

Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS)



History & Background Information



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OUR MISSION: 'To unlock the potential of Africa by delivering equal access to affordable, quality secondary education'

Promoting Equality in African Schools
Registered Charity No. 1107765



The PEAS Mission

'To unlock the potential of Africa by delivering equal access to affordable, quality education.'



▲ Students from the first PEAS school.

Why Uganda, Why Now and Why Secondary Schools?

'Failure to absorb the growing number of primary school leavers will undermine UPE and broader National goals like the elimination of poverty.' *Yusuf Nsubuga - Ugandan Commissioner for Secondary Education*

Our current work is focused in Uganda, where the government's relatively successful progress in establishing universal primary education (UPE) has led to a massive over-demand for low cost secondary education. As the first cohort of pupils benefiting from the expansion of primary education reaches secondary age, all but the richest have little chance of extending their education and developing skills which they could use in Uganda's steadily growing economy.

Aims

In achieving our mission PEAS aims to:

- Build five low-fee secondary schools, over three years, in those areas of Kampala with the greatest demand for new, affordable schools;
- Set up a micro-finance facility to enable alumni of PEAS schools to access grants to support enterprise;
- Facilitate a reciprocal transfer of best practice between schools in the UK and Africa through volunteer placements and school partnerships;
- To invest significant amounts of capital in income generating projects which create sustainable, non-fee revenue streams for our schools;
- Encourage the development of curricula which emphasise literacy, numeracy and vocational skills relevant to the modern Ugandan economy;
- To catalyse systemic change within sub-Saharan education through the transfer of our innovative management and finance systems;
- To raise funds and widen young people's awareness of the nature of educational disadvantage across the world through the *Bridges to Africa* fundraising event.



Our Principles

PEAS is a young charity which was founded with a number of important guiding principles. They mostly relate to problems encountered by development organisations across the world.

① Sustainability

Every PEAS school will cover its own running costs. Therefore, with capital costs paid for by the charity, PEAS schools can dramatically reduce running costs and fees.

② Local Ownership

Every PEAS school will be run by Ugandans for Ugandans with support from UK partners and overseas teachers. PEAS schools will have a local Board of Governors and will be built in close collaboration with local communities.

③ Avoiding market distortions

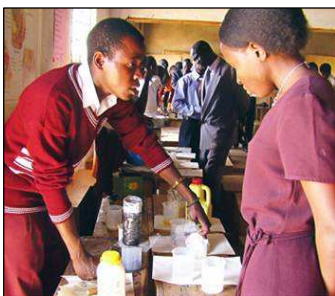
PEAS schools will only be built in areas where there is high demand for extra secondary school provision and not in areas where pupils simply move from a more expensive school. We will never actively compete for pupils who attend other local schools with so many young Ugandans without a school place at all.

④ Collaboration with government

PEAS works closely with the Ugandan Department of Education as well as the wider Ugandan government. We believe that the success of our schools will depend on working within the education framework laid out by the Ugandan government. The first PEAS school, St. Janan Luwum Secondary School, is a fully registered school and an examination centre at O and A level. It has also been inspected on a number of occasions.

⑤ Transparency

PEAS never gives or receives bribes. Sometimes this policy demands great patience in achieving our objectives but we believe our approach is essential in countries whose development has been so undermined by corruption. In the UK, PEAS publishes and submits its full annual accounts to the Charity Commission.



◀ Students demonstrate science experiments to members of the local community at a school open day.



▶ CEO of PEAS, John Rendel (r), with the local government District Education Officer (l).



St. Janan Luwum Secondary School - a Model for Success

The current expansion of PEAS as a charity and in particular its burgeoning partnership with *Teach First*, comes on the back of its first project – St. Janan Luwum Secondary School. Having been founded in 2002 by John Rendel (now CEO of PEAS) and Mike Kironde (now Managing Director of PEAS in Uganda) the school opened in January 2003 with the invaluable support of Sebastian Townsend and Jonathan Dear (trustees of PEAS). Built on Church of Uganda land, the initial capital cost of the school was just under £7000 with three extra rooms rented from the church. Since its inception, the school has grown rapidly, with excess fee revenue being put back into developing the school's infrastructure. In three and a half years the school has grown to support a student population of over 750. It continues to build new classroom blocks and is now equipped with a laboratory, library, electricity, computers and a new sanitary block paid for by recent donations to PEAS.



▲ *St Janan's students moving to lessons.*

The school employs a total of 34 teaching staff and 11 non-teaching support staff. It has established good systems of accountability such that its finances and procedures are examined regularly by PEAS in Uganda and the UK.

Current Projects at the School

① Income Generation

The school has recently launched the first in a series of income-generating activities to further promote its financial independence. The school has purchased a new minibus to provide a vital mode of transport for school activities, and when not in use by the school the bus will be rented for commercial use providing a valuable source of alternative income for the school. PEAS has also funded a dance troupe, many of who are students at St. Janan's. The group generates significant revenues for PEAS from performances given at events throughout Kampala.



▲ *A school assembly at St Janan's.*

② New Classrooms and Facilities

Demand for places at the school is high and thus we are expanding capacity whenever it is sustainable to do so. Some of the most recent capital projects at the school have been funded partly by the school's own excess revenues. This financial strength has meant fees have fallen in real terms since the school opened. During the course of 2006, the school has embarked on the construction of a new classroom block in response to increasing demand for school places. The new classrooms have also been financed by the school's own excess revenues. In 2007, the school is investing in improvements to its kitchen facilities, landscaping the school grounds, and constructing a new storied building to include new boarding facilities.



St. Janan Luwum Secondary School - factfile

Founded:	August 2002
Head Teacher:	Mrs. Agnes Akwir
Staff:	34 teaching staff, 11 support staff
Pupils:	755 (Boys: 350 Girls: 405)
Fees:	£25 per term (Fees at government schools are between 30% and 500% more)
Sponsorship:	Over 70 of the lowest income pupils have their fees paid for by our partners in Germany and by individuals in the UK, administrated through PEAS-UK. Over time these sponsorships will be funded as bursaries using income generated in Uganda for sustainability.
Start up capital:	£6600 – funded by PEAS
Capital developments:	£23500 – of which £14,000 was funded by PEAS and the remainder came from excess fee revenue over three years.



◀ St. Janan Luwum Secondary School, Kampala. The school overlooks part of the community it serves

The next PEAS School – ‘Onwards And Upwards’ Secondary School

The second PEAS school is due to open in 2007. It will be built with funds raised throughout 2006 and in particular with a grant from the Richard Feilden Memorial Foundation. The name *Onwards and Upwards* references the philosophy and motto of the late Richard Feilden who died in January 2005.

In keeping with our principles, the school will be situated in a densely populated and economically deprived area of Kampala, where there is substantial demand for affordable secondary education.

Our local Ugandan team, working with PEAS-UK volunteers, have already sourced suitable land for the development of the school. PEAS is working in partnership with the Kampala City Council to secure a potential site.

PEAS have recruited an excellent *Teach First* ambassador to work alongside our Ugandan Project Manager, Mike Kironde, to manage the foundation of *Onwards and Upwards Secondary School*. Tim Trainor will be the first of many *Teach First* ambassadors working with our Ugandan team to transfer the skills and experience they have gained from working in London schools.



PEAS and 'Teach First' Partnership Project

In 2005, PEAS made a strategic decision to build a working partnership with the UK charity *Teach First*. *Teach First* selects graduates from top UK universities and places them in some of the country's most challenging secondary schools for a minimum of two years. The organisation aims to build a group of future leaders by developing participants' skill sets both by the experiences they gain in challenging schools and through the 'Foundations of Leadership' course run for *Teach First* by Tanaka Business School.

PEAS and *Teach First* propose to offer alumni of the *Teach First* programme an opportunity to further develop their leadership, team-working and project management skills by acting as project consultants, and teacher trainers in Uganda. Our first *Teach First* alumni began a year-long post in Uganda in September 2006. The team (financially supported by sponsors of *Teach First*) will be tasked with founding a low-fee secondary school in Kampala, funded by PEAS. They will also consolidate the work done in previous PEAS schools and then work alongside the staff in the school they have helped build as teacher trainers and consultants to the senior managers of those schools.



▲ John Rendel and a class teacher discuss study techniques with 'O' level students at St. Janan's.

'Bridges to Africa'

Our headline fundraising event *Bridges to Africa* began in May 2006 with 700 students from state schools across London. The students raised nearly £20,000 (which we aim to triple in 2007). Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, opened the event by walking students over the first of 10 London Bridges. *Bridges to Africa* 2006 was covered by all the major television news channels and was even seen in Uganda and Kazakhstan!



One of our aims for *Bridges to Africa* is to help make sure the next generation of young people is more aware of problems relating to extreme poverty in Africa and elsewhere. Before the event, PEAS distributed a scheme of work and resources to participating schools to help young people in the UK to understand their roles as global citizens.

Over the next three years, PEAS aims to develop the scale and scope of *Bridges to Africa* by establishing it as an annual event, increasing the number of schools involved and improving the resources we provide to schools to maximise the learning potential of the event.

◀ Gordon Brown chats to students at the start of the 2006 'Bridges to Africa' event.