known to readers of this Newsletter!), the Association has expanded to embrace new people and new countries. Annual conferences are being held (the next one planned for Togo in October this year).

In late 2018 IAF Africa was discussing with IAF Europe the idea for a project to develop facilitators in Uganda. ICA:UK was asked to join the conversation and a proposal was drawn up, setting out a project to establish a pool of recognised and certified facilitators in the country, available primarily for community development work. ICA, through our partner ICA Uganda, would be involved in the delivery of the training and subsequent mentoring of the trainees. At the moment, this is as far as the project has got, but we are hopeful that we will be able to contribute to the establishment of this valuable resource.

Learning Networks

ICA has long put emphasis on the importance of sharing and learning. Although at times it can be challenging to make the time and space available to do that in a formal way, our approach seeks to incorporate and capture such wisdom informally. The regular regional meetings that take place in Eastern/Southern and West Africa over the years have also contributed to the process, adding in an international element. We also hope that the impact assessments that have now been carried out in Benin, Kenya, and Uganda can also be part of a valuable learning resource for the future.

The concept of learning networks is one that has been taken up by UK donor Comic Relief through their project *“All in, All Learning!”* initiative. In a recent blog Maya Sethi, Comic Relief’s Evaluation and Learning Manager, reported on a network meeting she attended in Tanzania, highlighting the contribution the meeting makes to strengthening organisations and civil society, and how they help shift the power to the implementing organisations, away from donors. Read more [here](#).

From the archive...



Village Volunteers was born in Kenya, and these are examples of photographs we still have from the early days of the scheme. With the current research going on into the impact of ICA in Kenya (p3) and some of the stories being told as part of that work, we are looking forward to connecting some of our historical records with what was done and what remains today.

**The Village Volunteer sponsorship scheme is a project of ICA:UK,
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**For more information on ICA:UK, the International Programme or Village Volunteers,
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