

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S FUND LTD.



ANNUAL DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY NO

1114699

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NO 05708741

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i. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name	African Children's Fund Ltd.
Charity Registration No	1114699
Company Registration No	05708741
Registered and Operational Office	Silver Birch House Cow Lane Longworth Nr Abingdon Oxfordshire OX13 5EJ
Tel	01865 820570
Web Site	www.africanchildrensfund.org
Directors	Debra Beazley Derek Bird Caroline Farrington (nee Blacker) Henry Chitsenga Richard Kenyon Sandra North Steve Brimley
Company Secretary	Dee Tyrer
Chief Executive Officer	Dee Tyrer
Bankers	Lloyds Bank
Solicitor	Crowdy and Rose, Faringdon

ii. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The African Children's Fund Ltd. is a company limited by guarantee. The governance of the organisation is laid out in **The Memorandum of Association** and **Articles of Association** for Company number 05708741, incorporated on 14th February 2006

The directors of the company are together the trustee of the Charity. They therefore have a duty to comply with the rules of Companies House and the Charity Commission. Being a company limited by guarantee there is no dividend.

Policies and Procedures which govern the day to day management of the organisation are set out in the **Policy and Procedures Manual** which is reviewed and updated regularly.

iii. OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The relief of poverty, sickness, hardship and distress in African children particularly orphans, street children, child mothers, widows, those with HIV/AIDS and their families - by providing culturally appropriate care and support services.
- b. To advance education and training of the public, both in the UK and overseas, on the issues facing people from Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa.

iv. OUR PROGRAMME IN AFRICA

We are currently working in four African countries, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. We support local projects run by local people and agree a Memorandum of Understanding with those groups who run the projects we fund.

Kenya

In Kenya we work with a local NGO, Watoto Kwanza which is based in Thika, Kiambu County providing support to the poorest children to increase their attendance at primary school. They have identified two main reasons for children dropping out of school:

- i. Children from poor families need to scavenge or work during the day to obtain food.
- ii. Girls can't afford sanitary protection and miss a week of schooling each month, often causing them to fall so far behind they drop out altogether.

Watoto Kwanza addresses these challenges by working closely with schools to provide school meals and sanitary towels to the poorest pupils. Their success rate is outstanding with both attendance and attainment rising steadily. Watoto Kwanza works with primary schools in Kiambu County, including two new schools which were brought into the programme this year.

They also work with the Joy Children's Centre which is home to 90 children and a school to a further 200. Over the year we were pleased to be able to help them build a new toilet block and a new classroom after one of theirs collapsed.

Our second partner in Kenya is ACF Kenya which runs HAKI, a legal aid project that offers free legal advice to poor families and runs training and capacity development programmes for a variety of groups on children's rights in Kenya. Members of HAKI also serve on the Boards of various legal committees and give a voice to children's rights at these committees.

Drought in the Horn of Africa has brought food shortages and hardship, and the Massai group with whom we have maintained contact since their visit here in 2010 were particularly hard hit. We raised extra funds to help the community and schools with food during the worst periods.

Tanzania

In Tanzania we work with Mfuku wa Watoto, a registered Tanzanian NGO. In Dar es Salaam, Mfuku wa Watoto supports a nursery school which caters for young children who would otherwise be left alone at home during the day while their parents are at work, or they would accompany their parents to work, sometimes in dangerous places such as the local quarry or going from car to car on busy roads trying to sell drinks or trinkets. This year we were able to help them install electricity at the school, which has improved security, cooking facilities and educational resources.

Mfuku Wa Watoto has a legal specialist who runs workshops for schools, churches and community centres, on children's rights and gives advice on legal issues to vulnerable children and families, supporting them through the legal system as appropriate.

We also work with School Girl Essentials who run a programme in Mateves providing sanitary protection for girls at school. The programme includes a social and education awareness element as well as the provision of packs of re-usable sanitary towels, underwear and detergent to the girls.

Uganda

We are continuing to work with the Ugandan registered NGO, Strategic Action for the Eradication of Child Abuse (SAFE). SAFE works with abandoned and abused children. They run a rescue home on the outskirts of Kampala for 20 children which provides a temporary sanctuary for rescued children until they can safely go back to a family member or to a new foster family. They also run awareness campaigns on children's rights aimed at promoting good practices amongst parents, teachers and community leaders.

Zimbabwe

Our partner in Zimbabwe is the Mwana Trust, which cares for the basic needs of orphaned children in the Mutare area. They liaise with primary schools to find places for 300 children and support them both

practically and emotionally to facilitate the best possible outcomes. They also support the most vulnerable child-headed households with food and practicalities.

Thanks to a grant from the EA Foundation a new library and computer hub is being built and fitted out at Rowa Primary School, one of the schools where children supported by Mwana Trust attend.

v. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IN THE UK

We have an active website and we continue to take advantage of the Google Ads in-kind grant to improve our placing on the google search engine, this year, this amounted to \$4831's worth of free google ads. Attracting an average of 287 visitors each week, the website gives information about all aspects of our work, both here and overseas. The news blog allows us to post news items regularly to ensure supporters are kept up to date. We produce a regular monthly e-newsletter for 558 subscribers which also ensures that volunteers, supporters, and those interested in our work are kept informed.

Our Social Network continues to grow, and our Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn sites are very active with 5723 Twitter followers, 1339 Facebook followers, 426 LinkedIn followers and 250 Instagram followers. Our social media presence is important in ensuring our message reaches a wider audience and we are pleased that it has resulted in new contacts and supporters.

We have three charity shops selling donated items, in Faringdon, Witney and Grove. Each of our shops has displays and leaflets about our work and the issues faced by those with whom we work in Africa. We also have online shops on Ebay and Amazon, which also help to raise awareness of our work.

The Juice Networking Group in Witney has once again, extended our charity membership with them for yet another year. Membership of the group allows us to promote what we do to businesses in the area and to build positive relationships with several companies and individuals and we are extremely grateful for their continuing support.

We are continuing to campaign about the importance of education for girls. UNESCO estimates that almost 500,000 school-age girls in Kenya do not attend school while only 63% of girls in Sub-Saharan Africa complete their primary education. One reason for this is the simple lack of sanitary protection that means girls miss a week of school each month and often fall so far behind they fall out of education altogether. Our work in this area with Watoto Kwanza in Kenya and School Girl Essentials in Tanzania provides evidence of the startling difference the provision of sanitary protection makes in the areas of school attendance, academic achievement, social awareness, self-esteem, confidence and health.

In Africa, drought in the Horn of Africa and the dramatic increase in the cost of food and fuel, partly caused by the war in Ukraine has brought additional challenges this year. To counter this we have increased our regular payments to our school based projects so the children continue to receive nutritious food while at school.

vi. FUTURE PLANS

We plan to continue to support all our current projects in the four African countries where we work. It is clear from both qualitative and quantitative research that supporting children to attend school regularly has a major effect, giving them increased confidence, skills and qualifications, which significantly improve their life chances. Our partners have plans to expand and improve their work in this area and we will continue to support them in their efforts.

Our shops are benefitting from the increased recognition of the importance of re-use and re-cycling, and we plan to build on this as well as continuing to improve our online trading through Ebay and Amazon. We are also prioritising funding from trusts and hope to build on relationships we have with them as well as with our increasing number of regular donors. We recognise that the decrease in the use of cash will continue to have a detrimental effect on static collection boxes and we continue to look for cashless alternatives.

vii. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation is a constant process. Our projects each send a detailed annual report and accounts which have been signed off externally. They also provide quarterly updates on their activities, and we have produced a Monitoring and Evaluation form to facilitate this. Monitoring visits are made approximately every two years by representatives of ACF and on a less formal basis we are in touch with all our partners on WhatsApp.

viii. MITIGATING RISK

We keep a Risk Register which identifies potential risks and records how they are mitigated. This register is reviewed and discussed at each Trustees meeting and anything of note reported to trustees between meetings by staff.

ix. PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

Our principal sources of funding are grants from trusts, legacies, donations from individual members of the public (including direct debits and sponsored events), direct mail, income from our three charity shops, including online sales from Ebay and Amazon, proceeds from static collecting boxes and events. We also claim gift aid on eligible donations.

x. RESERVES POLICY

We have agreed a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not remitted or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should not be less than three months of salary and basic office costs. We currently have reserves of £31,625.

xi. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Voluntary donations from individuals remained high this year and we are extremely grateful to everyone who supports us in this way. We took part in the Big Christmas Give for the first time and are very pleased to have raised our target and unlocked matched funding from both our own pledger and the Big Give champions. Trading was also good reflecting increased income from our charity shops and online sales. We also had an excellent response from our appeals to Charitable Trusts and we are very grateful for the grants awarded by: Doris Field Charitable Foundation, G&E Pollitzer Charitable Settlement, Fulmer Trust, Hudson Charitable Trust, Souter Foundation, Ashworth Trust, De La Rue Foundation, Schroder Charitable Trust, HD Wills Charitable Trust and the EA Foundation, Grace Trust, Rosie Pearson Foundation, Prince of Wales Charitable Fund and Pat Newman Memorial Trust.



AFRICAN CHILDREN'S FUND LTD.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YR ENDING 31 MAR 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2022-23

2021-22

INCOME

Direct mail	21,800	30,280
Collecting boxes	8,207	10,140
Individual donations	101,400	100,287
Events	10,845	
Trusts/Legacies	82,275	49,108
Shops	70,137	67,032
Gift Aid	19,933	18,911
TOTAL INCOME	326,197	288,083

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Kenya	131,000	101,238
Tanzania	24,811	19,709
Uganda	15,400	16,170
Zimbabwe	40,877	20,161
Programme Development	13,300	12,000
Education and Awareness	8,670	9,679
TOTAL	233,719	182,083

COSTS

Salaries and pension	63,151	60,091
Tax and National Insurance	8,384	8,381
Office expenses: stationary etc	503	879
Bank Charges	251	400
Fundraising costs	3,083	3,480
insurance	743	323
Travel and subsistence	301	
Collecting Box expenses	1,300	1,000
Shop expenses	2,300	1,400
Utilities	2,300	1,614
TOTAL	81,940	78,489

TOTAL EXPENDITURE/COSTS

315,659

261,174

PROFIT/LOSS

10,538

26,909

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S FUND LTD.

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDING 31/03/2023

FYE 31/03/23 FYE 31/03/22

Current Assets

Main Account	81125	83208
Shop Accounts	19497	22189
Programme Accounts	12128	12128
VAT Re-claimable	32	-98
Total	112782	117426

Fixed Assets

Fixtures and Fittings		
Leasehold and buildings		
Total	0 0	

Total Assets

112782 117426

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable (Provision for events costs)		15000
Income taxes payable	923	1103
Total	923	16103

Long-term Liabilities


Total		0
Total Liabilities	923	16103

CHARITABLE FUNDS

111859 101323

The Directors have not required the Company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 and acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring the Company keeps accounting records which comply with sect 386 of the Companies Act 2006. They acknowledge their responsibility for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at the end of the financial year, and of its profit and loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company. For the financial year ending 31/03/23 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors Signature


Name RICHARD KENYON
Date 14/4/23



Report to the trustees

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S FUND

On accounts for the year
ended

2022-23

Charity no
(if any)

1114699

Set out on pages

1-11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31-03-2023**.

Responsibilities and basis
of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's
statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

P. Dunbar

Date:

24/11/23

Name:

Paul Ian Dunbar

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

The Helicon, One South Place, London, EC2M 2RB