**UKEREWE FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECT**

For a number of years the Rotary Club of Braids has been working in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs in Yorkshire and in Sweden to deliver projects to the community on the island of Ukerewe in Lake Victoria, Tanzania. The projects have been delivered with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Nansio in Tanzania.

To date the projects have included replacing mattresses in the hospital, rainwater harvesting and funding lifesaving hydrocephalus operations.

We now intend to roll out an agriculture project to four primary schools. Schools in Ukerewe have considerable amounts of land which is generally uncultivated. We will train the staff and pupils to cultivate the land predominantly with a cereal crop (sogum). Surplus crop is sold to:

1. If necessary, buy the next seed for sowing (sometimes possible to use harvested seed)
2. Buy sugar to make the porridge tasty
3. Replace any cooking equipment
4. Buy items for the school e.g. chalk.

A pilot project has been completed successfully and we are now keen to roll out the programme to 4 already identified schools. These schools were sadly not included in the pilot – 10 schools applied and we could not accept them all. With 3 growing seasons per year in Tanzania, training and then planting in late 2019 or early 2020 will have cereals grown, harvested and providing breakfast in just 3-4 months.

The intention is to support 4 more schools during 2019/20, each delivering over 1,500 breakfasts a week and enabling the poorest children to not only attend school but also to not be hungry when they are in school – so they will be able to focus on their education. The schools prefer to provide breakfast 3 days a week. So, 500 children x 3 breakfasts = 1,500 meals.

Sustainability is an essential criterion of this project. This is achieved by the teachers and pupils being shown how to make this project work by the schools who have already successfully run the pilot. This was a condition of participating in the pilot and each Headteacher involved has undertaken to do this. Rotary will supply and pay for the first batch of seed and the necessary cooking utensils, including large pots to use on open fires. Thereafter, money from the sale of some of the harvest is retained to buy the next quality seed; and/or some seed is retained for sowing. This is dependent on local growing conditions which of course can vary from year to year and the quality of the seed harvested.

It is customary in Tanzania to pay people to pass on knowledge; so we will need to pay the staff from the pilot schools expenses, subsistence, and a modest ‘fee.’

Estimated start date of project is January 2020 and the estimated completion date of project is April 2020.