

DATUM FOUNDATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE HOPE AND CREATE A BETTER WORLD

January 2013

Here in Britain we are very lucky. Generally we are well fed, and warm. Our children are schooled and treated when ill. Yet many of us are ignorant of the harsh life of the majority of people in the world. It often takes a shock to make us realize the reality beyond our comfortable horizons.

I got my shock on Boxing Day 2004. My family and I were in Sri Lanka and there we witnessed first-hand the death and destruction of the Tsunami. What I learned there amid the debris on the beach was compassion. The events of that day awoke feelings of empathy for my fellow humans and a strong desire to help.

On our return I volunteered to work with the IODR charity on the design and construction of a Community and Education and Welfare Centre in the town of Welligama in southern Sri Lanka.

This facility was opened in 2008 and now provides an education and a daily meal to 120 local children.

In 2009 I resolved to try and do more to help the poor children in the world and together with a small group of friends formed a charity called Datum Foundation.

We target our efforts on the poorest regions of the world to help those in greatest need.

Datum is the neuter past participle of the Latin verb *dare* - it means "*something given*." Datum is a charity dedicated to giving time, energy and resources to helping the poor and vulnerable children of the world without discrimination of gender, race or religion.

In the short time since, with the help of many generous supporters, we have been able to bring assistance to the children in Africa and Asia.



After visiting the village of Kisongo in Tanzania 2009 Datum decided to sponsor improvements to the village school Elikopea Urrio had built for the deprived children of his community.

The works included complete fit out and decorations to the classrooms. Datum also provided new furniture. The school now teaches some 40 boys and girls aged between 2 and 7. It gives an education to those who would otherwise not receive any.

While teaching English to local children in Senegal Deanne Amar discovered that the village school in Ndongane was in urgent need of improvement. Datum decided to undertake a range of works including new concrete floors and the installation of ceilings. The whole building was decorated in bright colours and new furniture replaced the old benches. All works were completed in 2011 allowing the children to study in a much improved environment.





A well was also dug for the school allowing children to have access to clean water for the first time.

The primary school in the village of Chisasa in Malawi is attended by 380 children. The existing classrooms were made of branches and thatch and barely functioned. Datum provided Howard Brewer with funding for the construction of three new classrooms.

All the children had to share one derelict toilet. Datum also provided funds for new toilets. The improved sanitary facilities means the local children should enjoy a much healthier future.

There had never been a school in the remote hill village of Dola Para in Bangladesh and children received no education.

So Datum working with local charity Humanitarian Foundation built one.

Since the opening 27 children have enrolled: One of the pupils is little 8 years-old Eti Mro who says *“the teachers love us very much. I am very happy being educated.”*



Further details of these and other projects can be seen on our web site: www.datumfoundation.org.uk

The reality is that there is a great deal of suffering in the world. Each year poverty claims the lives of some 6.9 million children under the age of five. That's more than 18,000 children dying every day! They die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. It's easy to just ignore such shocking facts or to lament that there is nothing we can do and remain apathetic. But there is an alternative!

We can believe that as individuals we can change the world. We can stop pretending we are powerless and recognize that we all have gifts that can transform our world. We can all do something to help our fellow man.

We can all act together to create a world in which everyone is fed and sheltered, and everyone can enjoy good health, and benefits of an education. Such collective action in the service of all humanity could provide hope and create a better world.

Obviously Datum Foundation cannot help all the children in the world but with the support of many we can help a few. As Ghandi said:

“Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it's very important that you do it”

Dean Buchanan
Trustee Datum Foundation



Datum Foundation appreciates any support that you may be able to give. We maintain a Just Giving account to facilitate regular or one-off donations.

For further details see our web site:

www.datumfoundation.org.uk

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