

Charity Commission No: 100329



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022
CHARITY INFORMATION**

Board of Trustees

Ciaran McShane
Shannon Heffron
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
Martin Lynch
Emer McGirr
Claire McGinn

Chair

Ciaran McShane

Secretary

Shannon Heffron

Registered Office

Accidental Theatre Company
12-13 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
County Antrim
BT2 7DB

Principal Bankers

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Charity Commission Number

100329

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Objective and Activities

The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
- To assist the beneficiaries to help develop their physical, mental, and spiritual capacities so that they may develop to full maturity as individuals;
- To provide assistance to our beneficiaries so that their conditions of life may be improved and by developing qualities in our beneficiaries through service to the community in Africa;
- To promote racial harmony between young people in Ireland and Africa by promoting awareness of diverse issues, spirituality, and culture;
- To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa, which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life; and
- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year ended 31st August 2022:

- Ciaran McShane
- Shannon Heffron
- Aoife Heaney
- Grainne Kelly
- Martin Lynch
- Emer McGirr
- Claire McGinn

Achievements and Performance

Reflecting on the achievements and performance of Friends of Africa in this reporting year, we have successfully delivered numerous events and fundraising activities. Our membership has continued to grow and develop, with members getting involved in all aspects of the charity.

The International Volunteer Programme was on hold for another year however we helped our partners in the LULU Project, SELL Ghana, Tanga House, Tsholofelo and Hapani with various grants which supported development projects in line with our vision and mission.

An evaluation on our partners in South Africa, Tsholofelo and Tanzania (Lulu and Tanga house) was completed by two Board Members and our Development Officer. This was to evaluate how donations had been allocated, used during covid and how we could assist our partners to prosper. An assessment for opportunities, for volunteers to return was also completed. As a result, it was agreed the volunteer programme would return in 2023 with a new approach.

The membership is continuously learning and developing, some members completed their Level 2 Youth Work Training. First Wednesday Learning sessions were organised to highlight the complex issues which our young people deal with. External facilitators provided workshops and educated our membership. In giving back to our membership, FOA hosted a Wellbeing weekend and a member's weekend; we were fortunate enough to have one of our partners from Tanga House in Tanzania address the membership.

The 7'7 Challenge completed in the Mourne was a great achievement, completed by members as part of the Annual Fundraiser. Other events which our membership completed was the Belfast Marathon relay and bake sales. We also continued to support new arrivals by preparing welcome packs which include essential

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

items for parents with babies and small children which are distributed based on need from the Children's Hospital in the Royal.

Friends of Africa submitted several Institutional grant applications to which the Big Lotto was successful, securing a grant worth £9,900 allowed us to facilitate a Summer Scheme. Dungiven Parish and Maghera Third world shop also granted us a total £5,000.

The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Review

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

Structure, Governance, and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 21st June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Shannon Heffron
Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

I report on the accounts of Friends of Africa for the year ended 31st August 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of charity 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 (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; and
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's qualified statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.

Richard Whan FCA
Chartered Accountant

Date: 21st June 2023

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		15,696	-	15,696	3,983
Charitable activities		-	13,855	13,855	8,243
Other trading activities		9,101	-	9,101	7,733
Investments		37	-	37	197
Total		24,834	13,855	38,689	20,156
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		3,699	-	3,699	2,638
Charitable activities	1	52,835	13,855	66,690	43,185
Total		56,534	13,855	70,389	45,823
Net income / (expenditure)		(31,700)	-	(31,700)	(25,668)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		(31,700)	-	(31,700)	(25,668)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		153,678	-	153,678	179,346
Total funds carried forward		121,978	-	121,978	153,678

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

	31st August 2022	31st August 2021
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash balances</u>		
Danske bank current	118,850	150,537
BOI volunteer account	2,457	2,469
AIB account	671	672
Total	121,978	153,678

Approved by the trustees on 21st June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Ciaran McShane

Chair

Shannon Heffron

Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	20,620	13,855	34,475	12,246
	<u>20,620</u>	<u>13,855</u>	<u>34,475</u>	<u>12,246</u>
	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<i>Costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	24,459	-	24,459	22,950
Insurance	1,357	-	1,357	900
Website costs	15	-	15	675
Telephone and internet	438	-	438	102
Training	-	-	-	418
Rent	2,290	-	2,290	1,945
Audit and accountancy fees	2,154	-	2,154	714
Software	433	-	433	180
Printing, postage, stationery	769	-	769	-
Bank fees	286	-	286	2,835
General expenses	14	-	14	220
	<u>32,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,215</u>	<u>30,939</u>
Total expenditure on charitable activities	<u>52,835</u>	<u>13,855</u>	<u>66,690</u>	<u>43,185</u>