

CHILDREN OF HOPE UGANDA

Number of Placements: 1

Location: Lira, Uganda

URL: <http://childrenofhopeuganda.org>

Field/Subject Area:

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Position Description:

COHU works to support the war-affected youth of northern Uganda by:

- Paying partial **school fees** and providing scholastic materials to 163 children ages 11 to 18 who attend 31 primary and secondary schools in Lira, northern Uganda.
- Operating **Barlonyo Technical and Vocational Institute** for 138 youth, the majority of whom were formerly abducted by the LRA. BTVI trains students in carpentry, bricklaying and tailoring. There are 81 boarding students (61 in boys dorm, 20 in girls dorm) and 57 day students. COHU has initiated 4 school Income Generating Activities to make the school self-sustaining. The school IGA's are a piggery, poultry raising, oxen ploughing and tilapia fish farming. Barlonyo is 50 minutes to the north of Lira, which is 6 hours north of Kampala. There are 12 faculty and staff at BTVI.
- Operating **Barlonyo Early Childhood Development Centre** for 300 children ages 2 to 7.
- There are 4 teachers and 1 support staff at ECDC.
- Operating 8 **Income Generating Activities** (IGA's) to enable the caregivers of the 163 beneficiary children to pay a greater share of school fees. These IGA's are chicken, pig and goat rearing, oxen ploughing, bee-keeping, orange tree seedling planting, tailoring and paper bead jewelry making.
- Operating the COHU community **Library** at the Lira office for the 163 beneficiary children teachers from the 31 schools attended by the children and the whole community.
- Paying **university tuition** for 12 Aboke girls, who had been held captive by the LRA for 8 years, and paying partial school fees for their 18 young children, all born in captivity.

Specific tasks will include:

Barlonyo Technical and Vocational Institute [BTVI]:

- Work with BTVI Principal, Board of Governors Chairman to prepare monthly budgets, accountability reports and monitor progress of 3 year Strategic Plan.

- Work with BTVI faculty to prepare a needs assessment for tools, equipment and materials to better operate the courses in carpentry, bricklaying and tailoring.
- Liaise with community leaders to form working partnerships with other NGO's operating in Barlonyo. For example, Pastor Robson of Victory Outreach Ministries re Barlonyo medical clinic and primary school.
- Work with BTVI staff on adult learning centre to train local people to teach English.
- Work with BTVI students and staff on improving the efficiency of the 4 school IGA's, including increasing the market for the pigs, poultry, crops and tilapia fish.
- Work with the COHU Director and staff to facilitate health and sanitation and HIV/AIDS testing and information sessions, including distribution of deworming pills, malaria bed nets, etc.

Barlonyo Early Childhood Development Centre [ECDC]:

- Coordinate with Ryerson University Early Childhood Education intern in May, 2012 regarding equipping ECDC with appropriate teaching materials using local resources.
- Work with ECDC Director, Stella Auma and 3 teachers on needs assessment for furnishing, equipment and teaching materials.
- Work with ECDC faculty on community outreach with parents
- For example, initiate a lending library of primary concept books
- Assist ECDC faculty and staff in improving the program and logistics of operating the ECDC
- Perform feasibility study for a new nursery teacher training course at BTVI

COHU Community Library - Lira

- Perform a needs assessment for expanding the community library at the COHU office
- Visit the 31 schools attended by the 163 beneficiary children of COHU to assess how to facilitate use of the current COHU library
- Coordinate donation of appropriate books from Book Aid International warehouse in Kampala

Health and Sanitation Campaign - Lira

- Perform a needs assessment in rural villages surrounding Lira as follow-up to initial health and sanitation campaign performed by COHU in 2011
- Coordinate report on deliverables for possible extension of Rotary funding

Income Generating Activities – Lira

- Create a comprehensive field report on the current status of the 8 COHU IGA.'s in Lira with suggestions for improving yield of each.
- Coordinate the 'Send a Friend' program to expand benefit of IGA's to all caregiver families of beneficiary children ie distribution of baby goats, chicks, piglets
- Investigate methods of expanding markets for honey, crops, paper bead jewelry and crafts
- Investigate possibilities of forming a farmer's co-operative for marketing crops

- Investigate acquiring contracts from local school for COHU tailors to make school uniforms
- Investigate creating or expanding other markets for tailoring products ie patchwork bags, aprons, baskets, both within Uganda and in Canada.
- Work with COHU Sales Coordinator to facilitate production and shipping of products

Complete all tasks assigned, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities outlined above.

Expected work hours:

Preferred start date: Anytime in May

Qualifications/skills required:

Language requirements:

English

Highlights of Organization/background information:

Children of Hope Uganda is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated in Ontario on October 7th, 2011, Ontario Corporation # 1857838. It is registered with Revenue Canada as Canadian charity # 84461 3885 RR0001. Children of Hope Uganda is also the name of the Community Based Organization registered by Ojwina District Council, Lira, Uganda on January 27, 2009, # COH/01, reference OD/223/11. The partnership between COHU and COHU-Canada was initiated in 2007 between Lorna Pitcher, a retired teacher and former lawyer from Toronto, and Esther Atoo, the Director of COHU in Uganda.

The objective of COHU in Canada is to raise funds to support the projects of COHU in Uganda and monitor the progress and implementation of the projects.

COHU in Uganda was founded in December 2006 by Esther Atoo as a trauma-healing project to help a group of 43 children who had lost their parents to AIDS or the attacks of the Lord's Resistance Army. Many of the beneficiaries were former child soldiers, some HIV positive and all living in extreme poverty. There are now 163 OVC's (orphans and vulnerable children) in the core COHU project.

Additional Information

COHU Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

How much money will I spend altogether?

The flights will likely be the most expensive part of your trip. [around \$1,700 – try Coleen Fifield, Menno Travel www.mennotravel.com for a discounted humanitarian/aid workers rate plus \$175 in travel insurance] During the time when you are in Lira, you can plan to spend money on water bottles, some souvenirs, and the occasional lunch if you eat in town, and perhaps \$10.00 dollars a day for room and board if you are living at Esther's guest house. Water bottles cost around the equivalency of 25 cents, and a large lunch of rice and beans will cost no more than \$5.00.

Do I need to get a visa in advance?

This is not necessary. As soon as you land at the Entebbe airport you will see, clearly marked, a line-up to receive your visa. It is an easy and quick process, and is what most travellers do. The cost is \$50US, so bring US dollars with you.

Where will I stay?

Staying with Esther Attoo, the Director of COHU, is a great way to get the 'real Ugandan experience'. Living here you will have your own bedroom with a locked door, a washroom (flushable toilet, sink, and you will be provided with hot water to bathe yourself), and nice home cooked meals.

Will I get to sightsee?

Solomon and Esther will likely do their best to show you as much as they can. If you bring extra spending money, you can inquire about doing a game park drive [Murchison Falls National Park, about 5 hours to west], and seeing the other wonderful things that Uganda has to offer. Make sure to check out the art market!

How will I get around?

Solomon and Esther will most often drive you to the school, or the COHU office. The office is only a ten-minute drive from their house on fairly smooth roads, and the school is a 45 minute drive on a bumpy, but beautiful road. Since the roads are not well maintained, it is easier to get around via motorcycle, which can be very exciting!

A roundtrip by motorcycle to Barlonyo/Lira will cost about \$10. A boda-boda motorbike from Esther's to the COHU office in Lira is about \$ 0.80.

How will I get from Kampala to Lira?

Solomon or a driver will most likely pick you up from the Entebbe airport. It is possible that you will spend the night in Kampala to rest before the six-hour drive to Lira. The Boma Hotel is recommended, as it is near the Entebbe airport and will send a driver to pick you up no matter how late your flight arrives. [about \$100US]

Keep your eyes out for monkeys and other beautiful wildlife and scenery on the way, and make sure to pick up some fresh fruit and grilled corn from the street vendors.

What is the food like?

This is not a trip where you will lose weight! Uganda is known as the pearl of Africa and is one of the most fertile countries in the continent. Most of your meals will contain starches (rice or potatoes), and a lot of beans. Being a vegetarian is no problem here. There is also a ton of fresh fruit and vegetables (mangoes, pineapple, avocado, tomatoes, jackfruit)...fruit will never taste so sweet again!

What should I pack?

Uganda is very hot and humid, and during our summer is their rainy season. It is not necessary for girls to wear long skirts, however this may be more comfortable, but anything very short is not recommended. You should also pack:

- Some light sweaters for cooler days
- A light raincoat
- Toiletries (hand soap, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, band aids, Polysporin, other “just in case” medications→ Pepto Bismol, etc...)
- Camera
- Adaptor for charging
- Flash light and headlamp to read at night

Will I be able to charge electronics?

Esther's house is powered with a small solar panel. This means that charging is not always available on less sunny days. If you are staying in a hotel, like the Margharita Place Hotel (\$34 a night) charging electronics will not be a problem. Certain café's in town will allow you to charge your electronics if you spend money.

What shots or medication do I need?

- Yellow Fever and Typhoid shots, Malaria pills for the duration of your trip.
- You are best to consult a travel medicine clinic such as Travel Medicine Centre www.travelclin.com Dr Scappatura 700 Bay St Suite 609 416 340 8222
The service charge plus vaccine/pills could cost about \$300

Feel free to contact Zoe Goodman if you like: zoe.goodman@ryerson.ca
Zoe stayed with Esther for 5 weeks in May 2012. Pictures available