

Outreach Abroad

Supporting rural and urban development projects in Christ's name

Spring 2015



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Spotlight on an Operation Agri Trustee

Coping in other cultures

Tony Sykes (an OA Trustee and Civil Engineer) with his wife Judith have spent much of the past 18 years living in India and East Africa, managing Mission hospital and infrastructure projects. They presently serve with Engineering Ministries International in Kenya.



Tony and Judith Sykes

Development work can be frustrating. We've met many volunteers who arrive with ambitious plans and return home disillusioned at not achieving what they'd hoped. Over the years Judith and I have (partly) learned to manage our expectations and cope in a number of ways.

ENJOYING THE JOURNEY

We came to Kijabe Hospital in Kenya to complete a 3 month project; it now looks like

we'll be here for 12. In a western culture of urgency this would be intolerable. We now enjoy the privilege of being able to say 'we'll stay with you until your building is finished.' We now let time pass, looking to other projects and needs and making new friends as opportunity permits.

One of the most unexpected comforts for Tony has been the huge number of contractors and suppliers in Kenya who are from Indian families. Their parents and grandparents came to East Africa to build railways and never went back, so many of the present generation were born in Kenya and have spent less time in India than us! Our common 'Indian heritage' and basic Hindi language often forms an immediate bond.

ASKING FOR HELP

People of every culture feel good about themselves when they help others but they can't feel good if no-one asks them for help. Judith walks into the village carrying her (mini) milk churn but usual suppliers don't have milk today so they guide her down the hill to someone who does. Tony is in need of new shoe laces and there are none in the village but everyone seems to have a mobile



Kijabe Hospital building

Cover picture: Village welcome in Rajshahi, where the Baptist Church has a women's empowerment project, as featured in this year's appeal, **Building a Better Future in Bangladesh**.

phone and the next day a relative arrives from Nairobi with a selection from which he can choose a new pair.

WALKING IN ANOTHER MAN'S SHOES

We often reflect on how we'd cope if we woke up one day in someone else's skin. The security guards on the hospital construction site earn 380 Kenyan shillings (or £2.50) for each 12 hour shift yet they often seem more cheerful than Tony! The ladies of Githagara village used to walk 2 kilometres to collect their drinking water.

We watch DVDs like the Hunger Games portraying a fictitious world of extremes of haves and have-nots. How many of us recognize that our real world uncomfortably resembles this? We step on a plane and in hours are in a place of ease, comfort and availability.

BUT ... RECOGNISING WE'RE NOT THE SAME

However much we'd like to be seen as part of the culture in which we're serving there's a limit to how closely we can assimilate.

Most people in developing countries struggle to pay medical bills and school fees. Living in a community with these needs places a duty on us to help. Judith works in the ward with 8 year old Wilson. He's been in and out of hospital for the last 5 months and has been here continuously for the last 2 months.



Wilson relieving the boredom in hospital.

He's fortunate in having a Kenyan sponsor paying his medical bills but one day his mum needed a painful tooth cutting out and couldn't afford to do so. It was a small thing

for us to help with, especially compared with UK dental charges, but for her, unaffordable.

Daniel of Githagara Village brought to our attention the plight of the villagers, and with Tony's plumbing contacts and knowledge it wasn't such a big thing to arrange for a piped supply and tank.



Githagara Villagers with their new water tank

GOD'S PLAN IN RETROSPECT

We've been privileged to be involved in hospital projects large and small and, at the time, construction progress has felt painfully slow. As we look back we realize that time was spent building relationships, not buildings. In the now complete buildings nobody remembers the delays – the only clear memories are our friends, who are still at the other end of the phone.

Finally, it's also about working and worshipping with God's people as we do God's work together. Even the worshipping bit isn't always easy – let's be honest, many of us want our church to be entertaining. For a year and a half in north-east India we sat through tribal services in a language called Ao, not understanding a word, but it was where the people we worked with worshipped. Tony would quietly read a devotional book during the sermon...

Judith and I want to support our brothers and sisters around the world in their need and in turn help them meet the needs of their own neighbours. Operation Agri has great partners and provides an efficient way of addressing such needs in many countries.

Children's page

By **Janet Streeter** – friend of Operation Agri

Last time **Oppy** was in **AFGHANISTAN**.

To find out where he has travelled this time rearrange these letters: **DAALGHNEBS**

Oppy is in this time.

See if you can find all the words to do with the work in the country where **Oppy** is this time in this **WORDSEARCH**

BUILDINGS
DHAKA
EDUCATION
FAMILIES
FEEDING
GIRLS
LOANS
POOR
PROJECT
SAVINGS
SLUMS
WOMEN

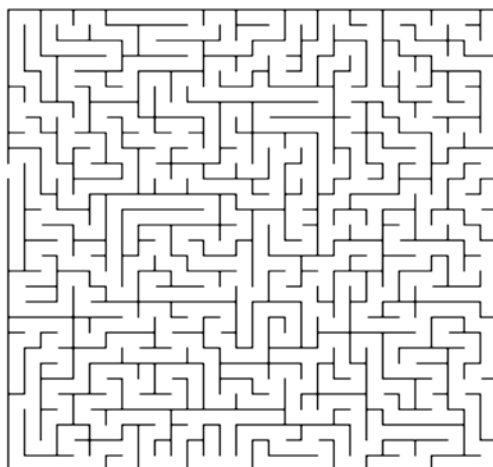


FROM THE LAST ISSUE

The words in the word puzzle in the last edition were Electricity, Mountain, Village, Water Power, Turbines, Energy, Lighting and Flowing giving the word **Afghanistan**.

The Presents with a Purpose answers were: an Ox plough = £60, Fruit tree seedlings = £15, Goats for five women = £25, 20 day old chicks = £10, a Young cow = £90 and a Handpump for fresh water = £75.

Help the girl through the maze to be able to have an education



Youth Page

Richard, Steph and Tom Beales
– friends of Operation Agri

In the last Operation Agri magazine we were asked to pray for the young people in Uganda who have completed their training in tailoring or hairdressing ... so, this time we are going to focus on ... Uganda.

Since the late 1980s Uganda has moved from civil war and economic catastrophe to become relatively peaceful, stable and prosperous. After becoming President in 1986, Yoweri Museveni introduced democratic reforms and is credited with overseeing one of the most effective national responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa.

HOW IS OA HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN UGANDA?

OA supports a vocational training project in a slum area of Kampala consisting of a Tailoring and Design Course and a Tailoring Course. This is an area where HIV/AIDS is widespread and many of the young people are either sufferers or have been left orphans after the loss of their parents. As a direct result, schooling has been restricted and the families have little or



no income. These courses provide skills and a source of income. On satisfactory completion of the course participants are further assisted from a Loan Fund to purchase what they need to establish their own business.



...FOCUS ON UGANDA – FACTS

Fact file:	Uganda
Official name:	Republic of Uganda
Area:	Approximately 241,000 sq km
Population:	Approximately 37 million
Capital City:	Kampala
Head of State:	President Yoweri Museveni
Major languages:	Swahili and English
Major religions:	Christianity (majority) and Islam
Currency:	Ugandan Shilling (1 GBP = 4,452 UGX – March 2015)
Main exports:	Coffee, fish, fish products, tea; tobacco, cotton, corn, beans and sesame
Life expectancy:	54 years (men), 55 years (women)

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT OA'S WORK IN UGANDA?

You could pray for and find out about more projects which OA support in Uganda and other countries by visiting the OA website or sign up today for Facebook and Twitter.

DO YOU FEEL INSPIRED? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GAP YEAR? WANT A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE?

Visit our previous article on Tom's expedition to Ecuador that changed his life.

If you would like to explore the possibility of a long or short term voluntary placement with an Operation Agri partner organisation please email editor@operationagri.org.uk or write to The Magazine Editor, c/o Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX.

Please note that if you are not sixteen or over we need to be contacted by the adult who is responsible for you e.g. parent, guardian etc.

In 2014 OA made grants of £7,500 for the courses.

Building a self-sustaining business in Rural Nepal

By **Amrita Gurung**,
Executive Director, Multipurpose Community
Development Service (MCDS)

Operation Agri has supported the activities of the Multi-Purpose Community Development Service (MCDS), our partner in Nepal, since 2001. During this time village level development has been carried out in many different areas of this country. Currently the activities which OA supports are focused in two locations, Rayale and Triveni, both east of the capital of Kathmandu. This article touches on one aspect of the work at Triveni.

Ms. Shom Kumari Majhi is 25 years old. She lives in Belshot village in eastern Nepal. A local women's group (Milijuli Mahila) selected her to attend training in candle making which had been organised by the Operation Agri supported Community Health and Education Project (CHEP) in September 2014. She enjoyed the training and learnt how to make different types of candles, and gained knowledge of

Shom supports her family of 7 members with the income generated from candle selling, spending the money on food, clothes, education, health and daily household expenses. She has expanded her business in the local market where many people come and buy her products and then sell them through their shops and stores. In the early months of selling she has collected more

Shom with the candle-making frames.



Finished candles ready for market



packing systems with the basics of marketing and selling skills. Shom said, *"We were taken to the market for practical learning to observe the demands of different size of candles as well as market analysis."*

After training she invested 32,000 Nepali Rupees (£213) in purchasing 100 kg of wax and 4 frames and started making candles. She adds, *"Before training I didn't know anything about the business and procedures to make candles but now I can make candles in different shapes, sizes and designs. I have started my business and it has been very helpful for the daily livelihood of my family."*

than 40,000 NPR (£267). Shom has also trained other women in the village to make candles and earns some money from this and also has been sharing the materials of candle making with those women.

Lastly, Shom expressed her real thanks saying, *"I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude towards MCDS/CHEP for giving me this skill and making me self-sustained."*

Editorial note: All the Trustees of Operation Agri thank you on Shom's behalf for your ongoing generosity which continues to changes lives for good.

What is your generosity achieving?

By **Stan Crees and Marisa Rawlins**
OA Overseas Team.

Second in a series covering the projects supported by Operation Agri

INDIA – OASIS SLUM PROJECT



Operation Agri works with Oasis in the Ganpat Patil Nagar urban slum in Mumbai. Migrant families move to

the city from some of the poorest areas in India looking for work and the project's aims are to improve education, reduce poverty and prevent human trafficking in the area. A holistic approach is taken by the project staff to address the challenges faced by this vulnerable community through outreach and training activities to meet local needs and build a sense of community.

Educational support is given to families to assist with their children's books and school fees. A vibrant pre-school for the younger children provides a safe environment in which they can learn and play. Older teenage girls attend awareness sessions on cleanliness, hygiene and the risks of human trafficking. Teenage boys learn IT skills and enjoy football training which encourages self-discipline and team work. Many mothers gain practical skills including English language classes and tailoring classes. Outreach activities for the men focus on the negative impacts of chewing tobacco and dealing with trafficking. Celebrating social events like picnics, sports days and festivals have helped foster community togetherness. Through the support of Operation Agri and Oasis project staff, local families continue to grow in confidence and develop skills to take ownership of their community.

OA has made a grant of £2,000 to this project.

INDIA WEST UTKAL AGRICULTURAL CENTRE (WUAC) – FARMING PROJECT

Operation Agri has a long-standing relationship with this centre in rural Orissa. Livelihood Development Programme aims

to foster a healthy society where there will be no food insecurity for the poor and marginalized. To help achieve this, farmers are being brought together in Self Help Groups and Farmers Clubs targeting landless labourers and their families as well as the farmers. Workshops are held on the hazards of using fertilizers and pesticides and the benefits of organic farming. A proportion of the farmers' seed is treated and set aside in seed banks for later sowing seasons. Marginalised farmers are also helped to develop previously barren plots of land. This project is meeting its objectives and making good progress.

OA has made a grant of £2,691 to this project.

INDIA WEST UTKAL AGRICULTURAL CENTRE (WUAC) – WATER PROJECT

How can farmers in a drought prone region where rainfall is erratic and uncertain be helped to increase agricultural production? Due to scarcity of irrigation water and lacking technical knowledge the farmers of the area are not able to plan their use of the land nor practice intensive agriculture. The first step is to heighten awareness among the people to help them realise the losses incurred due to improper soil and water conservation practices. The major thrust will be on availability of water for irrigation purposes through the construction of water reservoirs, with check dams and irrigation canals so that farmers of the area can increase output from their fields. Also they will be able to stock the reservoirs with fish, thus providing an excellent source of protein. One reservoir has been completed and seems to be functioning well. Another is now under construction.

OA has made a grant of £1,447 to the Water Project.

You could make a vital difference!

The challenge of change: In recent years Operation Agri has faced challenges that its founders could never have imagined!

Today is very different from the setting in which Operation Agri came into being!

The names of long familiar nations have passed into history and very different forces and powers shape the politics of many fragile national communities, whilst global regulations now control international financial transactions.

Sadly, there are far more opportunities to help the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities around the world than the resources Operation Agri has available.

Responding to the challenge:

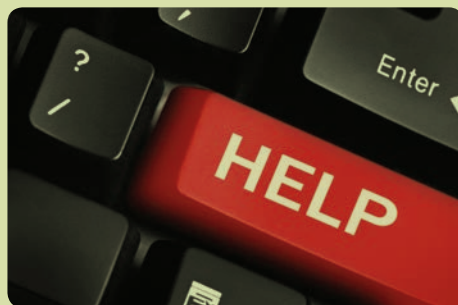
In response to these and other challenges the Chairman proposed that a Review Group be formed to focus its energies on finding suitable solutions. The Review Group, approved by the Trustees, consists of Russell Ashley-Smith (Chairman), Elgan Evans (Deputy Chairman), John Durrant (Treasurer) and Nigel Jones (Magazine Editor).

The most significant recommendation of the Review Group is the transformation of the governance structure. A Donors Group has been formed to re-vitalise the funding income and a Grants Group has been created to focus attention on the appropriate provision of grants to partners.

Using your gifts:

The Review Group is now earnestly and urgently seeking people to help with various tasks which have been identified as fundamental to the ongoing work of Operation Agri.

Have you a few evenings or even a day or two a month to work from home as a member of the Operation Agri team?



All you need is:

Some relevant experience in areas such as (but not limited to):

- Web site design / upkeep
- Marketing / fundraising
- Customer relations

Coupled with:

Enthusiasm and willingness to commit to OA's ministry

The ability to work in a team and be self motivating

For more information please contact Russell Ashley-Smith today by:
email: chairman@operationagri.org.uk
or Phone 020 8670 1110

1 Corinthians 12:5-7

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Spotlight on a Trustee

East is East and West is West

By **Colin Laver**, OA Trustee.



Colin Laver

SOLVING PROBLEMS

How do you find the depth of a pond or how do you make a roof level when you have little or no resources?

These are questions I was faced with recently in a small village, Diptipur, in the middle of Odisha India (formerly Orissa). "I am a school teacher not an engineer" was my reply. My school boy geometry did help a little, as did a piece of string!

West Utkal Agricultural Centre (WUAC), is a project in Diptipur with which OA have been working for many years. They have many needs and struggle to marry the West's need for professionalism with an overwhelming lack of resources and qualified personnel.

SOLVING PROBLEMS PROFESSIONALLY

Although the media presents India as having one of the fastest growing economies in the world the reality is that village life, in many cases, has not moved into the 20th century, let alone the 21st.

We look on these situations, oxen threshing wheat for example, as quaint and charming, and want to help. However, with our western mentality we still expect WUAC and projects like them to provide professionally presented project proposals according to the latest project proposal designs, with precise details of quantities, costs and timings. These of course can be provided with relative ease in

the west, but which are not available to non-computer literate workers in out of the way places in India.

Having lived in Diptipur for 3 months recently, I know the difficulties of precision when irregular electricity supplies cause havoc with all aspects of life and work. Here at home a power cut for a day, or even just a couple of hours, is considered devastating. Imagine 11 days without power!

SOLVING PROBLEMS IN THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

There is the need to be wary of bad management, dependency mentality and dishonesty; however very often the truth is the people on the ground in many situations are unable to keep up with the pace of the affluent society in which we live.



Colin and Helen receiving a Diptipur welcome

Operation Agri works hard to bring together the needs of a resource impoverished world, which is so far removed from the slick graphically designed life style of the west, with the help so generously given by our supporters. We see the need for the professionalism, which aids accountability, but at the same time accepting that the provision available in many of the places where we work will not be of the same precise nature required by the technologically advanced world in which we live.

Please pray for OA and its partners as they constantly wrestle with these issues.

From the editor



TO MOVE FORWARD FIRST STAND STILL.

Recently I passed a charity shop which had a very tempting book display in the window. I could not resist one of the books on the table so I parted with my 25 pence (original price £12.95!) and have started to read it with great interest. The author, a prominent business man of the second half of the 20th century, is now providing me with many insights into his working life.

Like many of his successful peers he hardly ever stood still but Charles Haddon

Spurgeon once said *"Stand still" – keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "Go forward."*

Please continue to pray for the Trustees of Operation Agri that we might rightly 'stand still,' hear the right instruction, then move forward in the right direction and at the right time.



THE START OF SOMETHING NEW?

From Peter B. Wells

"It was back in the late 1950s (when I was a student) that I first heard about Operation Agri. We had regular visits from David Stockley who was an agricultural missionary in what was then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). He did a lot of research developing superior strains of rice and other crops which were of great benefit to the local small farmers. He was a very engaging speaker – I can remember some of his talks to this day. It is wonderful to see how Operation Agri has developed over the intervening years, and how it continues to serve this and other needy regions of the world."



NOSTALGIA?

Thank you for sharing that with us Peter and, 'No,' that was most definitely not even a hint at a wistful desire to return to a former time but a heart-warming and soul-stirring recollection of the one man's relationship with Operation Agri over many years. We all have a responsibility to pass to the next generation truths and values we have accrued over the years.

What are you doing to encourage the next generation to become OA supporters? What memories have you got which could spark a whole new generation to become engaged with us at Operation Agri?

Please let me know and ... thanks in advance.

Editor@operationagri.org.uk
Nigel Jones – OA's Magazine Editor

Response Form

I enclose a personal gift towards the work of Operation Agri:

£

I enclose a gift from our church/organisation towards the work of OA:

£

Please send me the "Outreach Abroad" magazine by post every 3 months:

Yes/No

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Full Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev/Dr

Church or Organisation

Address:

Post Code

Gift Aid Declaration

Operation Agri BMM

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration/change your name or home address/no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Donor's details (in addition to those above)

giftaid it

Signature

Date

Standing Order Form

To support Operation Agri BMM regularly by standing order, please complete the details below,
IN BLOCK CAPITALS and return this form to the OA Administrator

My Bank Details

To: The Manager,

Bank Name

Bank Address

Postcode

Sort Code

Account No.

Account Name

Please pay to Operation Agri BMM at:

Bank of Scotland, Direct Business Accounts,
Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue,
Edinburgh, EH12 9DF

Sort Code: 12-20-29, Account No: 00142961

the sum of

£

starting date

and every *

month / quarter / year

until further notice from me in writing

This order *

is in addition to / replaces

my previous instructions relating to this charity

Signature

Date

* Strike out words that do not apply

Please send this form to Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX.
Any cheques should be made payable to 'Operation Agri BMM.'

Seeking God's Kingdom

The partners of OA both in the UK and overseas are seeking to align themselves with God's mission of implementing his Kingdom. Our income during the year has come from some surprising and unexpected sources and it has been put to use in some surprising and unexpected ways. Both are evidence of God working to fulfil his purposes. We are privileged to be part of God's revolution and the rebuilding of people's lives as evidenced in each edition of Outreach Abroad.

Although the UK economy is improving there has been a delay in the impact this had on our income. Accordingly, as Trustees we have had to ensure we do not over-reach ourselves in the number and the value of the projects we can support.

Information in the pie charts show:

INCOME

In comparison with last year:

a) Donations were up from :

- Partners by £3,500
- Donations to projects by £7,900
- Legacies by £64,200 – we benefited from a significant legacy

b) Donations were down from:

- Organisations e.g. churches by £15,200
- Our appeals by £12,000
- Interest and income from our investments by £1,100 – resulting from low interest rates and the sale of our investments.



EXPENDITURE

In comparison with last year:

a) Costs were down for:

- Grants to projects by £10,100 – however, we paid £1,100 more than we had budgeted; our expenditure on grants as a percentage of our total expenditure was 71.1%, regrettably down by over 5%
- Printing and stationery by £2,600 – partly accounted for by reductions in the production costs of Outreach Abroad
- Support costs – we continue to look for efficient ways of carrying out our functions e.g. audio conferencing, and using volunteers wherever possible

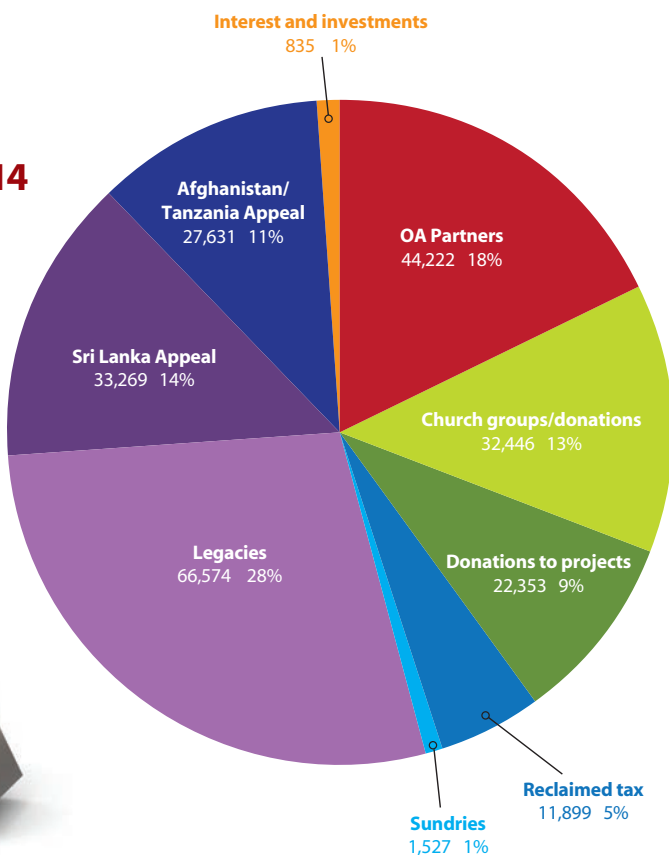
b) Costs were up for:

- Producing our appeals by £4,800 – all the costs for the 2014 appeal fell in this year

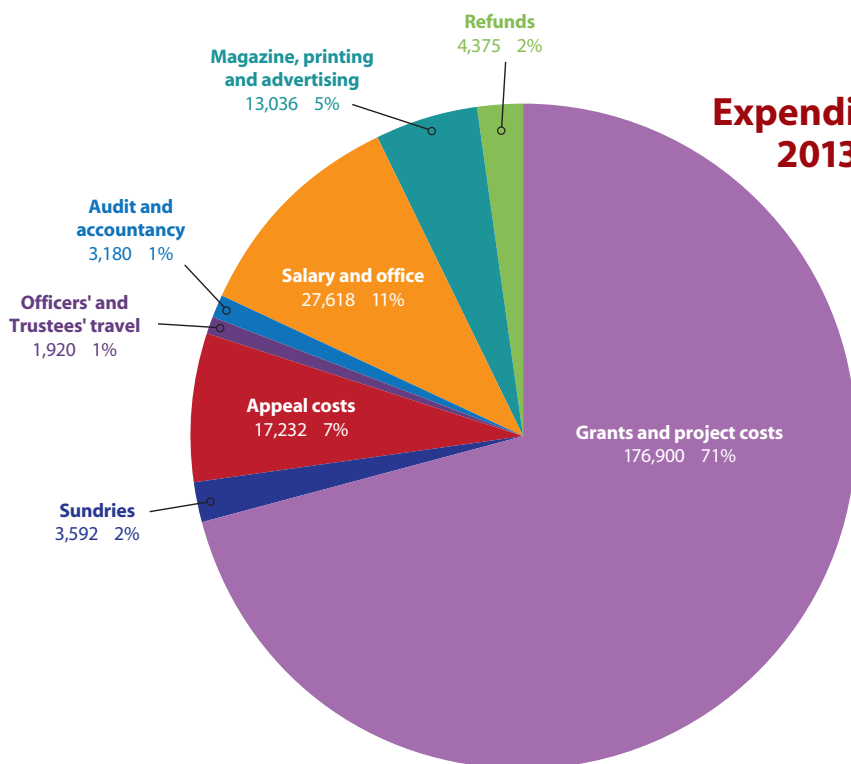
We continue to make as much use as possible of our website and Facebook to provide up to date information in creative ways. We hope that the new ways of giving will be more widely used by our UK partners.

In 2014-15 we continue to seek God's will for the use of our income; in so doing we have set our overseas grants budget at £135,000 – although less than last year it is a challenging figure in the context of our income. We again step out in faith to fulfil God's purposes.

Income 2013-2014



Expenditure 2013-2014



Prayer and more 2015



Please use this page in conjunction with other material in the magazine and the Operation Agri web site <http://www.operationagri.org.uk/oa/Projects.html>



UGANDA – BEERSHEBA

Give thanks that the community training was very well attended by Self Help Group members, that the

girls have shown commitment to their education and for the improvements in the girls' spelling and reading in the catch-up groups. Pray for the success of the pre-school, the cooperation of parents, the teachers and staff involved and that God will continue to guide in everything.



BANGLADESH – DUARIPARA

We thank God for our partners at Duaripara and their work to support the development of girls living

in the slum in Dhaka. Give thanks that the girls had success in their recent exams. We pray for the current situation in Bangladesh with strikes and political unrest taking place we ask God to protect the girls and staff and keep them safe at all times.



NICARAGUA – AMOS – A MINISTRY OF SHARING

Give thanks that in recognising children and babies as the most

vulnerable members of any community, AMOS Health and Hope is able to continue its valuable work to meet the needs of these little ones. Pray for its network of Health Promoters who through training and local care ensure that every child is given a good start in life.



INDIA – BORIVALI

Give thanks for the new staff have joined the team at Borivali and for the training given to 20 leaders

to invest in their development. Praise God that the project continues to effect positive change in the community through sessions on anti-human trafficking and life skills. Pray that families will become self-sustaining, responsible and empowered with the support of the project.



INDIA – WUAC

Give thanks that the water harvesting structure built in Matiamahul village in Orissa by OA's partner WUAC (West

Utkal Agricultural Centre) is now being used for irrigation of crops during dry periods. Work is underway on another structure for the village of Kurlubahal. WUAC also carries out training of farmers in this needy corner of Orissa.



SRI LANKA – LEADS AND FARMS LANKA

Give thanks to God for his blessing on the work in many different regions of Sri Lanka.

"All this activity, the work itself, the resources of people and funds, the strength to persevere in the face of many challenges, has all been possible because of God's faithfulness." (Quote from LEADS Annual Report – Lanka Evangelical Alliance for Development Services). Continue to pray for the work of both organisations in this vital process of lifting people out of poverty.



UGANDA – SDKF

Pray for the young people currently being trained in Tailoring and Design skills and in Hairdressing

and Beauty skills through the SDKF (Setting Development Keeping the Foundations) project in a slum area of Kampala, that they might acquire skills that will enable them to support themselves and their families in the future.



UGANDA – SAFI PROJECT

Pray for Rev. Paul Kyalimpa and all the staff working with him in the SAFI (Sustainable Agriculture

Farming Initiatives) project underway in the Kyenjojo area of western Uganda. Pray also for Christine Kyalimpa and her partner workers as they receive and use the wool, patterns and knitting needles sent out from the UK just after Christmas (which should arrive in April) to teach new skills to local women.



HOME – 2015 ANNUAL APPEAL

This year's appeal pack of resources for churches features the two projects in

Bangladesh, with film of the girls' activities in the Duaripara Family Centre, and of women's groups in rural Rajshahi, telling how they have been helped to buy goats or sheep to earn an income. As well as film, the pack includes posters, leaflets, slideshows, and ideas for services and children's activities. Pray that many churches will make use of this pack for an Operation Agri service or harvest weekend, to raise awareness and support for these and other OA projects. Please see the back page for how to order the Appeal Pack.

All of the OA Trustees thank you for your continued prayers

Business Savvy In Bangladesh

Bangladesh's Budding Entrepreneurs

By Gill Ashley-Smith.

One famous entrepreneur from Bangladesh is Muhammad Yunus with his pioneering work on microfinance. Women in Bangladesh are at the forefront of social and economic change and Operation Agri lends its support through two projects. At the Duaripara centre in Dhaka the focus is on improving girls' education while nurturing for practical life and business skills. A visit to the centre reveals creative ways of teaching and learning through song, dance and rhyme and a master class in block printing with Sathi and Fatema!

We met the girls in the Spring 2014 OA magazine. Sathi joined the project when it started in 2004. She has a natural flair for teaching arts and crafts to the younger girls and organizing decorations for events and parties. Fatema is a teaching assistant and has been at the centre for several years. The girls attended a course on block printing and batik. Using one of the centre's small rooms as a workshop, they mix their own colours and practice new techniques to produce stylish block printed salwar kameez suits (a traditional outfit). They sell the garments to friends, staff and other ladies and promote the business in the neighbourhood. The centre hopes to add a tailoring section for girls to learn new skills. Education and business skills go hand in hand and are the building blocks for success!

Building lasting change where it is



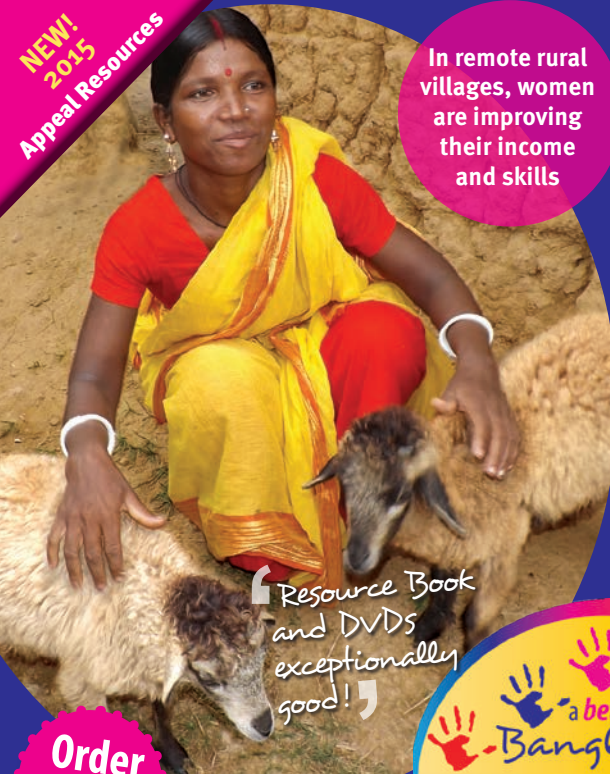
Block printing in action

most needed, is integral to OA work. In Rajshahi, 200 km away, SHED Board's rural empowerment project supports women to start income generating activities. Self-help groups are an effective tool to reduce poverty, empower women and give them a collective voice for positive change. Self Help Groups (SHGs) provide a structure where women save on a regular basis: about 50 taka (about 40p). Women are pleased to take out loans of 10,000 taka each to buy cows, land and to set up a small shop to help them realise their potential. Profits made rearing and selling cows, goats or growing vegetables are used on home improvements, weddings or returned to the savings scheme to finance larger loans. The women explained:

“ Before we were living hand to mouth, now we learn how to save and can take out loans to create work for ourselves. ”

The women build capacity through savings, keeping records, budgeting and training modules which increase self-confidence and help them set their own agenda. Equipping women and girls with the right skills can help reduce poverty. Being business savvy is important in the slum as well as the paddy field.

NEW!
2015
Appeal Resources



In remote rural villages, women are improving their income and skills



In Bangladesh, city slum girls are gaining education and confidence

Resource Book and DVDs exceptionally good!



Order now!

Resource Pack *Building a better future in Bangladesh*

Operation Agri supports projects led by Christian partners in ten countries around the world: agriculture, education, healthcare, income generation.

This year's resources feature two projects in Bangladesh. One is in the slums of Dhaka, helping girls from poor families to get a good education. The other is in villages of a tribal area, empowering women with a savings and loans scheme, to improve their incomes and feed their families.

- The DVD has videos (for DVD player or computer) plus powerpoints, documents and photos
- The resource book has information and ideas for worship, fund-raising and children's activities

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	Quantity
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