Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Trustees' Annual Report

From period start date: 01/04/2025 to period end date: 31/03/2026

Charity name: Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Charity registration number: 1142239

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purpose of the charity as set out in its governing document

The charity's objectives are to advance the education of disadvantaged children living in northern Uganda through the provision of grants, scholarships and the provision of materials and facilities for education.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

In this period the charity has funded the completion of the second phase and is about to begin the third phase of the building of the new inclusive secondary school for the visually impaired and other students in the Lira area of northern Uganda. We will continue to provide basic furnishings and educational materials for the school.
Our grants and scholarships for education continue to benefit a number of disadvantaged children and young people.

Statement confirming regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

In carrying out the work of the charity, the trustees pay due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Contribution made by volunteers

Apart from the trustees and management team, the charity has no regular volunteers in the UK. We call on volunteers to help with fundraising events and this support is greatly appreciated. Our partner organisation in Uganda, local NGO Itinga Charity Education Foundation (ICEF), is run by volunteers who carry out the day to day work of the charity locally and keep in regular close contact with us. We appreciate their dedication and hard work which contributes enormously to the difference we are able to make to the lives of our beneficiary students and schools.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

St. Mary Goretti Secondary School

The school has now entered its third year and it is offering inclusive secondary school education to 63 students in years 1,2 and 3. It is catering for students with a variety of disabilities especially students with visual impairments. 26 students have visual impairments and many of these are totally blind. There are 3 students with cerebral palsy, 3 with other physical disabilities and 2 with sickle cell anaemia. It is lovely to see how the students with disabilities grow in confidence as they become more aware of all that they can achieve rather than the focus being on disability. They learn alongside students who have no disability. One of the biggest challenges remains that so many of the students come from very poor families who find paying for their children to attend school very difficult. By the end of the period we were supporting 22 students in the school by paying their school fees. For some, because of all the scholastic and boarding items they are expected to bring, school uniforms etc., our contribution was not sufficient. One family already had a blind student in the school and 2 more, also blind, due to start. The struggle for this family was too much and the 2 remained at home. We were able to help in providing the essentials to enable them to start – mattresses, bedding, tin boxes, uniforms etc. These 2 students will start learning braille and will use technology which will open up a new world of possibilities for them. Our work goes beyond giving opportunity to individuals. When the communities in which they belong learn of what they are able to achieve, attitudes change.

The generosity of our donors has made our work possible, and the new support of one of the local churches who made us one of their mission partners has been a huge help during the period.

The school is now fully registered and an application will be made for it to receive government aid.

Continuing the building programme



We continued to fund the building of dormitory accommodation for the girls and there was much excitement when the girls were able to move in in October. There are 2 dormitories, washrooms, a sick bay and a room for the matron.

Plans have been agreed and work will shortly begin on

the building of a library/computer block for the school. The library will have sections for print books as well as braille books and large print books for the visually impaired. The area for technology will be divided into 2 rooms one of which will have computers with JAWS screen reader for the blind. We are aware that some students, once they leave school, will not have easy access to braille materials. A small room is to be added to the building to allow blind people within the community to come and use the braille materials and computers.

Provision of educational materials and furnishings

We were very grateful to St. Symphorian's Church, Durrington, for their generous donation which enabled beds to be purchased for the boys.
Other generous donations enabled us to purchase 2 braille machines and an Orbit Reader 20 for the school. We bought these in the UK and were able to take them with us when we visited the school in July. We also took out a large number of books that had been donated for the primary school and a large print Bible for the secondary school. We gave a donation to the secondary school so that they could buy equipment for science and agriculture.

Scholarships

The charity supported 16 children and young people on full scholarships this year. One is in his final year studying for a degree in physics and mathematics, two completed their nursing training in December, and one is in her final year studying social work. Two students finished school in December and one of them is waiting to start a diploma course in clinical medicine and the other to start a vocational course in weaving. We supported 9 students now in secondary schools and one in primary school. Several of these students are visually impaired, mainly totally blind, and one is physically disabled and unable to walk. All are from families for whom to pay for school fees and all the other requirements is too big a challenge. The scholarships give the students the opportunity that will lead to a career that will lift them out of poverty. Without education too many young people, especially those with severe disabilities end up begging on the streets or without the opportunity to use the gifts they could have developed.
The number of students on full scholarships is dropping as they complete their education. This has led to our being able to help more students to attend St. Mary Goretti Secondary School with school fees grants.

Achievements against objectives set

Our main objectives during the period were to continue to support all existing full scholarship students by paying their school and college fees and providing for all their scholastic and boarding requirements. All the students have the opportunity to take one course of study at degree, diploma, certificate or vocational level once they have left secondary school. This objective has been achieved.
It was also an objective to prevent children and young people, especially the blind and students with disabilities or living in poverty, from dropping out of school by paying school fees grants to enable them to study at St. Mary Goretti Secondary School. We were able to support 6 new young people who were brought to our notice.
We have continued to support St. Mary Goretti Secondary School through the provision

of furniture and equipment.
One of our biggest achievements was the completion of dormitory accommodation for the girls and preparation for the start of Phase 3 of the school construction, the library and computer room block.

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set
It was the small fundraising events added to our regular income from monthly donations that enabled us to meet our objectives this year. Most of our income from fundraising events went towards the payment of scholarships and grants. An appeal and coffee morning enabled us to buy braille machines for the school. Once again we had a sales table on Ardingly Village Day and a sale of crafts at the Ardingly Village Christmas Fair. St. Symphorian's Church, Durrington, raised funds for beds for St. Mary Goretti Secondary School again through their alternative Christmas card fundraiser. Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield, put on an Italian meal and quiz to raise funds for the scholarships and school fees grants.

Investment performance against objectives
Our investment with CCLA's COIF Ethical Investment Fund has continued to bring in a regular income which has helped to fund the scholarships and school fees grants. We did not take capital from the fund during this period but will do so as soon as work begins on the construction of the library/computer rooms.
The investment has performed reasonably well given the uncertain times in which we are living.

Visits to Uganda
Two of our trustees visited Uganda in July. They made several visits to St. Mary Goretti Secondary School and had meetings with the Lira Catholic Diocese and their engineers over the school construction, and the headteacher who is working hard to get the school fully established. We were happy to see the school in action. We visited and met up with our scholarship students, past and present, visited schools attended by our scholarship students and the homes of some of the students receiving school fees grants from us. We had meetings with our Uganda team, Itinga Charity Education Foundation.

Looking forward
We expect Phase 3 of the construction of St. Mary Goretti Secondary School, the library/computer room block, which will cater for the needs of both sighted and visually impaired students, to be completed in 2026. The rooms will need furnishing and equipping.
We will continue to support existing scholarship students and to provide school fees grants to enable some of the poorest students and blind students to attend St. Mary Goretti Secondary School. By February 2027 the school roll will include all four secondary school year groups, Senior 1-4. The Senior 4 students will be the first to sit the UCE (O Level) exams at the school before moving on to higher education or work.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period
The year showed a small drop in income from regular donations but a big increase income from one off donations. This was largely due to a very generous donation from a single donor. Our income for the year covered the cost of scholarships, school fees grants and allowances and expenses in Uganda. It did not cover the cost of the school construction but it was not planned that it would do so. The cost of school construction was covered by funds the charity received from a legacy in earlier years, other donations and fundraising also from earlier years. The remaining legacy funds are invested in the CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund and we did not draw on them during this year. We cannot, however, be complaisant. Although some of our scholarship students are completing their education, each year brings a new batch of students seeking to join St. Mary Goretti Secondary School and requiring support with school fees. We will need an increase in regular monthly donations if we are to cover the cost.
We will need to draw from the CCLA funds to cover the cost of building the library/computer room block for the school. This will not only reduce our capital but it will lead to a reduction in investment income. If we are to continue to fund the building of facilities at the school, we will need to apply for grants. The school has not yet reached the point where it can be fully self-supporting but this is the ultimate aim.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves and stating why they are held
The charity's policy is to hold sufficient money in reserve to enable it to meet increases in school fees and the considerable cost of education when our scholars transfer from primary to secondary school and on to tertiary education.

Amount of reserves held
Not less than the cost of school fees for a year is kept in reserve.

The charity's principle sources of funds
Our main source of funding continues to be from regular monthly donations from individual supporters. The charity also receives a monthly donation from a small business. In this period three churches supported the school with donations and several one off donations were received from individuals. The charity carries out small fundraising activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document
Constitution adopted 2nd July 2011

How the charity is constituted
Unincorporated Association

Trustee selection methods
Trustees are appointed or reappointed by members annually at the AGM.

The charity's organisational structure
The charity is managed by the trustees and officers. As we are a very small organisation, the whole management team is involved in planning, policy making and carrying out the work of the charity.

Officers and Trustees
During the year ended 31st March 2026 the following people served as officers and trustees of Imara-Uganda Education fund:

Officers

Chairperson:	Belinda Maclean
Treasurer:	Roger Walker
Membership secretary:	Pamela Newnham
Minute secretary:	Marielyn Wood

Trustees

	Belinda Maclean
	Sylvia Walker
	Roger Walker
	David Johnson
	Emma Johnson
	Adelaide Asibwa
Team member	John Stovell

Relationship with any related parties
We operate in partnership with an indigenous NGO, Itinga Charity Education Foundation (ICEF) which was formed at our request and shares our aims and objectives. ICEF carries out the day to day work of the charity in Uganda.
The charity is working in partnership with the Lira Catholic Diocese to enable the construction of the school (St. Mary Goretti Secondary School) for the visually impaired and other learners.

Reference and Administrative details
Charity name: Imara-Uganda Education Fund
Registered charity number: 1142239 (England and Wales)
Charity's principal address: South Cottage, 90 High Street, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TD

Declarations

The trustees' declare that they have approved the trustees annual report for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Full name(s):

Position:

Date:

Signature:

Full name(s):

Position:

Date:

Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Registered Charity Number 1142239

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31st March 2026

	General & Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025-2026	Total Funds 2024-2025
Income	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donations from standing orders/direct debits	12,018		12,018	12,714
Other donations	10,960	780	11,740	5,174
Fundraising trading	943	199	1,142	624
Fundraising non trading	241	233	474	1,144
Gift Aid Relief	3,148		3,148	2,736
Investment income	3,576		3,576	3,631
TOTAL INCOME	**30,886**	**1,212**	**32,098**	**26,023**
Expenditure				
Scholarships and Grants	20,265		20,265	17,367
Educational materials	502	960	1,462	3.238
School construction & furnishings	13,195		13,195	33,939
Ugandan allowances & expenses	4,689		4,689	5,681
Insurance	358		358	744
Bank transfer error	0		0	5
Bank charges	212		212	282
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**39,221**	**960**	**40,181**	**61,256**

Reconciliation of funds	**Current Account**	**Premium Account**	**Total**
Total funds brought forward	**12,034**	**12,945**	**24,979**
Total funds carried forward	**10,853**	**6,043**	**16,896**

Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Registered Charity Number 114223

Balance Sheet
as at
31st March 2026

	As at 31/03/2026	As at 31/03/2025
Fixed Assets	**£**	**£**
Investments:		
CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund	103,722	100,000
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand: Current Account	10,853	12,034
Premium Account	6,043	12,945
	16,896	24,979
Liabilities	0	0
Total net assets less liabilities	120,618	124,979
Represented by		
Unrestricted Funds	120,366	124,979
Designated Funds	0	
Restricted Funds	252	
TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE CHARITY	**120,618**	**124,979**

Independent Examiner's report

to the Trustees and Members of Imara Uganda Education Fund (Registered Charity no 1142239)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that it is good practice for an independent examination to be carried out even though it is not legally required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the 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 report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mrs Catherine Gleadow
15 Lundy Close
Littlehampton
BN17 6NX

C.E. Gleadow

Dated 30/06/2026