

**Davis 100 Projects for Peace**  
**Final Report - Summer 2007**  
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**Project Title:** Adjumani Apicultural Initiative

**School:** College of the Atlantic

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**Home Country:** Sudan

**UWC Attended:** Simon Bolivar UWC of Agriculture and Rural Development, Barinas Venezuela.

**Project Summary:**

Adjumani Apicultural Initiative was aimed at reintroducing, promoting, and supporting bee keeping in Southern Sudan; by offering practical training and technical support to interested farmers, youth groups, and students pursuing a range careers from agriculture to rural development. Although the results of this project are expected to show effect in southern Sudan, Adjumani Apicultural Initiative was designed to be incorporated into curricular and extracurricular activities of Alere Refugees Vocational Institute (A.R.V.I.): a self help institute situated in the center of the Sudanese refugees settlements in Adjumani district, northern Uganda. By starting a small scale modern apiary in this institute, and training the teachers, this project serves as a training facility to equip the graduates of the institute with the necessary knowledge and skills to start and manage their own apiaries, not only in the refugees camps but also their respective communities when they return to their home country.

Using the funding awarded by Katherine Wassermann Davis, Rev. Taban Israel and I with the help of Nsubuga Erieza, (a bee keeping specialist and businessman), some community leaders, the teachers and staff of A.R.V.I. were able to establish the apiary with 20 Langstorth beehives, a storage kiosk, protective gear and all the essential tools and equipment; most of which were made to standard specifications using local materials and labor. We were also able to conduct three introductory seminars on beekeeping. These seminars were attended by 23 people, which included agriculture teachers of A.R.V.I., and other surrounding post-primary institutions. These attendees will eventually teach their students about bee keeping as a potential income generating activity and a sustainable means of reducing poverty.

**Results.**

Adjumani Apicultural Initiative has both short and long-term goals. Attaining these goals and accomplishing its full potential is a continuous process. Some of the short-term yet significant goals attained included starting the apiary and conducting the introductory seminars on apiculture. While the first seminar was an introduction to apiculture and physiology of the bee, the second was on apiary management and bee keeping tools and equipment. The third was on administrative issues and marketing of apiary products.

Now that the first phase and goals of Adjumani Apicultural Initiative have been attained, it is eminent that this project has entered the maturity phase of its life cycle. It is ready for training purposes and for raising funds to finance and expand its operational activities and diversify its services as mentioned in the project proposal.

## **Implications.**

When I was growing up as a child, I was always taught about the aggressive nature of bees and how deadly they can be. However, with time, I have come to learn that bees have a lot to offer and to teach us. Destructive as they can be, bees have the potential to love, to care, to build and maintain a peaceful community and neighborhood; things that humans sometimes find hard to establish among and within them selves; especially in impoverished communities whose nation and livelihoods have been destroyed by civil wars.

By design and by nature, this project is an invitation to the people of southern Sudan to establish sustainable relationships with their surrounding and other available resources. Bee keeping for example can help to fight poverty, knowing that poverty reduction is an essential prerequisite for building peace, and strengthening the process of reconstruction of their nation and rehabilitation of their livelihoods. However this is only possible through raising awareness about the basic technical knowledge, skills and support that ensure a successful harvest of such opportunities. Adjumani Apicultural Initiative serves one such purpose.

## **Future Prospects.**

Having spent most of my summer in the refugees' settlements and talking to people within, there is a likelihood that most Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda will have voluntarily repatriated to their home country at least after the general referendum in the year 2011. This means that the apiary will have to be moved from its current location to one of the agricultural institutions of higher learning in southern Sudan (colonized bee hives can easily be moved from one location to another). By that time, this apiary will have served many refugees (students and farmers) in Uganda and will continue to pursue its vision and goals in even larger scale in southern Sudan if more funds become available.

## **Lessons learned.**

Since the start of the project, I have learned that plans on paper are not equivalent to practically implementing them due to unforeseeable circumstances. One such example was resistance to not only the implementation of the project but also its location. Some community leaders were worried about the safety of the students and members of the community from the bees. I then realized that it was the same ideology from which I was raised and taught about bees. However, involving them in the various stages of the project implementation ensured that they learned about the other side of bees. Another unforeseeable feature of the plans on the proposal was the unstable value of the Ugandan currency. In the first half of the project implementation, the Uganda Shilling significantly gained value against the US dollar in fact (inflow of US dollars from southern Sudan) and in speculation (the effect of the November Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala on the value of the Ugandan Shilling). Since the funds were deposited in a US bank account, it led to a shortage of \$930. On realizing this I withdrew all the funds and deposited them into a Ugandan Bank Account in Ugandan Shillings, which helped stabilize the amount. Subsequently, I had to reallocate the funds accordingly.

