

CHAIRMAN'S PLEA AS RECESSION HITS HARD

MSAADA chairman, Chris Brickell, has issued an urgent appeal for funds to Msaada's supporters as the recession, coupled with the falling value of the pound, hits projects in Rwanda.

"Just a few months ago the exchange rate between the pound and the Rwandan franc was a little over 1:1,000. Now it is closer to 1:800," Mr Brickell explained.

"Already, the value of our support for projects in Rwanda has fallen significantly. We have had to use extra funds to meet our ongoing commitments and that will have a negative impact when it comes to providing finance for the latter part of this year."

Msaada's funding has been further eroded due to the impact of the recession on supporters.

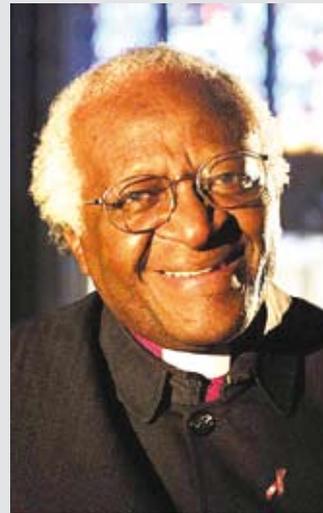
"I know full well that people here are hurting

because of the state of the UK economy at present," Mr Brickell commented, "but if things are bad for us, imagine what life is like for the Rwandans we support – some of the poorest and most traumatised people on earth."

Msaada has many ongoing commitments in Rwanda, including sending 113 orphans to state schools; providing bursaries for 60 children at the Excel Bilingual School (which includes both Tutsi and Hutu pupils); supporting the salaries of the trainers at the Subiruseke Vocational Training Centre; providing financial support to 30 elderly and disabled widows; providing training and support for the widows taking part in the Count D'Angerville honey project at Nyarabuye, and other general support for our partners organisation, AVEGA.

"If you can, please help us to keep our support at least as current levels. Your help is very much appreciated." Mr Brickell commented.

Archbishop Tutu endorses Msaada's Rwandan work



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

THE Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, has given a strong endorsement of the

work Msaada is doing with survivors of the genocide in Rwanda.

In a letter to Msaada, Archbishop Tutu commented: "I commend you on the outstanding work being done by Msaada. It may seem a drop in the ocean in a situation where there is great need but to those who benefit; your help is a Godsend.

"Rwanda is a beautiful country with beautiful people. The roots of their troubles to a large extent lie in their colonial past. They need help to heal and to prosper.

"I am delighted that Msaada is raising funds to help Rwandans help themselves.

"It is a wonderful investment."

Calling all Companies

MSAADA has recently launched a new Corporate Friend scheme to boost its ongoing educational and capital projects in Rwanda.

Benefits of membership include receiving Msaada News, invitations to Msaada Friends lunches and a link with the charity website. At just £300 per year this represents excellent value and is a positive way for your company to commit to supporting Msaada's charitable work.

Clear your corporate conscience – become a Corporate Friend of Msaada for less than £1 per day!

For further information and an application form please email msaadarwanda@yahoo.com or telephone 01747 837877.

Total funds raised
in UK to date:
£112,558

Total sent to projects
(incl. funds from non-UK supporters):
£139,964

ODETTE THANKS UK FOR POINTS TO THE CHALLENGES

ODETTE Kayirere – the co-ordinator of AVEGA's eastern region and the woman through whom Msaada mainly works – has thanked her UK supporters for the past year's co-operation and help.

"The financial assistance and advice from Msaada has been invaluable to the success and development of our organisation," Odette commented in her 2008 annual report.

"It has led to many accomplishments by AVEGA, improvement in the welfare of its beneficiaries and the resolution of several problems."

The annual report thanks Msaada for assisting 30 elderly widows who without the assistance could not survive. They are provided with financial aid that enables them to meet their basic needs. Their living conditions and overall welfare have been vastly improved and they deeply appreciate Msaada's support.

However, Odette stressed that there are several other elderly widows in urgent need of help and she asked, if possible, that the number would be increased to at least 50.



Students take part in a dance class at the Excel Bilingual School in Rwamagana

Msaada has been helping to provide school fees and scholastic materials to 113 orphans in primary and secondary schools.

Many of the children had dropped out of school but went back thanks to the support they received from the UK. Odette said they are all performing well.

"Children are able to continue their education as they have access to essential school materials," Odette explained.

She asked if Msaada could assist more orphans and also increase the amount of support given to each child to £45 due to the spiralling costs in Rwanda.

Rwanda is also suffering from the world-wide downturn and Odette explained that her costs are soaring while her income from some donors is falling. This presents many challenges and she urged Msaada to remain committed for the coming years.

The young people and elderly receiving support from Msaada are located in several districts in the East of Rwanda, including Ngoma, Kayonza, Kirehe, Nyagatare, Bugesera, Gatsibo, Gicumbi

The conference room constructed by Msaada at Rwamagana raised 8,450,000 Rwandan francs (£10,400) in the course of last year.

The Msaada-supported computer training centre raised 11,000,000 Rwandan francs (£13,400) last year, which has been distributed across various activities.

Msaada also provided funds for the purchase of two tents which can seat 100 people each. These tents are hired for social functions and other gatherings and last year raised 1,440,000 francs (£1,740).

All this income was used to provide aid to needy and disabled beneficiaries.



The sounds of a school playground are the same all over the world – the Excel School proved to be no exception during a recent visit

OR ITS SUPPORT AND ENGES THAT LIE AHEAD

Excel reaches 165 pupils

MSAADA is currently providing 60 bursaries for primary school children in Rwamagana to attend the Excel Bilingual School which was set up by the local community to provide a high quality of education to all of the children in the district.

Parents who can, pay for their children to attend and Msaada provides the funds for children whose parents cannot afford the fees and other costs.

There are currently 165 pupils and eight teachers at the school. This makes an average of 21 students per teacher. Teachers work 40 hours a week.

Subiruseke to assist widows

TRAINEES at the Subiruseke Vocational Training Centre will help to refurbish widows' houses in the area around the school with support from Mssada.

There are currently 32 girls and 13 boys learning building, carpentry and tailoring skills at the Subiruseke Vocational Training Centre.

The trainees are also given some basic knowledge of accounts, French and English.

Msaada funds the trainers' salaries at the centre.

New Science Lab

DURING 2008 Msaada provided funds to build a science lab at the Rwamagana Secondary School.



Widows undergoing training on hive management at Nyabitate

Honey project widows benefitting from ongoing technical assistance

THE Count D'Angerville Honeybee Project has helped train and motivate some 37 widows to keep honey-producing bees to help them towards self sustainability.

AVEGA has worked with Rwandan honey development organisation ARDI to train and motivate the beneficiaries in the care and management of bees.

Odette Kayirere explained: "We have a total of 70 colonised hives and we expect to have honey in March 2009.

"There are 42 beneficiaries involved in the project and at least four at every site

are capable of independent management of the bees."

The project is spread over four sites:

Bicumbi, where there are 14 beneficiaries and 23 hives.

The widows are working together regularly with a technician who has strengthened their beekeeping ability.

At Nyabitate there are four beneficiaries with 13 hives, all of which are populated – with 10 very strong colonies.

The beneficiaries appreciate the support provided by the technician and wish to continue working with him.

Mpanga has 14 beneficiaries and 12 hives, 11 of which are populated.

At Remera there are five beneficiaries and 22 hives with strong colonies.

There is a very high standard of management at this site which shows lots of improvement. The beneficiaries are benefitting significantly from the support they receive from the technician.

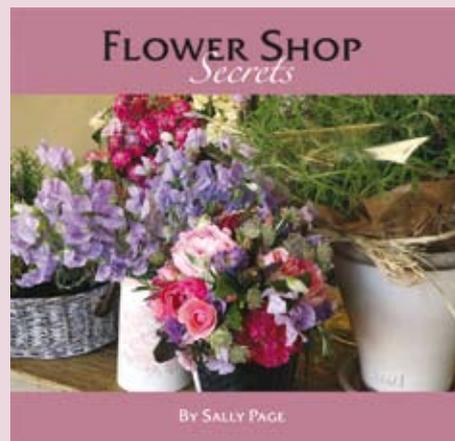
Odette said they very much appreciated Msaada's assistance and looked forward to continuing the partnership in the future.

Learn the secrets – help Msaada

Writer and photographer Sally Page was so impressed by the strength and compassion of the Rwandan women she met through Msaada that she decided to donate 100% of the profits from her latest book, *Flower Shop Secrets*, to Msaada. The book reveals helpful tips and hints that florists know really work. These are based upon Sally's work at Ted Martin Flowers in Tisbury and from florists she met during a year's journey visiting gorgeous flower shops around the country. The book costs £8.99.

"Having met the Rwandan women who are involved in the projects I was keen to do something to help – but what?" Sally commented. "The one thing I have discovered I can do is photograph and write books about flowers, so this book is dedicated to these incredible women."

To purchase, visit www.englishflowershop.com



Msaada was established with the support of journalist and broadcaster



Fergal Keane
Msaada president

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

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Msaada is a UK Registered Charity Number 1111819

Gift aid

I want Msaada to treat the enclosed donation of

£
as a Gift Aid donation

Please make cheques payable to Msaada

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Dautsey's School selected Msaada to be the school's charity last year. They presented Msaada with a cheque for a staggering £17,661.39.

Please donate now

It's now really easy to donate to Msaada on-line with Justgiving. Payments are secure, your money reaches the charity quickly and, if you are a tax payer, it is possible to Gift Aid your donation to benefit Msaada even further. Visit www.justgiving.com/msaada and follow the instructions online to make a donation.

Challenge 2009

Thinking of taking on a challenge in 2009? Going for a walk or cycle ride, climbing a mountain, running a marathon, losing weight, cutting your hair off or giving up booze for Lent?

Please consider taking the opportunity to raise some vital sponsorship for Msaada.

You can create your own Justgiving web page at www.justgiving.com/msaada (follow the Raise Money link) then email your friends and colleagues for their support and watch the sponsorship pour in!

As well as challenges, Msaada Justgiving web pages can also be created to receive donations in lieu of gifts for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, Christenings and memorials.

Please telephone 01747 837877 for further information.

Support Msaada as you shop online

You can help raise funds for Msaada – at no cost to you – every time you shop online at Easyfundraising with stores such as NEXT, Argos, Amazon, HMV, John Lewis, M&S, Toys'R'Us, DELL, Dixons, Expedia or Debenhams.

Msaada will receive up to 15% from every purchase you make!

Please click on www.easyfundraising.org.uk/msaada to register your own account.



Jacqueline Flexney-Briscoe, consultant physiotherapist at Hidden Depths, Shaftesbury, sponsor of the Msaada grand raffle, presents first prize to Neal Topley (centre), Gillingham, with Mark White, Msaada honey project co-ordinator