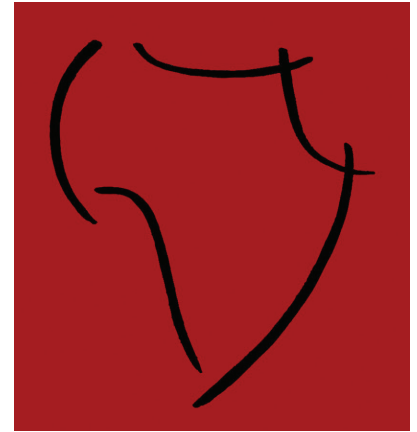


2013 Kisoro Trust Newsletter



The 2013 school year has got off to a great start. Former VSO volunteer in Kisoro and new newsletter editor, Poppy Krivine, shares some stories and updates from the students and school administration.



'Deaf Awareness Play' performed for school and local community.

The Deaf Theatre Group at Kisoro Demonstration School devised a powerful performance about the marginalization and discrimination of deaf children. This piece, acted in sign language with live English voice-over, shows the progress of a young deaf girl overcoming the odds as she progresses from primary school through to university graduation. It is an inspiring story for both disabled and mainstream students about what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance. Several weeks of practice went into the play, with 15 student performers involved. Projects like these are a great platform for raising awareness of issues faced by the Deaf community, and give students the opportunity to explore their talents and their interest in the performing arts.

New private shower block built for girls

A new self-contained shower block has been constructed in the girls' dormitories of the

special needs unit. Previously the showers were outside the building, in a bamboo and corrugated steel structure. This new development is a fantastic move forward in the effort to promote the safety and comfort of the deaf, blind and physically disabled children of Kisoro Demonstration School. A special thank you to the headmaster Gerald Nkurikiyimana and Great Projects for their hard work and determination to see this work completed.



Deaf children go Gorilla Tracking

Kisoro nestles in the foothills of the majestic Mgahinga National Park, part of the Virunga volcanic range which extends into the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Made famous by the film 'Gorillas in the Mist', the Virungas are one of the last natural habitats of the wild mountain gorillas. Rigorous

awareness-raising projects and conservation efforts have been set up in the community over the years to reduce poaching and increase the numbers of these endangered primates. As a result permits for foreign nationals are \$500 per person per day to enter the park. Though

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the price for park entrance is greatly reduced for local school children, at approximately two US dollars, this cost is still prohibitive for many families. However, the administration at Kisoro Demonstration School funded a group of Deaf children to spend a day in the park. The students had a beautiful day and not only learnt about the mountain gorillas, but also about the rich virgin jungle, and the delicate habitat so close to where they live.

Mosquitos are most active at night and early in the morning. By sleeping under nets, the children's chances of contracting malaria are greatly reduced. Special thanks to Hilary Lowinger and others for their contributions to this cause.

Acknowledgments: Wholehearted thanks to Gerald Nkurikiyimana and Obed Niyibigena for their written contributions and photographs.

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Students win 2-1 against teachers in annual football challenge.

The annual student-teacher football game was set up to encourage team building between children from the mainstream school and the special needs unit. Though this year's game was tight, the determined students came out on top with a 2-1 victory against their teachers. The match was watched by the entire school, though it was clear from the cheers who were the favourites from the beginning. Congratulations students and staff of Kisoro Demo for another great effort!

To Make a donation

I would like to make a donation to the Kisoro Trust.

I enclose a cheque for £_____

Name_____

Address_____

Tel_____

Email_____

Alternatively, to arrange a bank transfer or set up a direct debit, please send funds to:
 Kisoro Trust
 Royal Bank of Scotland
 Bank account no: 00622646
 Bank sort code: 83-19-15

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift significantly, at no extra cost to yourself, by completing the Gift Aid Declaration below:

Please treat as a Gift Aid Donation all donations made by me to Kisoro Trust from 6th April 2001. I understand that I must pay sufficient tax each year to cover the amount reclaimed.

Signed_____



Mosquito nets

After the very sad loss of P5 student Rogers Nsengiyunva to malaria last year, the special needs boarding unit now has specially adapted mosquito nets set up in the bedrooms.