


caffe praego

perfect fusion of coffee & community

In partnership with



Report for:



Rwanda Trip Report March 2017

Our Caffe Praego team travelled to Rwanda from 1st to 14th March to visit our coffee co-operative partners to agree our orders for 2017 from their harvest, which starts in earnest this month. We spent a day with the Ingoboka farmers & then travelled up to Kigeyo School, where many of the farmer's children are educated and this is now a project we fund.

We were also able to spend 10 days visiting our various school & disability projects in Kigali & in Giseyni, a town bordering the Congo. The map shows the two locations.



It was an extremely successful trip as we agreed 70 tons of green beans to be shipped to the UK this year, as well as meeting up with the Point Foundation team, to see the amazing difference that our funding is making in the communities close to the plantations.

We also visited Pfunda Tea Company just 15 minutes' drive from Giseyni to see the new building works going on in their manufacturing facility and to Cup the latest P+1 tea crop.

Our Coffees – Lake Kivu, Inzozu & Amasimbi blends

With our export partner Bourbon Coffee, we visited our Co-Operative Coffee partners, Ingoboka Coffee, at their washing station located in the Rutsiro district of Rwanda's Western District. The washing station nestles in a picturesque valley beside the shores of Lake Kivu. The journey is long with either a 3 hour drive over the mountains or as we chose, a two hour journey across the lake by canoe. As usual we were warmly welcomed by the farmers, pickers and graders and we spent the day checking their raw green bean from the start of this year's harvest before agreeing on our annual purchases of the highest quality A1 Arabica Bourbon bean.

Our Rwandan Coffee bean is one of the best tasting coffees on the market with £3 per case being donated back to the Point Foundation – our partner charity working in the same local communities as the coffee & tea plantations supporting our disability & educational programmes.

SINGLE ORIGIN INGOBOKA CO-OPERATIVE COFFEE

The plantation & Co-operative started back in 2004 & is made up of a group of 135 farmers, maintaining around 10,000 coffee trees, which is relatively small by Rwandan coffee farms.

The plantation surrounds the washing station so after daily picking, cherries are swiftly carried up to the flotation tanks ready for sorting, cleaning & drying.



Ingoboka produces 200 tons pa of fully washed, finest grade Arabica Bourbon Coffee at an altitude of around 1800m and nourished by rich volcanic soil. Ingoboka are a Fair Trade & 100% organic certified plantation with very high standards of growing, cleanliness and organisation.





Ingoboka Co-operative won the 2011 prestigious award for
“Coffee Cup of Excellence”



Our washed raw green coffee
bean bags carry the
Point Foundation logo

Schools Supported through Caffe Praego funding

Kigeyo School

We visited Kigeyo School, which is where the Ingoboka coffee farmer's children go. Located on the top of a huge mountain overlooking Lake Kivu and the washing station, this school is home to 2,300 children. Following our visit last year, we have funded a new library with the renovation of old classrooms & then supplying @ 4,000 school books and other educational items requested by the Headmaster Christian Baziruwifasha.

It was fantastic to see the new library in place with all the new books. We received a wonderful welcome with singing and dancing and a presentation in front of the whole school.



The headmaster outlined their needs for 2017 including a projector and microphone system for their assembly hall as well as other educational needs such as benches and desks for the primary classes.



La Germaine School

This delightful school is home to 110 children of nursery age. Headmistress Germaine is an old friend, who we have worked with before. We recently installed playground equipment to the school and we have pledged further funds in 2017 for new toilets, desks & chairs for the six classrooms and school books.

House of Children School (HoC)

We have supported the HoC School for two years now. The school caters for 642 children, aged from 3 to 16, of which 66 children have some of disability. Today Caffe Praego and individual sponsors pay for 50 of these children to attend school daily as well as for four specialist teachers.



We have funded 2,000 school books & other educational needs and in coming months we will purchase an additional 2,000 books, 5 Braille machines as well as machinery for their workshops.



Specific Projects Supported through our Funding

Ubumwe Community Centre (UCC)



We have supported UCC for a number of years now with ongoing funding for 26 severely disabled children & young adults to now live in the community, outside of an institution. This included paying for 4 houses for them to live in safely with 13 round the clock carers to look after them day & night.



We have also helped fund a number of important projects such as purchasing sewing & knitting machines for physically disabled adults, so that they may work to earn a living. This trip, we presented them with 12 knitting & 4 sewing machines.

Queen Mary University of London Students' Union

Funding Support

QMSU is now sponsoring ten disabled children to go to school, through the £3 per case return to Point Foundation. Without this sponsorship the children would be left in their village with only their parents or grandparents to care for them. Today, we send buses out to villages surrounding the local town where the 66 disabled children are collected each morning and taken to the House of Children School.

The annual funding of £2,750 covers ten children's transport, school fees, uniforms, shoes and school books.



Caffe Praego also pays for four specialist teachers who are able to teach the children without their disability having any impact. The school helps the children to spend time away from the village to develop new skills & communication as well as to have more acceptances from outsiders to their disability. It also gives parents some respite allowing them to go and work the land during the day.

Coffee & Art – a great combination



Historically, coffee & art have always been linked. Frank SETTO, an orphan whom we met in 2006 & who subsequently we have put through school & university studying art & graphics, now designs our coffee bags. He grew up in the Noel Orphanage having lost all adult family members during the 1994 genocide.



During our trip we met up with Frank while in Kigali to see his latest designs & pictures which will now form part of our “Connoisseurs Choice” blends to be released at the end of March.



A very Humble Award.....

We attended the graduation of 850 students in Kigali, many of whom Caffè Praego had sponsored through the Point Foundation (we have sponsored 177 in the past 5 years).

Totally unexpectedly, during the best performers awards, our Chairman Charles was called up to accept an award on behalf of the Point Foundation & their sponsors for "Outstanding and Significant Contribution to Rwandan Education" including our disability Schools programmes.

This was in front of the Minister of Education, other Government Ministers, International Dignitaries & a beautiful plaque was presented by the Tanzanian Ambassador to Rwanda. Charles then made a speech in front of around 4000 people. We all felt very humbled indeed.



The award is for our valued Sponsors so we wish to thank you most sincerely once again for your very valued support. Every penny raised goes to help children and young adults to gain an education despite their vulnerability and challenges.