

DESERT ROSE TRUST KENYA – DECEMBER 2009 UPDATE



Children playing in front of Bone Charcoal Filter Tank in Kapeddo settlement

Turkana District in Kenya was traditionally known as a 'closed' area in pre-independent Kenya as it was considered insecure and there was very little economic value in the area. This led to increased marginalization of the communities in Turkana which is still apparent today. Kapeddo, a location in Southern Turkana, with a community of in excess of 15000 people is a highly marginalized arid area. The community in Kapeddo are largely pastoralists but have encountered challenges in benefiting from a pastoralist livelihood due to continued conflict between neighboring communities. The water in Kapeddo contains unacceptable levels of fluoride and sodium which has resulted in serious health problems in children and the elderly as high fluoride causes 'brittle bones'. Kapeddo settlement has vital existing infrastructure that due to serious neglect over many years has been run down. The Desert Rose Trust Kenya, a trust spearheaded by the Wasunna family and made up of professionals who volunteer their time and services in Kapeddo and its environs, have began to rehabilitate this vital infrastructure so as to ensure the community have access to potable water, access to affordable rural electricity and access to quality primary and secondary education as well as access to vocational training. The combination of these issues will enable Kapeddo to be a safe location, attract business to Kapeddo thus stimulate the local economy and offer more opportunities for the Kapeddo community to develop themselves. In addition, good quality secondary education will equip students from this marginalized location to obtain good university education and thus compete for national and international positions. Vocational training will address the current dearth of required skill sets in Kapeddo.

More recently Kapeddo Hospital has featured in the national media as a hospital that was treating Cholera cases from the neighboring and conflicting community, the Pokots. As the hospital had beds and capacity to manage the cases, the military flew in patients via helicopter.

The local MP is becoming more involved, and has been instrumental in ensuring the ongoing new build of the secondary school. To date Form 1 and 2 are operational with approximately 60 students in school



Kapeddo Hot Springs

It is with enormous sadness that we have to report that in June 2008 Ambrose succumbed to cancer and in July he was buried in the village of his birth overlooking Lake Victoria. Marigold continues to live in Nairobi and Nicholas, who works for World Vision and is based in Nairobi - they have taken up the reins and continue to organize support to the Kapeddo community.

To date the Desert Rose Trust has achieved the following in Kapeddo:

1. Rehabilitated the single phase hydro- electricity scheme so as to provide affordable rural electricity in Kapeddo (hospital, schools and other institutions)
2. Have began work on establishing a 3 phase hydro - electric system due to increase demand for electricity
3. Ensured potable water to the community of Kapeddo through installing water collection tanks that feed through a bone charcoal filter.
4. Provided the new Kapeddo Secondary School with essential learning materials that have include key text books for all subjects and teacher reference material.
5. Provided secondary education scholarships for 14 needy students, predominately girls, from deprived homes in Kapeddo. The students that have recently finalised their secondary education have undertaken further courses and some are seeking university positions.
6. Provided school furniture for the primary school
7. Provided water tanks for rain water catchment for the primary school and hospital.
8. Organised and dispatched 2 separate missions of young Christians from Nairobi to assist in youth education and Christian Witness in Kapeddo.
9. Undertaken rehabilitation of the hospital, conducted mobile clinics and serviced the ram pump that provides water to the hospital from the hot springs.
10. Provided food aid, mosquito nets, health kits, educational packs and new mother kits to needy people.
- 11 The Desert Rose Trust is currently installing a water catchment system for the hospital so as to ensure the hospital has additional piped water from the bore hole. This acts as a back up system.

Future Plans

The community in Kapeddo lack effective capacity and marketable skills thus the Desert Rose Trust will seek to create non formal educational opportunities such as computer training, sewing classes, carpentry workshops, metal work sessions, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, masonry, dress making and plumbing training. A simple example is that currently for any building work in Kapeddo the skill sets required must be brought in from over 50 km away.

On behalf of the Kapeddo Community we would like to thank you for all your kind support and prayers and as we look forward to implementing the future plans we kindly request that you continue to partner with us so as to ensure all people are able to realise their God given potential regardless of circumstances.



Pokot mother and child accessing health care in Kapeddo



Turkana women and children

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