

Newsletter No.2 August 2016.

In the 9 months since we started supporting the village of Genieri we have achieved the following:

- ✓ A total of over £2000 has been collected and 90%+ of money donated has actually arrived in the village.
- ✓ All pupils now receive a hot meal *every day of the year at the Day Care Centre*, instead of just 2 meals per week during the school year, before we got involved. This makes a lot of families just a little bit more comfortable, they can all eat a bit better.
- ✓ A small amount of protein is occasionally added to their diet, as opposed to only on feast days.
- ✓ Every child now has a seat.
- ✓ All children of appropriate age now attend the Day Care Centre, many more than previously.
- ✓ We now fund a minor stipend for the school cook, in order that all of the mums can work in the rice fields, even outside term time. This will yield a substantial amount more rice and vegetables to the village as a whole, and is more sustainable.
- ✓ We've now achieved recognition as a formal charity with the Scottish Charities Register – No. SC046573.
- ✓ Bob Woodcock, a friend of many decades has now joined us as a Trustee.



Where Now?

- ❖ The Bank account is almost empty and we need to refill it with some speed, **and keep doing it**. We (they) are living from hand to mouth until we can help improve their local agriculture significantly.
- ❖ We need to stabilise at least part of the Charity's income to be able to guarantee money for the Centre on a regular basis, and we hope to do this by attracting periodic donations in addition to ad hoc ones.



Might you be interested in making your donation periodic? This would make an enormous difference, even if it is a very small commitment. Please consider that a contribution of just £5 per month provides rice for two whole weeks for the entire school population, and £10 per month provides **all required foodstuffs** (for all of them) for those two weeks. So little can make so much difference.

To date we've received commitment from a number of individuals – and now have about 30% of the money we need (about £2,200pa) already pledged, so it's starting well. But we do need a fair bit more. **This will allow us to fund over 25,000 hot meals per year. Just £5 per month provides for over 700 of those meals.** If you feel that you could provide a monthly amount, no matter how small, you'll find the standing order form [here](#). Or just call us.

- ❖ Once we've established a higher level of food security for the Centre we can move on to more sustainable projects.

To that end we're now in the early stages of investigations with another more experienced charity, potentially to improve the irrigation system the village depends on so much for their subsistence agriculture.

It's our current view that this may be of extreme value in terms of long term food security, but we've got a lot of work to do, and the feasibility study will bring it all to light. There appears to be a real possibility they could generate significant new money for the Village, and gradually decrease their current dependence on aid, but only time will tell. They will also need help to do this, but should have long term benefits.

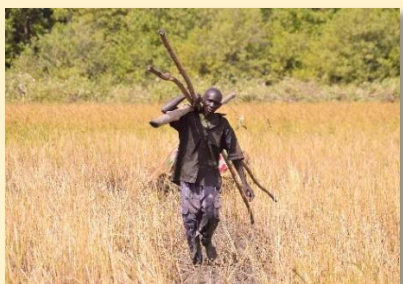
- ❖ Of course we're **ALWAYS** looking for new ideas to improve their situation, be it new ways of collecting cash, or new ways of spending it to better effect. So - if you've got any ideas at all please, please just give any of us a call, we'll be delighted to hear from you.



So, thoughts go to our next trip, always given that the political situation is sufficiently stable. This will likely happen in January of 2017.

We're hoping to achieve the following:

1. Deliver significant food money, rather than suffer the exorbitant charges levied by money transfer companies.
2. We'll take out a limited amount of clothing and kiddies books, kindly supplied by a local nursery in Stirling. This will make a lot of difference, but is limited by baggage weight.
3. Discuss agricultural improvements within the village, most likely with special mention of better irrigation.
4. Discuss better marketing strategies for their crop, to generate better net cash yields for the village as a whole.
5. Obtain agreement ensuring that some of the extra income contributes directly to community facilities, such as the Day Care Centre and the village pharmacy.
6. Survey the communal ladies gardens, with a view to providing better irrigation, if the feasibility study holds promise.
7. Provide each child in the centre with a "school photograph", something they will treasure quite beyond words.



Please just give us a call or mail us if you think you can help in any way, or if you want to donate just click [here](#).

Sophie: 07890 389 507

Bob: 07817 415 049

Jimmy: 07980 306 520