



# RSVP March 2009 Newsletter

## **Newsletter summary:**

- **Project news:** Total meals served from 5 to 27 Feb is 2,437. Unclaimed meals are 58, representing 2.32% absenteeism rate.
- **10K Barmoral fundraising run:** Mr Ajish Varghese kindly doing this on 25 Apr 2009. His Just Giving fundraising page is available [HERE](#).
- **Rwanda trip in October 2009:** A team from UK is visiting the project and conducting feasibility studies for new programmes. Mrs Jean Main's trip agenda is highlighted.
- **Trustees AGM in May 2009:** Trustees meet on 30 May 2009
- **Donors' lunch on 11 Apr 2009:** This is not a decoy to ask for more money - Not at all! It is rather an excellent opportunity to listen to donors. Often ideas can be as valuable as, if not more valuable than, money! The questions are: does RSVP use your money effectively? Are there better ways of addressing appeals RSVP has made on behalf of Bugarama people?
- **New donation tools from Just Giving:** It is now easy to set up one off, regular, or donations by will through Just Giving. Just Giving will automatically process Gift Aid! Great, isn't it?

## **1) Project news:**

The first term ends on 3rd Apr 2009. So, a full report on all our programmes will be available in next month's newsletter.

However, figures from 5 to 27 Feb show we served 2,437 meals to 10, 11 and 12 year olds. Our statistics reporting sheet shows 58 meals were unclaimed, and this represents 2.32% absenteeism rate.

An impromptu audit conducted by Pasteur Emmanuel Uwambaje on 20 to 21 Feb 2009, led Trustees to probe the reason behind the unclaimed meals. An explanation from the school is that girls are often asked to look after their siblings or take them to health centres, and in the process these girls end up reporting late for the meal. The head teacher has been asked, and agreed, to speak to the parents in order to address this problem.

All children who passed the national test in 2008 (n=10) and 2009 (n=13) will bring their transcripts in order to check their progress. Trustees have agreed to continue supporting these children until they complete their secondary education. The support will be in the form of holiday revision lessons. Children already on bursary (n=3) will send letters to their sponsors in April and new bursaries (n=2 in addition to Solange) will be picked during Easter (genocide remembrance) school break too. As shown [HERE](#), this bursary selection is open and transparent.

## **2) 10K Balmoral Fundraising run:**

Mr Ajish Varghese is kindly running this distance on 25 Apr 2009. He would be encouraged if as many people as possible would visit his Just Giving fundraising page, which is accessible [HERE](#).

### **3) Rwanda Trip in October 2010**

Mrs Jean Main, a retired nurse, is kindly offering time and money to conduct a feasibility study on our Health Intervention. Education and Health are at the top RSVP's priorities list.

In relation to 3 main hospitals, Mrs Main will, among other things:

- Survey the infrastructure: Patients' beds, sanitation, etc...
- Survey the level of support to patients: Find out from patients how their hospital care is paid for, role of family members, what happens when a patient passes away (death certification, support to family, etc..) and what happens when a patient is diagnosed with incurable condition (palliative care, support available etc...)
- Survey the investigation facilities: Types of investigations available on site and what happens for others which are not available.

In relation to 3 health centres, Mrs Main will, among other things, find out the level of care provided therein, referral criteria, infrastructure and support to patients when they pass away or have an incurable disease.

Mrs Main will also conduct an audit on the greatest hazards to life found in children's homes , suggest how health promotion/education alone might prevent that and what other interventions are required. The same will apply to the catering environment.

Mrs Main's experience will shape RSVP's health intervention.

### **4) Donors' Lunch on 11 Apr 2009.**

RSVP strives to account for every penny received. In addition to getting its accounts independently examined and producing progress in measurable ways, RSVP also wishes to listen to donors.

Value for money implies using the most effective tools through cost effective means to address a relevant problem. We cannot pretend to get every thing right, nor do we expect generous donors to pretend we do!

Unlike in politics, RSVP has no opposition party constantly suggesting "better" alternatives! So, as a responsible charity, we would be really grateful if you came along and checked whether RSVP uses your money effectively or whether there are better ways of solving the appeals made on behalf of Bugarama people. Trustees meet on 30 May 2009 and will seriously consider your suggestions at that meeting.

### **5) New donation tools:**

Our Charity Link Officer has worked very hard to simplify the donation process. The following options will soon be available on our web site:

- Easily set up single or monthly payment and advertise fundraising events such as marathon etc... from [HERE](#)
- Easily set up donation by will from [HERE](#).

Any difficulties with the above features can be reported to Ms Janice Aitken at [janice@rsvpcharity.org.uk](mailto:janice@rsvpcharity.org.uk) or phoning her on (+44) 141 424 1794.

**Enjoy the British Summer!**

Simon

