

fao Casa gazette

MARCH 2011

**Cambodia: following the Ho
Chi Min & the North
Vietnamese**

The Creation

**Lo Scippo/The Bag
Snatching**

Stand by you Group

**Letter of Thanks from the
Citizens Foundation, Pakistan**

**Mostra di Clara Hemsted
& A Biographical Note**

Alan Hemsted
2010

SOLDANELLA

di Patrizia Cimini

Nelle fiabe il tuo difficile amore
per un uomo di passaggio
è stato “larga la foglia stretta la via”.
Una gonna rosso arancio e un aspettare
al ciglio di una strada d’altri
al casolare, al bordo di faggeta
o di ferrata, marcire un poco in cima
delle foglie, ma un’altra ne nasce,
fiorire d’un subito sole per la piena
foga di luce a primavera
e poi chiudere la seta nella sera
quando lui ancora non di passo
non t’ha presa.
Rigira la gonna alla serena e t’apri bene
al minimo sole sempre, perché al confine del caldo a primavera
lui passa, e ti spicca, soldanella.





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Typewritten electronic contributions for the FAO CASA Gazette are welcome. These can be in English, French, Italian or Spanish - articles, poems, drawings, photographs, etc. in fact anything interesting that staff members and/or their families in Rome or the field may like to contribute. No anonymous material will be accepted, and the Editor reserves the right to choose and/or reject material that is not in keeping with the ethics of the Organization. Send contributions electronically to the Editor at jill.stevenson@fao.org or leave signed copies with the COOP Office on the ground floor of Building E. The deadline for editorial material is due on the 1st of the month preceding the date of issue. The Editor may schedule articles according to the priorities and editorial requirements of the FAO Staff COOP. The FAO CASA Gazette is published every month.

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Cambodia: following Ho Chi Minh and the North Vietnamese

by Peter Steele

Cambodia has the best dirt bike riding in the world; follow the low undulating hills along the Vietnamese border in Eastern Cambodia, explore the emptiness of the Cardamom Mountains of coastal Cambodia into Thailand or loop through the north – crossing the Mekong at Stung Treng and pass the temple complex at the disputed border lands of Prasat Preah Vihear before returning to Siem Reap. Or travel the country and do all three areas; but for that you need time (and endurance, fortitude and a really durable backside).



Lumphat ferry Crossing the Tonle Srepok balanced on a wooden deck and a couple of pontoon boats. This is where they shot the 'Apocalypse Now' anti-war movie (according to the guide book).

Travelling Cambodia on two wheels

A period of 30-40 years stability in what was once the French territory of Indo-China has brought unprecedented prosperity to everyone; and staggering prosperity to the minority that have enjoyed the networks, contacts and more; and who have had the vision, opportunity and the funds to negotiate and invest. Outside China and India, the region has led the world as a recipient in foreign direct investment.

Everywhere you look the glass and concrete structures are rising, the bridges are replacing ferries and the new roads are covering the remnants of colonial networks. The majority of poor, of course, remain poor.

Now is a very good time to catch that vision of an older time; both the legacy of the ancient Khmer Empire that dominated for more than 400 years from the Thirteenth century on and, importantly, contemporary



Anna and her Honda dirt bike negotiating a large muddy puddle on the Ho Chi Minh trail.

Cambodia that is rapidly catching up on its regional neighbours. Tourism is always a two-edged industry; providing the investment, employment and wealth that eventually subjugates the original images that people have come to see. It happens the world over. There are two million visitors on the major circuits in Cambodia each year, with targets of doubling numbers before 2020.

Travel the Phnom Penh-Siem Reap-Battambang-Phnom Penh holiday routes and you meet the service industries, production centres, factories, farms and more of modern-day Cambodia; these are people who benefit from the development

industries. Escape to Eastern Cambodia, by comparison, and there are remnants of the hill tribes, the rehabilitated forests, the wild life that has returned – tigers, elephants, gaur, wild cattle, deer and pigs – and has re-occupied lands that were bombed into oblivion by US forces during the war with the North Vietnamese. This is the Ho Chi Minh trail of fact and romantic legend (take your pick).

Emptiness and legends

And one of the reasons for riding Eastern Cambodia; it represented a reasonable week away and 1 000 km of empty roads, trails, make-shift bridges and ferries. This is Mondulakiri and Ratanakiri Provinces in all their '*wild-east*' settings; a vista of forests that stretch in all directions to the horizon, wide empty brown rivers with rock outcrops, isolated farms (connected to where?) with footpaths and motorbike trails snaking into the bush; and the nothingness of endless forest lands that appears primeval and the home of spirits and demons.

Bridges are the homes of angels and demons in Cambodian legend; and you have to have faith in the gods that you are crossing when the angels are in the ascendancy. Cross the bridge into the ancient city of Angkor Thom by the South Gate, for example, and the figurines face each other: 54 angels compete for you with 54 demons. In Phnom Penh in November last year, more than 420 people were crushed to death on a small bridge during the annual water festivals. Just imagine. People spoke seriously of the demons getting the upper hand.

Ho Chi Minh trail

During the time of the USA/Viet Nam war, the Ho Chi Minh trail stretched more than 1 000 km parallel to the Viet Nam border in Laos and Cambodia. The network of trails, roads, pathways and rivers provided routes in support to the North Vietnamese and their National Front allies in their war of attrition with the South Vietnamese. The



Time after time

There are forms of co-operation that almost become a new tradition

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DE BESI - DI GIACOMO



Bridge over the Mekong. Kampong Cham and the gateway to the eastern provinces. Chinese engineering at its best; and too the dirt bikes – Japanese technologies as reliable as ever. The bikes were old; imported second hand more than 10 years earlier. Seats were a challenge for those with soft backsides.

trail was not a single trail as such, but a complex network that stretched from the border to the Mekong River and, at its busiest during the mid-1960s, it was home to 24 000 men in six truck transport battalions, two bicycle battalions, eight engineering battalions and 45 logistical stations. All this has now gone.

More ordinance was dropped along the trail by US bombers than during the whole of the Second World War in Europe; and the risk of travelling in the region – so everyone warns you – is not to travel into sparsely travelled places given the unexploded munitions that still litter the country. Much the same holds true for the left-over minefields of the Khmer Rouge civil war. Tragically, people still continue to be killed and injured, but the reality of 2010 is that more people are killed in traffic accidents from dangerous driving each year. Pedestrians and motorbikes are particularly vulnerable.

Eastern Cambodia is empty

Sen Monorom – Monduliri City – is cowboy country in Eastern Cambodia but,

importantly, it's now connected to the country by the world's newest and most empty highway – paved too. Wide, fast and easy-to-travel curves that snake around the hills and provide those endless vistas of forest but also the new plantations of rubber, nut fruits, timber and more that represent the concession areas. This is a land without people, and the roadside services, settlements and snack-stops have yet to catch up with the rest of Cambodia. This is fast motorbike country. Make sure you travel with a full tank.

From Monduliri City north the ride becomes that much more challenging. The town represents that last reasonable habitation for more than 400 km. But, of course, this is a western view – and all manner of people live here, provide services, feed themselves and more. Just as well, for this is where you begin falling off the bikes and breaking things. We had our only puncture beginning the day riding north into Ho Chi Minh country; easily sorted by turning round and riding back into town. Motorbike service shops are everywhere, and time was the main issue

for we were late into the day before setting out again. Then we lost a clutch cable on one of the bikes on the long stretch north; and you cannot ride slowly over trails without a clutch. You can, however, do so on the open road. Another small service shop fitted a new cable. The most serious hassles were hand levers, for none of the bikes had hand guards fitted – *can you imagine*. Fall over, even at slow speed and it's the foot pegs, mirrors and hand levers that take the brunt of the bike hitting the ground. This was November-December and the dry period – and the ground was hard. From March through to October the SW monsoon deluges forests, plantations and farms alike with almost four metres of rain. The guide books tell you – experienced bikie or not – do not attempt the trails during the rains; you will never be seen again.

If you come this way – take a guide

We had not thought to carry spare hand levers (and neither had the hire shop told us to do so – but, if you are travelling this way – take note). Government has recently constructed a new military road along this stretch of country, unmetalled but fast, and you need to take note of the build up of loose soil and stones thrown to one side by the large trucks and SUVs that travel the road to Koh Nhek (it's pronounced rather like 'Cognac' – the famous French brandy). So, the curves were there to be respected rather than enjoyed.

Two hours later and another 100 km completed (with only the stop for that clutch cable) and we had stopped at the only cross-road in the village debating what to do next. The key issue was hiring a guide for the uncharted forest trails (or relying upon Google Earth – for the main trail had looked relatively easy to follow from the satellite). Take it from us – hiring the guide was the best US\$50 ever spent. We had negotiated with the 'fixer' in a local bar down from US\$50 to US\$35 – still under the illusion that we did not *really* need a guide. We had not realised that the man was a 'go-between' until the deal was done - and he sent for a



Sunset over the Mekong at Kratie; home to the last of the Irrawaddy dolphin.

man on a small city bike. He was to be our guide. So, how much of the original sum he was due to receive remained in question. Further, we had no language in common – smiles, half-a-dozen Khmer words for greetings, food and drink; and sign language and trust. Our guide turned into that travelling angel that all bikies need.

Pleasures of riding rough

The trails heading for the provincial town of Ban Lung started immediately; but early afternoon and relatively fresh and keen, and with a guide to boot, we were optimistic of a 5-6 hour journey to the ferry at Lumphat. Lumphat became like the 'Emerald City' a place at the end of the rainbow, but this was before we began to fall off the bikes. Well, two of us did – Kristian with his larger bike and his riding experience tended to have more control and better balance – but he still fell off at times.



'Home from home' A cold refrigerator and a welcome drink at a farm shop somewhere between Koh Nhek and Lumphat; shared with the family. Passing trade in foreign bikies is brisk; nine Italians had been through the week earlier.

We hit long patches of sand – reminiscent of desert riding – where the bikes bulldozed sand under the front wheel and simply fell over when it went too slow or met an obstruction in the sand. Riding four bikes together (including the guide) there was always someone to help you up. Not so much that the bikes were too heavy (or heavily loaded), but more the inexperience of the riders with leverage and lift. And, as the day wore on, everyone got tired. Then too, sometimes the bike fell on you – and a leg got trapped underneath 150 kg of metal edges. Sometimes this was painful.

Other parts of the trail were ridged – where road vehicles had pushed through – near to Koh Nhek and areas that were farmed; woe-be-tides you when the front wheel dropped into a deep track and you were not fast enough to climb out. Over the bike went. This would not have been the place to lose a clutch lever but, fortune smiled, and we lost brake levers and mirrors. Falling off became more challenging as the evening set

in, for you could not pick out the details of the trail; and still we kept falling off. Everywhere there were tree roots. It was an act of faith to ride a trail that was little more than two metres visible. Into the distance you could see the tail lights of the other bikes. And it was an act of faith to wait for someone (with all the hassles of turning round, etc.) simply to come back and help lift the bike off you.

We recommend the ferry lodge

The guide provided the encouragement that we all needed: *'Only another 20 km'*, then *'15km'* and so on down to the last couple of kilometres. He would scratch the figures in the dirt of the trail, smile and use our common language: *'Lumphat ferry'*. The forest was open and dry rather and tropical rain; and the trees and their shadows stretched into the dark void of infinity. Break down now – with a puncture or lost clutch - and it would mean abandoning the bike and a return tomorrow. Just after 10.00 pm after more than 14 hours on the bikes the house of the ferry master loomed dark


amongst the trees. You could hear the river off to one side.


The options were easy; remain here overnight and take the ferry the next day or continue. Across the river were normal roadways, villages and, 25 km further on, the provincial capital of Ban Lung. For a couple of dollars, the ferry master provided a room in his house with sleeping mats, a

blanket each and a new mosquito net that covered us all; and shared his family meal of rice and fish on the floor around a couple of pressure lamps. It was all we could do to stagger from one to the next.

Next day; as the ferry phut-phutted into the fast moving water; we left behind a guide who had become a friend - his bonus well-deserved ■



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Works of Art in FAO

Cuban Artist, Pedro Pablo Oliva The Creation

by Flavia Carbonetti

For many years a poetic painting brightened up the lunch of people eating at the cafeteria on the 8th floor at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The mural is the creation of the famous and talented Cuban painter Pedro Pablo Oliva and was donated by the artist to FAO, on the occasion of the Telefood Concert organized on 26 October 1997 and simultaneously held in Rome and in Havana.



photo credit: FAO/Guilio Napolitano

Mr Pedro Pablo Oliva was born in 1949 in Pinar del Río, 160 km from La Habana. He studied art from 1961 to 1964 at the Escuela Provincial de Artes Plásticas in Pinar del Río and specialized in painting at the Escuela Nacional de Arte in Havana, where he graduated in 1970. To promote the art, the literature and the culture of Pinar del Río and in general the Cuban and international art, Mr Oliva, since 1998, has founded and financed the Pedro Pablo Oliva Home-Workshop in the province of Pinar del Río for which he has received numerous recognitions from various institutions in Cuba. The artist has also received many other prizes and awards for his art and held numerous personal and collective exhibitions all over the world. His works of art can be found in numerous collections in Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Mexico, Brazil, Canada, Germany as well as in the prestigious auction houses of Christie's and Sotheby's. Representative of a neoexpressionist style, his painting often depicts children and animals, fantastic figures and elements and also with his colorful mastery and chromatic diversity Mr Oliva's art has become an obligatory reference point in the development of Cuban fine arts, for all art critics and fine arts historians.

Mr Pedro Pablo Oliva, recently kindly accepted to explain the real “history” of this mural. In fact in 1997 the artist was invited by FAO Rome to participate in the first Telefood Concert and among other appointments he held a workshop, with Roman art students. In order to give to the students the opportunity to follow the creation of one of his paintings and to directly interact with him, the artist decided to centre the lessons on the creation of this mural, subsequently donated to FAO, which was painted in just 4 working days at FAO Headquarters and was finished just a few hours before the beginning of the Telefood Concert. A real marathon!

The painting, 2m x 4m, the title of which was indicated by the artist to be “the birth” or (alternatively) “the creation”, represents what the artist calls “the tree of life”. Importance is given to the birth of the human being and love, as they are the bases which give shape



and sense to the creation. Two archetypes of love can be found in the mural: on the right a tender couple in love (the seed, the natural primitive cause) and on the left a mother, (waiting for the new life, guardian and nourishment of the creature). At the center, the new human being, sleeping at the base of a womb and waiting for constant emotional and material needs. In this work of art there is a mixture of various universal echoes, constant in the artist’s works of art. As stated in his own words, *“I am particularly interested in exploring the human being, especially as an extension of the society in which I live, in all its integrity and plurality, with its complexities and contradictions, its beliefs and uncertainties, its cheerfulness and distress, its goodness and perversities. When you do that and you want to be totally honest, at least honest with yourself, you could clash with conflicts of any kind, emotional, ethical, political...some are inside yourself, others are imposed, and both could break you. But those are the risks that I am always willing to take, because I*

cannot avoid expressing what I think and feel; also when I desire to love or when I feel the urgency to think something over or shout..”. Furthermore, *“Painting is not just to place correctly or incorrectly the color but it is to go beyond the barrier of immediate, to feel more than the age we live in, to go through everyday life to experiment the universal, to succeed in creating a permanent smile, to succeed in having tragedy keep us alive well beyond the age in which we live...”*

It is easy to be charmed by this painting, which touches the deepest emotional chords of the human being. This painting is a poem. Look at it carefully and allow yourself to be drawn into its fairy-tale world.

Special thanks to the artist Mr Pedro Pablo Oliva, as well as to Mr David Horta, Coordinator of cultural projects, and to Mr Oscar Llanes, the artist’s Agent.

Lo Scippo

di Nathalie Perisse

È una mattina come tante, il sole è tiepido e l'aria è umida.

Ho lasciato le bambine a scuola, salutato la custode sul portone e sorrido, mentre giro l'angolo. L'Aventino è il quartiere più bello del mondo. Ogni angolo di strada ti fa scordare l'orrore, la povertà, il disagio. Solo per pochi è normalità, per tutti i normali è l'eccezione. Non si può fare a meno di alzare gli occhi e guardare. A parte i voluminosi escrementi lasciati dagli enormi cani di razza che purtroppo i maggiordomi non raccolgono, perché stufi di ramazzare le sporcizie dei loro padroni si rifanno sull'animale domestico, a parte il silenzio che regna in questo quartiere, tutto è bellezza allo stato puro. Io qua rimango sempre estasiata.

Sto vivendo quel attimo di totale libertà: le bimbe stanno in classe e io non ancora al lavoro. Posso camminare, bere un cappuccino al Café du Parc, incontrare un'amica. Ho un quarto d'ora, è tantissimo.

Non sento la moto arrivare alle mie spalle, ma con decisa delicatezza un uomo di forte corporatura mi sfilza la borsa da sotto il braccio! Ho pensato ad uno scherzo. Ho creduto che fosse il marito di una delle tante altre mamme spensierate che confondendomi, si prendeva gioco di me. Purtroppo la moto si allontana con la mia borsa, mi sento nuda: reagisco. Mi metto a correre con tutte le mie gambe: ne ho due, sono forti perché ho sciato durante queste due ultime settimane, nonostante porti un po' di tacco, non fa niente: corro con tutta la mia forza: corro ed urlo! Urlo come quando ho partorito la mia prima figlia: all my soul out! Alle finestre non si affaccia nessuno. Giunta all'altezza della casa di cura Santo Volto, non mollo e continuo ad urlare, piangere e correre. Come se fosse un nuovo parto liberatorio.

Arrivata in Piazza Santa Prisca, vedo la luce, ovvero la nascita della Solidarietà



insperata: tanti motorini accerchiano la mia borsa Tommy Hilfiger di tela blu. Ci sono tutte le mie cose personali sparpagliate a terra, fino sotto alle macchine. Mi lancio al collo di uno sconosciuto e lo bacio. E' un papà che lascia i figli nella medesima scuola del quartiere, un avvocato penalista e con aria soddisfatta ha perseguitato il ladro fino farlo cascare dalla moto. Sono una miracolata, mi sdraio a terra, non mi importa se mi sporco, voglio recuperare tutto, anche la borraccia di tè caldo rotolata sotto ad una macchina parcheggiata. Ringrazio tutti e amo tutti. Faccio pace con il mondo. Mi apparto in un angolo di strada, metto in ordine le mie cose, sorseggio il mio tè ancora tiepido. A cup of tea solves everything!

È ora, devo andare in ufficio, devo raccontare l'accaduto a qualcuno, è troppo eccezionale! La prima persona che conosco si trova nei corridoi e mi sfogo subito con lei. Mi ascolta attentamente e mi dice che sono veramente fortunata perché oggi giorno la gente stenta a giocare a guardia e ladri. E poi mi racconta lei un fatto molto triste e personale che mi lascia basita.

Quando lei aveva poco più di un anno, una mattina di domenica, all'uscita della messa, un'anziana signora è vittima di uno scippo. Suo padre senza esitazione si lancia alla rincorsa del ladro, che, però purtroppo è armato. Viene così ucciso sul colpo la buona anima di suo padre per avere cercato di recuperare una borsetta. Si può chiamare eroe ■



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The bag snatching

translation by S. Saint

It's a normal morning, the sun is warm, the air moist.

I dropped the children off at school, waved to the caretaker at the front door and smiled as I turned the corner. The Aventino is the most beautiful neighbourhood in the world. Each corner of the street makes you forget horror, poverty, discomfort. It's only normal for a few people; for all normal people it's an exception.

You can't help but look all around you. Apart from the numerous amounts of faeces left by dogs of all breeds which unfortunately the butlers don't pick up because they are sick of sweeping up after their bosses and therefore take it out on their pets, apart from the silence reigning in this area, everything is in a beautiful pure state. In this place I am always entranced. I live a moment of complete freedom: the children are at school and I am not at work yet. I can walk, drink a cappuccino at the Café du Parc, meet a friend. I have a quarter of an hour, it's a long time.

I don't hear a motorbike come up from behind me, but with extreme delicacy a heavily built man grabs my bag from under my arm! At first I thought it was a joke. I thought that perhaps the husband of one of the many other carefree mums had mistaken me for his wife and played a joke on me.

Unfortunately the motorbike drives off with my bag, I feel naked. I start running as fast as I can, my two legs are strong because I've been skiing for the last two weeks, in spite of the fact that I am wearing shoes with heels: I run, and with all my might I run and yell. I yell in the same way I did when I gave birth to my first daughter: all my soul out! No-one looks out of their windows. When I reach the Santo Volto clinic I don't give up and continue yelling, crying and running. As if it was another



liberating childbirth.

When I reach Piazza Santa Prisca, I see the light, the birth of inspired solidarity: lots of mopeds are surrounding my blue cloth Tommy Hilfiger bag. My personal belongings are scattered all over the ground, some under the cars. I throw myself at a stranger and kiss him. He's the father of children who go to the same school as mine, a criminal lawyer, and looking very satisfied he'd run after the thief until he made him fall off his motorbike. I've been miraculously saved, I get down on the ground, I don't care if I get dirty, I want to get everything back, even the flask of hot tea which had rolled under a parked car. I thank everyone and love everyone. I make peace with the world. I go into a corner of the street, put all my things back together, sip my tea which is still warm. A cup of tea solves everything!

And now it's time to go to the office, I must tell someone what happened, it's so extraordinary! I bang into the first person I know in the corridor and I immediately unburden myself to her. She listens attentively and says that I'm really lucky because nowadays people are reluctant to play cops and robbers. And then she tells me a very personal, sad story which leaves me dumbfounded.

When she was a little more than a year old, one Sunday morning, while coming out from mass, an elderly lady had her bag snatched. Without hesitating, her father rushed after the thief who, unfortunately, was armed. Her father, God rest his soul, was instantly killed while trying to retrieve her bag. He can be called a hero ■

REMINDER

This is to remind you to renew your FAO Staff Coop membership for 2011.

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STAND BY YOU GROUP

Children's Education Project – Uganda

by Josephine Oyee, Coordinator



Group of children sponsored by "Help For All"

Commencement Date of Project

The Stand by You Group assists children in adoption through its Programme called "Distant-Adoption". The Programme started on 11 September 1997 when the first child (Apili Sharon) was distant-adopted. This date is taken into consideration because some of the children who were in "Help For All" were readopted under Stand by You Group by old and new sponsors. Otherwise, Stand By You Group started officially on 19 January 2005 following a meeting of sponsors held in Rome. on 29 January 2005.

Locations of Project Areas

Initially, our aim was to adopt children from areas in all of the four Regions of Uganda (Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western). However, due to some administrative, logistical and other unavoidable circumstances, some of the areas had to be left out. Our project would basically cover the following areas:

1. Kampala District
2. Wakiso District - newly created (including Entebbe)
3. Jinja District (including Mukono District - newly created)
4. Lira District. (Otuke District, Alebtong District, Moroto District, Dokolo District, Amolatar District – newly created)
5. Apac District (including newly created Districts of Kole and Oyam).

Precisely, according to the recent demarcations by the Government of Uganda, the above new districts mentioned in 1-5 above were created. We are sponsoring children only in the following districts: Kampala, Entebbe, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Lira, Dokolo, Apac and Kole.

In the future perhaps it would be a good idea if consideration is given to the newly created districts as they are small and near to one another.



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Statistics on the number of children sponsored are given in the table below.

As the statistics show, we try as much as possible to maintain gender balance (25 boys and 27 girls), also emphasizing on the importance of girl-child education. We also try to ensure, to a greater extent that the children being distant-adopted are orphans and a very small percent (about 5%) are disadvantaged.

	Class	Number of children
I.	Not yet schooling	1
	Baby (Adong Winny's daughter adopted by Ariella)	
	Total number of babies	1
II	Nursery	2
	Total number of children in Nursery Schools	2
III	Primary Schools	
	Primary One	1
	Primary Two	3
	Primary Three	2
	Primary Four	1
	Primary Five	1
	Primary Six	5
	Primary Seven	2
	Total of children in Primary Schools (P1-P7)	15
IV	Technical School	1
	Total number of children in Technical Schools	1
V	Senior Secondary Schools	
	Senior One	8
	Senior Two	5
	Senior Two (Seminary)	1
	Senior Three	3
	Senior Four	2
	Total number of children in Senior Secondary Schools	21
VI	Senior/Higher Schools	
	Senior Five/Higher	2
	Senior Six/Higher	3
	Total number of children in Higher School	5
VII	Universities:	
	Makerere University Kampala (Main)	1
	Makerere University (MUBS), Nakawa, Kampala	1
	Gulu University, Gulu, Northern Uganda	1
	Christian University, Mukono	1
	Total number of students in Universities	4
VIII	Universities (Already completed)	
	Makerere University Kampala (Main) (Adim Solomon)	1
	Nkumba University, Entebbe (Banya James Carter)	1
IX	Children whose cases need to be reviewed:	
	Adong Winny	
	Akao Martha	
	Apili Sharon	
	Olwa Hedmon	
	Total number of children (I – IX)	52

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The Programme was wrongly perceived locally. When we first started identifying children for adoption, many parents/guardians did not understand the concept or benefit of distant-adoption thus few of them were willing to respond positively. As of now, the numbers of families who have submitted their requests for such assistance are overwhelming.

Sponsors and Payment of School Fees and Parcels

The sponsors are mainly FAO staff, relatives and acquaintances, all residing in Rome. Sponsors pay a monthly contribution of 30.00 which is collected every three months by Edith Mahabir, the Coordinator in Rome, and sent to Uganda. These funds are used entirely to provide school fees and some money to buy basic requirements.

Every Christmas parcels are sent by all sponsors to their adopted children and are distributed by the Coordinator to each one in the three locations. Some sponsors also send parcels for birthdays.

Project Achievements

Project achievements are many, some of them are listed below:

1. The welfare and social life of the children have greatly improved.
2. The attainment of a high standard of children's education is very good as can be seen from the previous table.
3. The children have acquired a high level of discipline both in schools and in their homes.
4. Girl children education has been promoted.
5. A new culture of children from different parts of Uganda being offered assistance in education by Stand By You Group is encouraging and highly appreciated by all the parties concerned.
6. The distant-adoption Programme has promoted friendship among all the families (namely, Coordinators, sponsors, children, parents/guardians, and volunteers who assist in the work of the Programme). Above all, the children associate with their sponsors through letter writing enabling them to share experiences of all sorts. Of special note is the fact that many nationals of different background have come openly to assist these poor children without any personal interest of any kind.
7. The graduation from university of one of the beneficiaries – the first boy to graduate in January 2011) was a great achievement as it encouraged other children to follow a similar path to achieve better education. He has been sponsored by M. Christine Laporte.

Project Constraints

1. Lack of a Centre in Uganda to co-ordinate Programme activities where seminars, lectures, religious activities, advice, etc. can be given to the children. Currently, no such programmes are conducted as the children are located in various schools in different parts of Uganda. These children come from poor and diverse family backgrounds and many of their parents/guardians do not take such initiatives on their own, leaving the children to grow without any guidance.
2. Need for a big capacity vehicle that can carry children for visits to other project areas to share experiences with fellow children and also go for educational sightseeing to broaden their knowledge.



*University graduate
'Salomon Adim'*

3. Need to have Stand By You Group or some kind of Organization/Centre (to be guided and authorized by the Group) registered in Uganda as some of the activities being proposed may not be easy to carry out without a certificate of registration, e.g. carrying children in a vehicle to travel to some other areas, fundraising activities which could be done to generate some money to supplement the bigger budget provided by the Group.
4. Lack of textbooks of which the prices in Uganda are exorbitant. For example, one text book for Primary school may cost approx. UGX 20,000-30,000 (6.00- 9.00); for secondary school approx UGX 50,000-70,000 (15.00- 21.00) each, and for university UGX80,000 (24.00) to over (UGX 100,000 (30.00). Science text books are the most expensive and could double or triple the estimated prices quoted above.
5. Need for income-generating projects to be implemented in Uganda by the Coordinator and with the support of the children especially the students, families and volunteers as the need may warrant. Project proposals to be identified with assistance and or advice of the Group of Sponsors in Rome.
6. Need to officially have a doctor who will regularly examine the children (6 times a year): when children return home for holidays and when they are returning to school – as almost all schools demand. This is in addition to attending to them when they fall sick. Again, this would be officially acceptable when the Group is registered. The assistance being rendered currently by a volunteer doctor would pose a big risk should any unfortunate incident occur. Many parents/guardians do not pay much attention to their children's health status. You can compare the health status of the children now under the care of a volunteer doctor to the days when we had no doctor attending to them.
7. The need to have the rules of the Group well outlined and updated from time to time as the need may arise. As these children become youths and grow into adulthood, they are faced with many associated social problems which need to be addressed urgently. More detailed suggestions will be provided at a later date.
8. The need for a video camera to document the Group's activities.

Volunteers who have assisted and are still assisting the Programme in Uganda

The Programme has always been assisted by volunteer students from the universities and higher schools, who themselves have been or are beneficiaries. and some adults who are employed by other institutions. However, as some of them get jobs and are posted or get relocated to other districts which are outside the Programme areas, they become non-effective and then new students have to be identified to replace them. Also, when the students are in their first year and more so when in their last year in universities, they become too busy to assist.

Names of Volunteers

1. Odongo Leo – Has since ceased assisting as he is now on a full-time job in Northern Uganda.
2. Adim Solomon - After his graduation in January 2011, he got temporary employment by an NGO in Western Uganda.
3. Banya James Carter - He has now completed university. He has not yet reported to me although he has promised to come and see me.
4. Dr Pamela Donggo - Shas relocated from Lira to Kampala where she is doing Masters in Human Medicine at Mulago main Referral Hospital/Makerere University but is able to

assist the Kampala (and surrounding areas). She visits Lira mostly when the children are going back to school to help examine them and assists with getting health certificates. When she is not in Lira, she still assists through her colleagues located in the various hospitals (e.g. Amai Hospital in Apac District, Lira Referral Hospital, Lira Medical Centre and in few clinics in the project areas. After her Masters, she may go back to her station in Lira and she will continue to assist in Kampala and surrounding areas through her colleagues.

Distribution of children per each class as at January (First Semester 2011)

	Name of child	Class	Comments
I.		Adong Winny's baby/daughter -1	Not yet attending school
II	Nursery (Top Class) Okello Dan Adie Naome Total number of children in Nursery Schools	2	Passed (in new class) Repeating Top Class
III	Primary Schools Primary One: Aweko-Ni-Mungo	1	Passed
	Primary Two: Aceng Vivian Adur Nora Awidi Loy	3	Passed Passed Passed
	Primary Three: Adubu Sandra Nakazzin Dean Mary	2	Passed Passed
	Primary Four: Adongo Holiver	1	Passed
	Primary Five: Angwec Sarah	1	Passed
	Primary Six: Opio Isaac Kia Vivian Diana Adong Lucy Ebwoy Hallan Najatti Saidi	5	Repeating P6 Passed Passed Passed Passed

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	Name of child	Class	Comments
	Primary Seven: Adong Fiona Olwa Hedmond (To repeat 7) Total number of children in Primary Schools	2 15	Passed May repeat P7
IV	Technical Schools: Awio Bonny Total number of children in Technical Schools	1 1	Has been admitted for a carpentry course
V	Senior Secondary Schools Senior One: Akullo Juliet Akullo Sharon Akec Sharon Nalukwago Silvia Begumisha Hannington Otuk Oscar Awor Juliet Awongo Stephen	9	Passed Passed Passed Passed Passed Passed Passed Passed
	Senior Two: Achiro Christine Nakibirwa Immaculate Akello Seddy Awongo Stephen Gabriel Ajuk	6 Senior Two/Seminary	Passed Passed Passed Passed Passed
	Senior Three: Ogwang Solomon Akullo Sharon-Ogong Oyite Samuel Akao Martha	4	Passed Passed Passed Absconded from school may opt for a course
	Senior Four: Ogwal Ceasor Apili Sharon Ogwal Emmanuel (to repeat S4 or go to S5)	4	Passed Absconded from school. May opt for course Exam results are awaited
	Total number of children in Senior Secondary Schools	21	
VI	Senior/Higher Schools Senior Five/Higher: Bezahura Isaac Obia Patrick	2	Passed Passed

	Name of child	Class	Comments
	Senior Six/Higher: Mpaata Jimmy Okabo Allan Kobia Tom Richard	3	Passed Passed Passed
	Total number of children in Higher School	5	
VII	Universities: Makerere University Kampala (Main): Ojok Macknon	1	Studies progressing well
	Makerere University (MUBS), Nakawa, Kampala: Okwir Eric	1	Studies progressing well & expected to complete next year
	Gulu University, Gulu, Northern Uganda: Orongo Herman	1	Studies progressing well. Expected to complete next year
	Christian University, Mukono Oduka Edwin	1	Studies progressing well
	Number of students in Universities	4	
VIII	Universities (Already completed) Makerere University Kampala (Main) Adim Solomon	1	Employed temporarily. Hope the NGO will give him a more permanent job. At the same time he is job hunting
	Nkumba University, Entebbe Banya James Carter	1	Completed university in December 2010. Not yet employed.
	Total number of children (I – IX)	52	

Appeal for new sponsors

We currently need sponsors for two children whose sponsors are unable to continue assisting them. We also have many requests for assistance for other children on a waiting list. So if you feel that you would like to make a difference in the life of a needy child, do contact Edith Mahabir for further information - she has now retired from the Organization but will continue coordinating the Programme from Rome, on e-mail: Luigi.Fabbri@fastwebnet.it.

This is a temporary address and she will be providing a new one later; she can always be contacted through the FAO Staff Coop Office also, since she is the Publicity Officer ■

PAKISTAN COLLECTION

The FAO Staff Coop has received a “Thank You” letter from “The Citizens Foundation” for €4,575.00 which was 50% of the collection money raised by FAO staff.

February 01, 2011

FAO Team

Rome, Italy

Sub: Acknowledgment of Funds

Dear FAO Team

On behalf of The Citizens Foundation and Friends of The Citizens Foundation (UK chapter), I would like to thank you and your entire team for your generous donation of **Euro 4'575** towards the TCF Flood Relief (enclosed receipt for your record). Your kind donation is sincerely appreciated and we thank you on behalf of all the flood victims.

Our goal is to continue to make a difference in the lives of people. With the help of supporters such as you, TCF will continue to remove barriers of class and privilege to make citizens of Pakistan agents of positive change. We are now in Phase II of our flood efforts which is the rehabilitation of our schools and students who were affected by the floods.

Thank you once again to the FAO team for their generous support of our efforts.

Best wishes,

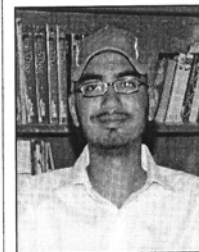
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Nadeem Hussain - Enrolled at IBA studying for a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science

CLARA HEMSTED

MOSTRA 16-19 Marzo 2011
allo Studio Viale Aventino 44, (cortile)

Orario: 11.00–14.00 Mattino - 16.00–19.00 Pomeriggio

A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

by Edna Howe



Clara Hemsted was born in Scotland and has reached the marvellous ago of 90! After graduating, during the war, she worked in the Foreign Office.

She came to Italy in 1955 and, after working as a volunteer in Calabria, joined FAO. There she was employed for 27 years; working in Fellowships and then PL Division.

In her spare time she started painting. First in Oils, and then Water Colours. Clara was one of the Founder Members of the FAO Staff Coop's Artists' Group created by Alberto Stefanoni.

During the years 1960 and 1970 she participated in many 'estemporanea' competitions in the Campagna Romana, in those blissful days, winning prizes in Sabina, Marino, Farfa, Gaeta.

Around this time Clara opened the Studio opposite FAO. There she organized regular Life classes for aspiring artists, and more importantly, held an Annual 'Mostra' at the end of the year...



Corn Soup – Caribbean style

This is a typical Friday evening soup sold on the streets in small bowls and consumed while '*liming*'* with friends and/or colleagues after work

by Edith Mahabir

4 ears of corn (also frozen)
1/2 cup yellow split peas
3-4 cups low sodium chicken stock
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 bell pepper (pepperone), finely diced
1 small onion, finely diced
1 carrot, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 tbsps chopped cilantro
50 gr smoked bacon (optional)
hot pepper sauce
1/4 cup evaporated milk (optional)
cornflour



Method:

- Remove the kernels from three ears of corn (if frozen slice off with sharp knife). Set aside. Slice the remaining one ear of corn into 1 to 1½ inch thick rounds. Set aside.
- Saute the onions, sweet peppers, carrots, and garlic in 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil until softened, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the split peas, fresh corn kernels, cilantro (dried also suitable) and bacon, and stir well. Pour in the chicken broth and cook for 45 minutes on medium heat until split peas completely melted (alternatively cook for 15 minutes in pressure cooker).
- Stir in the reserved chunks of corn. Cook uncovered for an additional 10 minutes until the chunks of corn have cooked through and the soup has thickened slightly. Stir in hot sauce (quantity depends on your preference) and evaporated milk, if using. Garnish with chopped chives.
- Some additional stock can be added if it dries up too much during cooking on fire, at the end a teaspoon of cornflour mixed with water can be added to thicken the soup. Serves 4

* **Liming** – when a small group of people meet to pass a pleasant few hours chatting, having a drink and eating something light like corn soup, roasted corn, souse, fresh oysters with hot peppery sauce, or other finger food like doubles (in Trinidad often accompanied with a beer). Most of the time standing on the street. This is mostly on Fridays.

Salt Fish Buljol

Ingredients:

300 gr salt codfish
1 onion finely chopped
1 hot pepper chopped
1-2 fresh tomatoes (optional)
4 tbsp olive oil
1-2 tbsp lime juice



Method:

In a deep dish pour abundant boiling water to cover codfish and allow to cool. Then pour away this water and remove all the bones and skin and shred finely, possibly reducing the fish to threadlike consistency. Pour boiling water once more over the codfish and leave to stand for 7 minutes. After this drain and squeeze out all the moisture from the fish. Add the onion, chopped and deseeded tomatoes and hot pepper to the shredded fish and season with the olive oil, lime juice and freshly ground black pepper.

Choice of oil: olive oil gives more flavour but other types of oil can be used.

Serving suggestions: with fresh hops bread or the Italian rosetta, Terni or casareccia breads.

Carrot Cake

Ingredients:

1 tbsp grated coconut
250 gr self raising flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp salt
½ cup vegetable oil
250 gr sugar
2 beaten eggs
175 gr walnuts grated or
chopped finely
350 gr carrots grated
Vanilla essence
Touch of nutmeg
150 gr raisins



Method:

Beat eggs, then add in the following order oil, sugar, nutmeg and essence mixing well. Then add flour, baking powder and soda and finally the carrots, coconut and nuts. Batter should be uniform.

Heat gas oven at 350°C or electric at 170°C. Bake for 50-60 minutes at 170°C then for the last 10 minutes lower heat to 150°C. Allow to cool thoroughly before serving.



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