

DAVID ANDERSON AFRICA TRUST

News

Summer 2000

First DAAT-sponsored graduate from the Open University of Tanzania

In March this year, Thecla Alice Msemwa became the first of the ten women students sponsored by DAAT to gain a degree.

Thecla, a teacher at Kisutu Girls' Secondary School in Dar Es Salaam, was one of six women students who gained their first degrees from OUT this year.

Thecla gained her BA with Education with Second Class Honours, Upper Division. Showing

great courage and dedication, Thecla not only successfully combined her studies with a full-time job and looking after her three children, but also managed to complete her degree in five years instead of the usual six.

We congratulate Thecla on her remarkable achievement, and hope that she will serve as inspiration to other women striving to achieve their ambitions in Tanzania.



Thecla Msemwa receiving her degree from the Chancellor, Hon Dr Samwel Malecela, at OUT

DAAT in 2000

Since our last newsletter, we have helped provide educational opportunities for many new students in Africa.

- We have awarded six new scholarships to students in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, including four refugees (see page 2).
- 20 new students have enrolled on the programme for disabled students at the Open University of Tanzania (see page 3).

We have also launched our website, and welcomed Jason Pennells as a new Trustee (see page 4).

DAAT goes online

Check out our new website at <http://www.daat.org.uk>

As well as providing general information about DAAT, the site includes the story of David Anderson, details of all our projects and students, and donation/Gift Aid forms that you can print out and send to us.

You can also download and print out current and past newsletters.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN AFRICA

David Anderson Africa Trust,
95 Tenison Road,
Cambridge,
CB1 2DL
England.

Tel: +44 1223 353321

Fax: +44 1223 464734.

E-mail: mail@daat.org.uk

Website: www.daat.org.uk

Reg. Charity No. 1001425

Educational skills for Uganda

DAAT's most recent scholarship has been awarded to **Rosemary Akech**. Rosemary is 34 and works as Assistant District Education Officer in the Kotido District of Uganda.

Her job involves:

- supervising, monitoring and evaluating schools
- appointing teachers
- supervising and promoting a Girls' Education Project in the Kotido District.

Rosemary is dedicated to her career in education. She has a Diploma in Education, but wants to improve her academic qualifications, and gain a better understanding of educational systems and in order to make strategies to improve educational provision in Uganda.

She has therefore embarked on a two-year Bachelor of Education degree course at the Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo. The degree is awarded by Makerere University.

Rosemary is confident that her studies will enable her to make a greater contribution to education in her community. She is particularly concerned with the education of girls and women, which, she says, is not valued in Uganda. She hopes to act as a role model to other women, to mobilise support for girls' education in the community, and to promote the role of women in national development.

She also intends to be involved in training facilitators for a community-based basic education programme.

Supporting refugees

DAAT is sponsoring three refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) studying for degrees at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya; and one refugee from Sudan studying at Uganda Christian University in Mukono. All four men have a strong commitment to community development and hope to put their skills to good use in their home countries when they have completed their degree courses.

Theophile Elekamo is 28 years old. He is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and is studying for a BA in Management, Business Accounting and Community Development at Daystar University.

He has worked in the field of adult education and as Deputy Director of Compassion International. After finishing his four-year course, Theophile hopes to return to DRC to work for an NGO and to specialise in management training.

Msambya Byaombe is 26 years old. He was born in Burundi, then moved to DRC and is now a refugee in Nairobi. He has worked as a primary school teacher in Kinshasa, DRC.

Msambya is now studying for a BA in Community Development and hopes to return to his home country when he has completed his degree.

Jimmy Kasongo begins his BA in Community Development this year. Originally from Burundi, he has worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross at Uvira, DRC.

Jimmy describes how in DRC, rural people at grassroots level suffer because of illiteracy and lack of education. After completing his degree, he hopes to return to Uvira to work for an NGO to promote rural community development.

He already has some experience of training villagers in farming techniques, and hopes that his degree will give him the necessary skills to organise workshops and seminars for rural people.

James Gbagbe is 39 years old, married with four children. He has worked as a rural development worker in Sudan, and subsequently as a Supervisor and Adviser in Forestry for both UNHCR and ACORD in Adjumani, Northern Uganda. This involved:

- implementing afforestation and reforestation programmes in and around refugee settlements
- training people in skills needed for forestry and horticulture
- encouraging rural people to plant and use medicinal plants to protect crops, human and animal health and the environment.

James is currently studying for a BA in Social Work and Social Administration at Uganda Christian University, Mukono.

During vacations, James works for ACORD, and hopes to continue working for a humanitarian/development organisation after he graduates. By working to encourage income-generating activities and to sensitise people on how to use natural resources wisely, he hopes to make an important contribution to community development.

TANZANIA: SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In Tanzania, disabled people are severely disadvantaged and have a very low status in society.

The Tanzanian government has been trying to give disadvantaged groups access to education. However, limited resources have been targeted at primary and secondary education, and access to higher education remains severely restricted.

DAAT is supporting projects which are helping to open up vital educational opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged people in Tanzania.

Audio facilities at the Open University of Tanzania

As reported in our 1999 newsletter, DAAT has helped establish audiotape facilities to make courses at the Open University of Tanzania accessible to visually impaired and other disabled students unable to use print.

31 students have been enrolled on the programme. They have received specially recorded study materials and a cassette recorder, and have been trained in their use.

In September 1999, Paul Barefoot, Organiser of the UK Open University's Audio Recording Centre, visited the project on behalf of DAAT to assess progress and

make recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the project.

One of the recommendations was to provide each student with two cassette recorders for simultaneous listening and note taking. DAAT has since supplied 40 more cassette recorders and further supplies of tapes.

Research into access to education for visually impaired women in Tanzania

Elly Macha is a blind student from Tanzania, studying for her PhD at the University of Leeds. Elly's research examines the difficulties encountered by visually impaired women entering higher education in Tanzania, and will make recommendations to help improve their access to education.

Elly's study analyses the extent to which culture, colonial influence and the social status of disability in a patriarchal society limit the access of visually impaired women to education. The study focuses on the Wagogo tribe in the Dodoma region of central Tanzania.

Elly has completed two years of her PhD and is currently carrying out her field work in Tanzania.

DAAT is providing half the funding for Elly's field work, with most of the remainder being provided by the Snowdon Award Scheme in the UK and the Information Centre

on Disabilities in Tanzania. Funding for Elly's studies in the UK is provided mostly from individual donations, coordinated by the Britain-Tanzania Society.

'Education moulds and builds a new and better society, a society that can face the challenges of life with courage and conscience ... a denial of education to any person is a violation of one's basic human right.'

Elly Macha

Elly has shown great courage and determination in pursuing her studies. The findings will help pave the way for changes to social policy and attitudes in Tanzania. Her own achievements will prove that women with disabilities have the aptitude for higher education and can make an important contribution to society.

Over the past three years, half the funding for the project has been provided by a grant from the National Lotteries Charities Board obtained by DAAT. This funding is now coming to an end, but DAAT still wishes to be involved with this project and to assist with running costs.

More cassette recorders will be needed each year, as well as tapes and batteries. (Batteries are costly for students to buy, and the electricity supply can be unreliable).

In the long term, the project will improve job prospects for disabled people and enable them to support themselves and their families. It will also improve their status in society and enable them to make a more effective contribution to their community. (Many of the students will become trained teachers.)

Donations to ensure the continuing success of this project are vital. To make a donation, please fill in the form overleaf or print out a form from our website: <http://www.daat.org.uk>

New students for OUT sponsorship programme

We are pleased to welcome three new students to our sponsorship programme at the Open University of Tanzania.

Kezia Mkwizu is 29 years old and works as an Airfreight Manageress in Dar Es Salaam. She is currently studying for her BCom with Education

Rehema Mningo is 35, has three children and works as a Tutor at Mtwara Teachers College. She is studying for her BA with Education

Irene Tarimo, from Moshi, is studying for her BSc with Education.

These women are striving hard to improve their own prospects and also to enhance the position of women in Tanzanian society.

'It is my desire to continue working hard to promote the status of education for women in Tanzania. Women need to have an equal share in Tanzania's economic and social development. I believe that the enhancement of education for women will contribute a great deal towards narrowing the gap in academic and economic status between men and women.'

Rehema Mningo

Trustees

Ms E Janis Anderson; Mrs Mary Anderson; Ms Cath Attlee; Mrs Davina Hoile; Dr Simba Makoni; Mr Jason Pennells; Mr Tim Sheehy; Chief J Oputa Udoji

Welcome to Jason Pennells who joined the Board of Trustees in 1999. Jason works for IEC, a registered charity specialising in distance education in developing countries. Jason has extensive experience of education in many countries, and worked for several years in Uganda.

Advisers

Dr Dwight Brothers;
Hon. Dr Bernard Chidzero;
Dr Ibbo Mandaza;
Prof. Gelase Mutahaba;
H. E. Mr Anthony Nyakyi;
Mr John Scott; Mr John Syson;
Mrs Anne Yates

Fund Administrator

Ms Anna Wilson-Nunn

David Anderson Africa Trust – Donation Form

I wish to support DAAT and I enclose a donation of:

☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐ Other £

Please make cheques payable to David Anderson Africa Trust

☐ I would like to give regularly to DAAT. Please send me a Banker's Order form.

Name:

Address:

Tel. No.:

E-mail:

Date:

*Please send to David Anderson Africa Trust,
95 Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DL*

GIFT AID

Under the government's new Gift Aid scheme, DAAT can now reclaim tax on ***all*** donations you make, as long as you pay UK income tax/capital gains tax.

This means that for every £1 you donate, we can currently reclaim an extra 28p from the Tax Man at no extra cost to you.

To make a donation under the Gift Aid scheme, simply fill in the donation form, and send to us with your donation and a completed Gift Aid declaration form (enclosed with this newsletter).

If you do not have a Gift Aid Declaration form, you can print one out from our website at:

<http://www.daat.org.uk>

or contact us for a copy.