Third Hope Accounts

February 2025 – January 2026

Summative

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds brought forward from 2024-2025	**£32,646.86**	**£ 1,034.28**	**£33,681.14**
Total Income	**£108,646.22**	**–**	**£108,646.22**
Total Expenditure	**£108,169.29**	**–**	**£108,169.29**
Funds carried forward to 2026-2027	**£ 33,123.79**	**£ 1,034.28***	**£34,158.07**

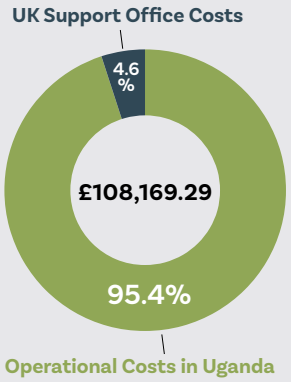
Income

Source of funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Donations	£60,149.46	–	£60,149.46
Fundraising	£37,161.76	–	£37,161.76
Grants	£11,335.00	–	£11,335.00
Total	**£108,646.22**	**–**	**£108,646.22**

Expenditure

Use of funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Operational Costs in Uganda	£103,107.94	–	£103,107.94
UK Support Office Administration	£5,061.35	–	£5,061.35
Total	**£108,169.29**	**–**	**£108,169.29**

Percentage Breakdown of Expenditure in Uganda over Expenditure in the UK



* These funds are allocated for travel expenses and no international travel took place during this year.

Assets: Third Hope UK is solely a fundraising arm of the work and holds no assets. Third Hope Africa, the sister organisation in Uganda, holds assets to the value of £41,920.89

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Third Hope, registered charity no. 1133419
Third Hope Africa, International NGO, no. FORR8830311NB

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026



THIRD HOPE

For the long term rehabilitation of
Northern Uganda's ex-child soldiers

Rose-Mary: a life given for love



It is with grief and sorrow that we share the news that, after suffering with Parkinson's Disease for six years, Rose-Mary passed away, in peace, with family by her side, on 1st August 2026. But alongside the grief, we feel deep gratitude for Rose-Mary's life and the blessing she was to all those around her.

Through the work of Third Hope, which sprang from her vision, compassion and obedience to the call, she leaves behind a vibrant work of life, hope and transformation.

A Living Legacy

From the day I met Rose-Mary at a staff meeting in October 2013, her presence became unforgettable. Calm and collected, she carried a smile that reassured and inspired, always searching for solutions even in the most difficult seasons. During the pioneering years of Third Hope, she modelled for the staff how to walk alongside ex-child soldiers, offering them unwavering kindness and compassion. She was never one to stand apart—Rose-Mary worked with her hands alongside staff and trainees whenever she could, embodying humility and servant leadership in every task. Her example of peaceable conflict resolution extended far beyond our programs, touching family and community disputes over land and relationships.

Rose-Mary was more than a leader; she was a mother figure to the vulnerable, always going out of her way to make others comfortable. Her passion for people was evident in every action, and her heart for service became the heartbeat of our community.

With her passing in August this year, we lost not only a vision bearer but a mother to those in need. Over 500 people gathered on our land in Uganda to honour her life—a testament to the profound impact she had on countless individuals. Her legacy challenges us to love others above ourselves and to follow in her footsteps. It is an assignment only God can enable us to fulfil, but it is one we embrace with gratitude and determination.

As we reflect on this year, we recognize that Rose-Mary's life and example remain woven into the fabric of Third Hope. Her vision continues to guide us, reminding us that true transformation begins with compassion, reconciliation, and the courage to serve.

Dear Rose-Mary, you walked hand in hand with us and sowed life and hope in us.

May all the seeds you planted live on.

Evelyn Akoli
Project Manager in Uganda







Excerpt from Keren Pollock's tribute at Rose-Mary's funeral, 13th August 2026

I first met Rose-Mary in about 2010 when she came as a temporary teacher of English to Haberdashers Boys' school where I too was a teacher. She very quickly made a huge impression not only as an inspiring teacher but for her deep passion for the pretty much unrecognised injustice of the brutal use of abducted children in warfare which was going on in Northern Uganda at the time. Only Rose-Mary would have the vision to arrange funding for and invite a politician and two ex-child soldiers from northern Uganda along with rap artist Emmanuel Jal, an ex-child soldier himself and now a well-known singer and activist, to come to Habs for a week of talks, concerts and classroom visits to raise awareness of this injustice. That lives of students, staff and parents were changed from that point on is borne out by the subsequent years of enthusiastic fundraising and support to the tune of about £100K and that support is lovingly ongoing, because of Rose-Mary's passionate heart.

The Director of the Habs Foundation who helped Rose-Mary raise the funding for the conference and who had had quite a glittering career, said to me quite recently that meeting and working with Rose-Mary on that conference had been the highlight of his whole career.

It was over Friday fish and chips sometime in 2011 or 2012 that Rose-Mary dropped the life-changing, heart-stopping bombshell into my lap…or my plate, wouldn't you like to come too? My husband, Nick and I have had the immense privilege of visiting Third Hope three times now and working alongside Rose-Mary and David in serving our brothers and sisters in Northern Uganda. And we saw first hand what serving really was; digging, building, planting, walking alongside those who had lived through what the United Nations called the worst human atrocity of that time on the planet.

To love self-sacrificially means to put the needs of others ahead of our own. It means giving up our comfort so that others can be lifted up. Christ taught us that the greatest among us are those who serve. Rose-Mary was a servant at heart. She always noticed the lonely, those who were hurting, and freely gave what she had. Her heart was always open. Even when she was tired and facing her own struggles, she chose to carry the burdens of others. She never looked for praise or applause in fact she actively discouraged it. She really loved and gave herself for others like Jesus did.

Your memory will always draw us closer to the precious and generous giver of all life and for that, dearest Rose-Mary, we give heartfelt thanks.

Keren Pollock
Trustee, Third Hope UK

2025/26: A year in brief



Highlights from this year's 'Trees for Transformation' Course

In 2026, another *Trees for Transformation* course was run in the community. Twenty six community trainees attended the seven day course in total: twenty men and six women. Tragically, one who had signed up to join the course died in a road accident.

Although all attendees were farmers, our research revealed that less than 20% had more than ten trees in their compounds. All the participants were actively involved in the lessons about tree care and nutrition benefits. They were also very enthusiastic with the practical work on the Model Farm.

The medicinal trees session was the most cherished part of the course, understanding the importance of trees for human life, for nitrogen fixing and for medicines. The participants were equally generous to share local knowledge. The 'Trees for Transformation' community course is proving a useful repository for gathering traditional knowledge that, due to the long civil war, has remained largely unrecorded in written form. We plan to put many of these ideas to the test and, if they prove to be effective, will integrate them into our course.

Feedback from the attendees of the course was very encouraging. In particular there was much praise for the ex-child soldiers who were leading the sessions, that they were clear and well informed.

The attendees each received 25 saplings to be planted on their own farms and they went away motivated to nurture them to maturity.








Vocational training in action: Trainees carry out repairs on the Learning Circle roof

At the return of the dry season, the construction team embarked on the second phase of the roof renovation for the Learning Circle – the large, multi-purpose building where all our training and teaching activities take place at the Model Farm.

The whole pitch of the roof is being raised and all the roofing poles are being replaced. This significant construction project is now being managed in-house. Our Construction team is made up of staff members and trainees who have undergone training together. This highlights just how much knowledge and expertise they have acquired through their time with Third Hope.

Traditional building techniques are still widely used in the rural areas. As a result, the training that the ex-child soldiers have received from us has enabled them to carry out income generating projects in the community. This is proving to be a valuable supplement to their income.




Mulching: a change of paradigm





Waton, our farm manager, inspecting the difference between a bean crop planted using mulch (on the left) and a control experiment where, in an adjacent field, the same seeds were planted into bare soil (on the right). Cover photo: Trainees laying recycled roofing grass as mulch.

The Model Farm has always been the central focus of our training for ex-child soldiers at Third Hope – planting, protecting and nurturing fruit trees, sowing, growing and harvesting crops and caring for animals. All these rich and life-giving activities provide the trainees with more than just food security, income and family health. Over the years, we have discovered so much about the correlation between the natural world and the human heart. As human beings, we are, after all, intimately connected to the earth. From dust we came and to dust we will return. Wherever we live, whether in rural Northern Uganda, or in the middle of a vast urban metropolis, we are all still people of the soil. And because of this, despite the transience and fluidity of our modern lifestyles, we all retain, somewhere within, a deep desire for rootedness – for an authentic connection with the place we live. At Third Hope, this is more than just a concept, this realisation lies at the heart of our work of reconciliation and rehabilitation for ex-child soldiers. And for a rural farming community that is already more culturally rooted to its environment, Northern Ugandans are perfectly placed to begin learning to draw on the deeper wisdom that nature is waiting to reveal to us.

One area of soil management that we have found especially helpful in our East African tropical environment is the practice of mulching. Mulching is the practice of covering bare soil with a thick layer of plant material (dried grass, dead leaves and the like) making sure it is never left exposed to the beating sun or the driving rain. We often use the discarded grass from old, thatched roofs – an excellent way to recycle materials.

Mulching is not a new technique. People have been covering soil for millennia, and nature does this all the time, but in recent generations, agricultural practices from predominantly temperate climates have influenced many progress-minded farmers in Africa, who tend to look to 'the West' for new farming methods. This has resulted in the introduction of tractors that plough deep furrows in the tropical soil. However, tropical soil has only a thin layer of topsoil. Ploughing soil to the depth of a tractor-pulled plough only buries the valuable topsoil under the lifeless under-soil and disrupts the natural activity in the soil. After a few years, the productivity starts to decline rapidly and farmers are forced to spend more and more on expensive fertilisers to compensate for the decreasing yields. Mulching reverses this soil degradation and begins to allow the natural environment to heal the damage caused by the use of these inappropriate techniques.

The results from mulching our crops have been extraordinary. In the experiments we have carried out on the Model Farm, yields have been consistently and considerably higher in the fields where mulch has been applied to the soil as opposed to the control fields where the soil was left uncovered. The results have astonished the trainees and caused quite a stir among local farmers. This effective practice of mulching is now quickly spreading through the community.

But when we teach about mulching in our regenerative agriculture course, we are not simply talking about a change of practice, but a change of paradigm. It's not just learning how, when, and with what materials to cover soil, but it is gaining a whole new understanding of the soil itself. Because the truth is, soil is not just mud and sand. Soil is a living, breathing web of life. An intricate ecosystem bursting with energy and biodiversity.





These photos – showing the difference mulching can make to groundnut harvests – speak louder than words. This experiment in mulching was initially carried out on the Model Farm in 2021 and consequent tests have only further confirmed the effectiveness of this simple but powerful farming technique.

There are believed to be more living organisms in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on planet earth. Soil truly is the lifeblood of the farm.

When planting a tree, one tends to focus predominantly on the plant itself, for example the health of the rootstock, the variety of seed, or the time of year to plant. The paradigm shift we've learnt from mulching shows us that the most important contributor to the future health of the tree is, in fact, what is hidden beneath our feet – the abundance of diverse and interconnected life forms in the soil. We have learned to stop focusing on what we put into the ground, and to start paying greater attention to the ground itself – to the condition of the soil. The focus has shifted to what is happening within.

This same paradigm shift is essential to our approach to the rehabilitation of ex-child soldiers. When thinking about their long-term health and fruitfulness, it is all too easy to focus on external inputs, such as providing them with more education, resources and opportunities. However, our mulching paradigm shift is inviting us to see that lasting transformation in our lives doesn't come from external inputs alone but from carefully tending to our inner life, our subconscious 'soil'. For the trainees, this is about teaching them that their inner life is not simply a seething dark mass of buried traumatic memories but the source of the very life-force necessary for their transformation.

However, this inner life needs to be tended, nurtured, 'mulched' and not simply ploughed up and dowsed with external, artificial fertilizers. The ancient book of Ecclesiastes describes this secret inner storehouse of life with characteristic poetic simplicity: 'He has put eternity in the hearts of men'. And it is perhaps because our modern development practices have lost sight of this, that very little time is spent nurturing the intrinsic life that is already at work in the secret places of the human heart.

But just as regenerative farming is rediscovering the latent power within the soil, maybe it is precisely in those unseen depths of the human heart that the true keys to healing and wholeness are to be found. The focus then shifts to unlocking the transformative power of that inner life of the soul until the very traumas themselves begin to wither on the vine, causing the toxic fruits they once produced to cease to grow. And this is exactly why the regenerative agricultural course we have designed and deliver at Third Hope not only teaches the trainees the practices and techniques of regenerative farming but also encourages them to tend to their inner life as they tend to the soil. Nothing is more encouraging to us as a team than witnessing the inner transformations that are taking place through this course. For example, one of our trainees recently told us, "I used to not stay among people but through the training I got at Third Hope, right now I can live among people." This is the fruit of the simple but powerful 'mulching' paradigm shift, seen both in the increased fertility of Northern Uganda's soil and in the inner healing of Northern Uganda's ex-child soldiers.



Fruit trees continue to grow and flourish, providing consistent perennial harvests year on year. After the early, vulnerable years, a fruit tree will produce many years of fresh fruit, providing health, nutrition and even income for the whole family.



The mature trees also create a beautiful and fertile environment that has helped to protect the farm from the worst effects of the dry season.

Structure, Governance and Management

Third Hope UK is a Charitable Trust governed by a trust deed. As such it is regulated by the laws affecting charitable trusts in the UK. A body of trustees governs Third Hope. There must be a minimum of three trustees serving at any time. New trustees may be suggested by any trustee and are appointed by consensus of all the current trustees.

Decisions are made at trustees' meetings, with sub committees managing issues of specialist interest. The trustees are responsible for fund-raising and for supporting the team in Uganda, as well as ensuring that income is used to further the objectives of Third Hope Africa, as outlined in its Governing Document.

Third Hope Africa is an International NGO, registered in Uganda, which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the project in Uganda and the delivery of the programme to the trainees. It is funded exclusively by Third Hope UK and audited by the Ugandan authorities. One UK trustee sits on the board of Third Hope Africa.

Third Hope UK is Managed by the Following Trustees:
David Salmon, Chair (since Autumn 2010)
Peter Iles (since Autumn 2015)
Barry Horner (since October 2020)
Ntombizifikile Mkoyana (since December 2020)
Zac Horner (since 2023)
Keren Pollock (since 2023)
UK Administrator: Fiona Penny

Public Benefit Statement
Third Hope has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Financial Review
We have no deficit on our funds at the end of the year. Our funds carried forward are **£33,681.14** of which **£1,034.28** are restricted funds.

Reserves Policy
Third Hope holds in reserve enough to cover staff allowances for three months and for any expenditure to which we have committed.

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THIRD HOPE AFRICA

THIRD HOPE AFRICA

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Third Hope UK for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Third Hope UK for the year ended 31st January 2026.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') .
It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow all the applicable procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters.
The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records of the trust were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.

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.

Signed: Gavin Francis Date: 4th November 2026

Name: GAVIN FRANCIS

Address: 71, KINGSFIELD ROAD
WATFORD
WD19 4TP