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### News from Burundi

Anna Pienaar, the Programme Manager, visited Burundi last week where Five Talents has partnered with the Mothers' Union. The programme builds on the success of the Mothers' Union Literacy and Development Programme, through which 30,000 people (the majority of whom are women) have become literate. Five Talents was asked to meet the demand for further skills and is now providing business skills and savings group training to the existing groups. The team visited two groups who have received the training and begun saving. Read some of their stories by clicking [here](#)



### MBA students visit Kenya

At the end of March students from the London Business School visited the Thika Community Development Trust in Kenya. The main purpose of the trip was to gain a practical insight into the workings of a savings programme - one of the types of microfinance initiatives Five Talents supports. After an explanation of the organisational structure of the Trust, the group was taken to meet some of the members. One participant, Stephen Mwaniki, explained to the group how a loan from Five Talents had enabled him to start his hardware store and how subsequent loans helped him to expand his business. This community-based model of microfinance is having a significant impact in over 2,000 households. For a full account of the trip click [here](#)



### The 'Running' Total

Many congratulations to both Steve Taylor and Stewart Pepper for completing the London Marathon last Sunday, one of the warmest days this year! Thank you to both runners for collectively raising approximately £2,000 for Five Talents.

It is not too late if you would like to sponsor either runner. To sponsor Steve click [here](#) and to sponsor Stewart click [here](#)



### New 2010 Annual Review revealed!

The Five Talents UK Annual Review of 2010 is now available. Click [here](#) to read online or contact the office for a paper copy. Why not forward the link to you friends. The Review summarises the tremendous progress made during 2010 and provides a number of stories to illustrate our work. Thank you so much for your support in making this happen.



### Crossfire: The microfinance 'crisis' in Andhra Pradesh

You may have heard about a microfinance 'crisis' in India. Click [here](#) to read our blog which explains the issues and how Five Talents' programmes are distinctively different. Tom Sanderson and Shubhankar Sengupta of Arohan Financial Services were also invited by Crossfire to debate the issues further.

Click [here](#) to read the article.



### Co-operative Bank supports Five Talents

Click [here](#) to see our new video sponsored by the Co-operative Financial Services. The video features Richard Wilcox, Head of the Co-operative Social Banking Unit, outlining the merits of microfinance and how larger institutions can have a positive impact in the developing world.

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