

David Anderson Africa Trust

NEWS

Winter
2001/2002

Supporting education
and training in Africa

www.daat.org.uk

Regd. Charity No. 1001425

Four-fold success

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We are delighted to report that four students sponsored by DAAT have recently completed their studies.

Rose Mkumbwa, 30, from Dar-es-Salaam has successfully completed her Bachelor of Commerce degree at the Catholic University of East Africa in Nairobi. Rose, who was supported by DAAT for her final year of study, graduated in October 2000.

James Gbagbe, 41, has just graduated from Uganda Christian University with a degree in Social Work and Social Administration. For more news about James and his research, see the back page.

Rosemary Akech, 35, has achieved her goal of becoming a qualified teacher, having completed her Bachelor of Education degree at the Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo, part of Makerere University in Uganda.

Gaudencia Kimori is the second woman student sponsored by DAAT to graduate from the Open University of Tanzania. Gaudencia, who joined OUT in 1996, has just graduated with a BA (Education). Gaudencia, 49, showed great dedication to her studies, successfully combining her degree course with her teaching career. (We are sponsoring a total of ten women students at OUT, studying a range of subjects including Education, Law and Commerce.)

We congratulate Rose, James, Rosemary and Gaudencia on their excellent achievement and wish them every success in their future ventures.

Funds for Kenyan student

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Peter Joel Mohere is studying for a BA in Economics at Nairobi University in Kenya.

He was supported through his secondary education by a bursary from the Tatwa-Maahe Educational Trust (TMET), a Cambridge-based charity.

TMET recommended Joel to DAAT, and DAAT is topping up his existing funds to allow him to complete his degree.

Overcoming obstacles to women's education

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Elly Macha has taught, worked in education administration and spoken at conferences across the world. Elly, who is blind, is studying for a PhD at Leeds University in the UK on "The problems faced by blind Tanzanian women seeking education".

Elly received funding from DAAT for her fieldwork in Tanzania in 2000. She interviewed over 80 people, including blind women, village leaders, school teachers and national policy-makers.

The obstacles to education for blind women pinpointed by Elly include prejudice on account of disability and gender; sexual harassment; economic hardship; poor country infrastructure and lack of transport.

Elly is now back at Leeds working on her thesis, and hopes that her recommendations will help change attitudes and policy in Tanzania and provide educational opportunities for blind women.

TRUSTEES VISIT TANZANIA

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Mary and Janis Anderson (together with Janis's husband and two-year-old daughter) went to Dar-es-Salaam in September 2001 to visit the OUT/DAAT Project, the special education programme for students with disabilities at the Open University of Tanzania. They also attended the international conference on "The challenges of opening up higher education to people with disabilities", organised by OUT from 3-7 September 2001. Here is their report.

New base for OUT/DAAT project

Earlier this year OUT moved out of its original premises to a larger complex of buildings in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam. We were all given a great welcome there. Professor Mmari (the Vice Chancellor) greeted us warmly and talked at length, with tremendous enthusiasm, about the Open University. He is an exceptionally dynamic person and has succeeded in creating a vigorous institution, the only Open University in sub-Saharan Africa.

We presented three 'talking watches' to OUT to be offered to selected blind students, which were greatly appreciated. We were then shown around the whole University campus.

The highlight for us was to see the premises of the OUT/DAAT Project. These newly purpose-built premises are the result of careful planning and comprise a reception area, offices, audio equipment rooms and three recording studios.

Mr. Matthias Chisanga is in charge of the entire production of teaching material on audiotape and does a meticulous job with great skill. It was a fascinating tour and we were greatly indebted to all those who took the morning to show us round.

Monitoring the project

During our visit, we were delighted to have the opportunity to join a meeting of the Project Advisory Committee, chaired by Professor Komba (Deputy Vice-Chancellor). The PAC meets regularly to review progress on the DAAT/OUT project, discuss problems that may have arisen, and to find solutions. The PAC members include:

- representatives of organisations of and for the blind in Tanzania
- OUT staff involved with the project
- our DAAT representative in Tanzania, Mrs Prudence Eliapenda – a highly-valued member of the committee, representing DAAT's interests in the Project and providing valuable input for OUT.

The members of the PAC have clearly been a great help in ensuring that the Project has continued to move forward following the initial days of constructing the studios and training the OUT staff and students.

International conference – opening up higher education

We cannot do justice to the conference here, except to say that we found it extremely inspiring. It was very well organised and the papers were all pertinent and thought-provoking.

The participants and speakers came from many countries in Africa, and included government representatives, teachers and representatives from organisations involved with



Mr Chisanga (centre) with some of the audio recording equipment



Professor Mmari shows OUT facilities to Mary Anderson

Equipment for visually impaired students

DAAT sent a further shipment of cassette recorders for use by visually impaired students at the Open University of Tanzania in February 2001.

A total of 52 cassette recorders and a supply of cassettes and labels have been purchased and sent to OUT using money from the Community Fund grant awarded to DAAT for the joint project with OUT.

DAAT is looking into ways to continue providing equipment for the visually impaired students. Ideally, each student needs two machines for simultaneous listening and note-taking, as well as headphones, batteries and a battery charger.

New scholarship for Congolese student

Muhire Sibbo is the latest student to receive funding from DAAT.

A refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Muhire is 25 and has just embarked on a four-year BA in Community Development at Daystar University in Nairobi.

After his course, Muhire hopes to return to his country and pass on new skills and knowledge to his community to improve settlement, nutrition, social and political development.

Muhire is one of four students studying Community Development at Daystar supported by DAAT. All are making good progress with their studies.

people with disabilities. The participants we spoke to showed exceptional dedication to their work and commitment to seeking ways to improve higher educational opportunities for people with disabilities, especially the visually impaired people.

Much interest was shown in the DAAT/OUT project, and a number of participants felt that the concept could be expanded to encompass other areas of disability and training of teachers of people with disabilities. There was also a feeling that such a project could be beneficial to other African countries.

We had an excellent, very informative trip and a marvelous experience of Tanzania and her people. We met many remarkable individuals and came away greatly enthusiastic about what DAAT is doing in Tanzania in partnership with the Open University of Tanzania.

The future

We look forward to continuing our support of the OUT/DAAT Project and are now working with the Project Advisory

Committee to consider the main areas where further funds are needed to ensure the project continues to expand and make best use of its resources and staff expertise.

Success of our key principles

This project has been a prime example of the success of our key principles:

- working closely with local partners
- having locally based representatives who keep us informed on progress
- providing funds to projects inspired by local institutions
- using local resources
- capacity building.

To continue to support this project and ensure its continuing success, we need your donations. When making your donation, you may specify that the donation is for a particular purpose – such as this project – and we will reserve those funds for that purpose. To make a donation, use the enclosed form or visit our website.

Counselling for visually impaired students: research study

Mrs Eurelia Muyinga, formerly Dean of Students at OUT, is currently carrying out research into counselling for visually impaired students in Tanzania. Eurelia is taking a career break to study for her PhD at the University of Reading in the UK.

The aim of the research is to establish what kind of counselling support students need, and how counselling systems used in the UK can be adapted to the needs of the Tanzanian students.

In 2001, Eurelia carried out her field work in Tanzania. With support from DAAT, Eurelia conducted workshops and interviews with visually impaired students of OUT, in Dar-es-Salaam and at eight Regional Centres of OUT. She also inter-

viewed OUT staff, policy makers from the Ministry of Education and Culture and representatives of societies of and for disabled people.

The findings of Eurelia's research will help establish successful support systems for OUT's visually impaired students. This will ensure that as many students as possible complete their degrees, improving their chances of gaining employment and making an active contribution to their community.

Uganda: tackling the root causes of food shortages

James Gbagbe, a refugee from Sudan, has just completed his degree in Social Work and Social Administration at Uganda Christian University.

His final year involved a research project: "Persistent food insecurity in Adjumani District: a study of the causes with reference to Ofua Sub-county". James has lived and worked in the region of the study, whose population includes both refugees and Ugandan nationals, for the last ten years.

Despite attempts by ACORD (Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development) and other NGOs to implement programmes to tackle food insecurity, food shortages in the region have grown more and more acute. James therefore decided to study the causes of this persistent food insecurity, interviewing both refugees and Ugandans.

The study highlighted several different causes of food insecurity and attracted the interest of UNHCR implementing agencies including ACORD, CARE International and DASS (Danish Association for the Strategy of Self-reliance). James' research also resulted in the convening of a workshop involving all the stakeholders in food production in the district.

Combined with his previous experience, James' studies have given him the confidence to start tackling important environmental and social issues in Uganda.

Artist's support for DAAT

A substantial donation of £1,000 was received by DAAT from Ms Dorothea Patterson, an artist who first set foot in Africa on a visit to Zambia three years ago.

Ms Patterson generously donated the proceeds from a recent exhibition of her work to DAAT.

We have moved!

DAAT's registered office has moved to:

The Michael Young Centre
Purbeck Road
Cambridge CB2 2DS

The best way to ensure a prompt response to your enquiry is to contact us by e-mail:

mail@daat.org.uk

For general information about DAAT, past newsletters, donation forms and Gift Aid forms, visit our website:

www.daat.org.uk

Trustees and advisers

Trustees: Ms Janis Anderson, Mrs Mary Anderson, Ms Cath Attlee, Dr Davina Hoile, Dr Simba Makoni, Mr Jason Pennells, Mr Tim Sheehy, Chief J. Oputa Udoji

Advisers: Dr Dwight Brothers, Hon. Dr Bernard Chidzero, Dr Ibbo Mandaza, Prof Gelase Mutahaba, H.E. Mr Anthony Nyakyi

Fund Administrator: Ms Anna Wilson-Nunn