THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1073817

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1999-02-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Office 214 Hill House 210 Upper Richmond Road London
Phone	02089777571
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Website	www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE PERSONS PARTICULARLY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED OR HARDSHIP OR WHO ARE SICK AND TO RELIEVE THE DISTRESS CAUSED THEREBY IN SUCH PARTS OF THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE INCLUDING (THOUGH NOT BY WAY OF LIMITATION) ESTABLISHING, OPERATING OR ASSISTING IN THE OPERATION OF ONE OR MORE ORPHANAGES OR OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE CARE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN SUCH PARTS OF THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES BY SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE INCLUDING BY MEANS OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING ANY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN SUCH PARTS OF THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

Activities: BCT partners with church-led projects in several African nations that act and advocate for marginalised children. We provide finance and guidance in project management and development. We give training in child care and protection, children's rights and address the roots of beliefs and practices that harm children. We raise awareness of the needs of children at risk.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE EUROPE AND AFRICA
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Rwanda
- Zambia
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£142,636	£135,139	-	-
2024-08-31	£134,693	£144,716	-	-
2023-08-31	£132,773	£142,968	-	-
2022-08-31	£142,352	£152,106	-	-
2021-08-31	£168,098	£144,412	-	-
2020-08-31	£135,068	£137,533	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gillian Sheena Bradley	Chair	2018-10-07
Hazel Whiting		2018-07-21
Michelle Arthur		2025-12-04
Rose Ndulu Ndolo		2022-01-15

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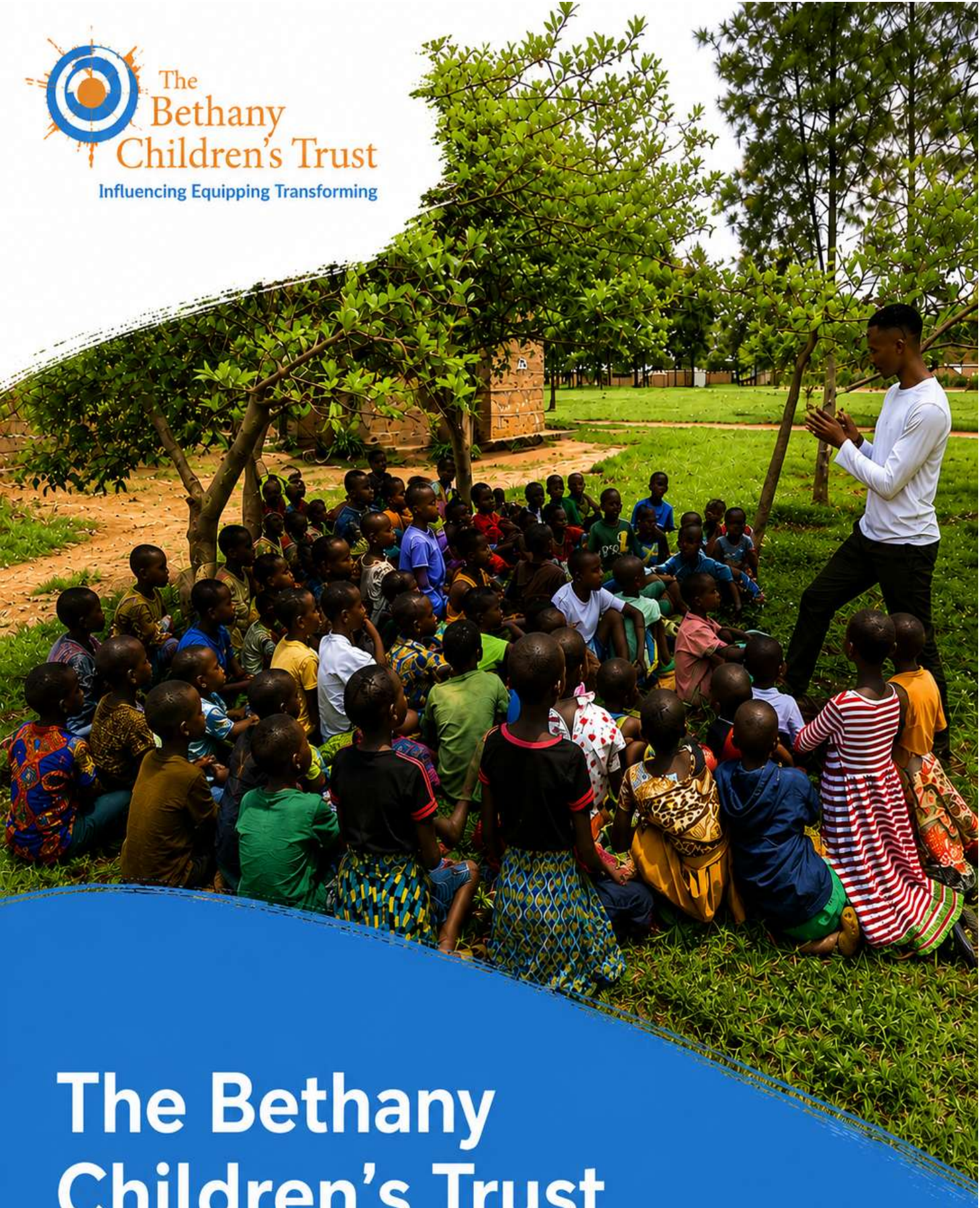
THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1073817

Accounts

The Bethany Children's Trust

Influencing Equipping Transforming



The Bethany Children's Trust

Annual Report to 31 August 2025

The Bethany Children's Trust Annual Report to 31 August 2025

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Charity information

Trustees of The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT)

Mrs Gill Bradley
Ms Rose Ndolo
Mrs Hazel Whiting
Ms Michelle Arthur (Appointed 4th December 2025)

Executive Director

Dorcas Rono

Governing Document

Trust Deed dated 23 December 1998, as amended 5 December 2003
Charity Registration Number 1073817

Registered Office

Office 214,
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210 Upper Richmond Road,
London
SW15 6NP
www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Nicola Harrison CA
Stewardship
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EC1Y 8AB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
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PO Box 101
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NatWest Bracknell
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Berkshire
RG12 1DH

Letter from the Chair of Trustees

As we reflect on the year ending August 2025, we do so with deep gratitude to God for His continued faithfulness to The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT). Throughout a year of both challenge and change, we have seen His provision, guidance, and encouragement in remarkable ways.

The quarterly reports from our partner organisations - Wukwashi Wa Nzambi in Zambia, LVLE in the DRC, APRECOM in Rwanda, and SCWA worldwide - continually remind us why BCT exists. The stories of transformed lives, strengthened families, empowered churches, and supported communities are both humbling and inspiring. They are a powerful testimony to what can be achieved when compassion, faith, and partnership come together.

This past year also marked an important period of restructuring for BCT. Through streamlining our processes and reshaping the way we work alongside our partners, we have become a more resilient and sustainable charity for the future. Change is rarely easy, but throughout this journey we have experienced God's presence and faithfulness every step of the way.

We are especially grateful for the dedication and leadership shown within our team. Following her transition from CEO to volunteer consultant, Lyn Edwards has continued to serve BCT with unwavering commitment, generously giving her time one day each week while mentoring our new Executive Director, Dorcas Rono, who stepped into the role on 1 April 2025. We warmly thank Lyn for her years of faithful service and ongoing support, and we celebrate Dorcas's passionate, capable, and humble leadership as she guides BCT into this next chapter.

We also welcomed Molly Langston as Finance Officer, whose expertise and dedication have already strengthened our work. In addition, Stephanie Farrant continued her valued volunteering while also serving freelance as Grant and Bid Coordinator, helping to secure vital funding opportunities for the charity.

Financially, we are thankful to report that BCT is now in a significantly stronger position. This has been made possible through the faithful generosity of longstanding supporters, new grant funding, unexpected donations, and a legacy gift. We are deeply humbled by this provision and profoundly thankful to everyone who has stood with us through prayer, giving, encouragement, and practical support.

To all our supporters: thank you. Your partnership enables hope to reach children, families, and communities across the world. We pray that God will continue to bless you richly as together we look ahead with renewed vision, confidence, and faith for the future of BCT.

Finally, we offer our heartfelt thanks and prayers to our dedicated partner leaders - Joyce & Henry, Jean-Paul & Edwige, and Odette & Fred - together with their teams, who continue to serve tirelessly and sacrificially in often challenging circumstances. Their commitment and compassion remain an inspiration to us all.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." Ephesians 3:16–17 NIV

Gill Bradley

Chair of Trustees
The Bethany Children's Trust

BCT's Approach to Fundraising

BCT is just as committed to 'friend-raising' as to fundraising. We see building relationships with BCT's work beyond financial support and take time and care to nurture positive relationships with them.

A small number of supporters choose to go beyond giving funds to BCT's work and become BCT Ambassadors. These Ambassadors give of their time, expertise and resources to promote BCT's work in their churches and communities, mobilising prayer and even organising their own fundraising events. We maintain close relationships with our Ambassadors, ensuring they are equipped for their efforts, up to date with good practice in fundraising, and fully aware of how grateful we are for their efforts on our behalf.

We also write fundraising applications to grant-making trusts that exist to disburse grants as they see fit. We see our supporters and potential supporters as an integral part of raising funds to resource our own and our partners' work. Therefore, we take a no-pressure approach to fundraising. Our focus is on sharing stories of transformation, highlighting how we are making a difference to individual children and entire communities, then presenting opportunities for members of the public to support this work, if they wish to. We use printed communications, social media channels and presentations at events in order to share these stories and leave it to the public to decide what their response may be, if any. If an existing supporter wishes to cease receiving communications from BCT, they can contact either our own office or the Fundraising Preference Service and we will ensure that they no longer receive such communications.

Our policy means that we value the supporter and their wellbeing as an individual as much as any support they may be able to offer BCT. It means that we offer a range of opportunities to engage.

Currently, funding is provided from a variety of sources:
Grant-making trusts – We have a small but committed group of grant-making trusts who support us on a regular basis. Other grant-making trusts support us with occasional one-off gifts.
Supporters – We receive ongoing monthly donations from many supporters, usually by standing order and direct debit, as well as occasional one-off donations. We also have long-standing relationships with a number of churches and businesses who support us financially.
Events – We occasionally arrange fundraising events, or encourage our supporters to join us in taking part in fundraising events arranged by other organisations. (We ensure that any external event meets our ethical standards and faith values). We receive funding from supporters who have raised sponsorship by taking part in such events.
Legacy funding – We receive occasional funding by legacy donations.
Media – BCT also encourages fundraising through the promotion of its charitable activities via its communications media: print publications, online presence and social media.

BCT's vision and mission

Commitment to Public Benefit

BCT's trustees confirm that they have paid due attention to public benefit in their role of overseeing the work of BCT and are satisfied that all BCT activities meet public benefit requirements as defined by the Charity Commission's general guidelines. Everything BCT has done in the period covered by this report has been to bring benefit to the lives of our key beneficiaries – children at risk – by influencing, equipping and enabling churches, Christian projects and individuals to respond to their needs, and to address root issues, beliefs and practices that harm them.

Summary of BCT's objects, as set out in its Declaration of Trust

a) To relieve persons, particularly children who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are sick, and to relieve the distress caused thereby in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

b) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with BCT's Statement of Beliefs in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

c) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate.

BCT's Vision…

…is to equip the Christian Church to lead the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, valued, safe, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential.

BCT's Mission…

…is to mobilise a Christian response to the needs of the most marginalised children. We work wherever God leads us, strengthening the capacity of churches to lead their communities in caring for children and addressing the roots of beliefs, practices and circumstances that harm them. We work with churches directly, through local project partners and by networking and collaborating with other organisations.

How BCT has benefited marginalised children

We assisted churches and Christian organisations to develop initiatives to bring about holistic transformation in the lives of vulnerable children

BCT exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children. We believe wholeheartedly that every child is created in God's image and therefore inherently precious. And we believe that every child should be loved, cared for and enabled to fulfil their God-given potential. Therefore, we actively seek out the most marginalised of children – the ones who slip through the net, who are neglected by their communities and whose suffering goes unnoticed because they are hidden away or overlooked – and we act to see their lives changed, practically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We believe in the Church. We believe churches are uniquely placed to influence change on a local basis, and that they understand their communities, their children and the most important local issues far better than we do. So, local churches are our focus. We seek to equip churches to reach their own communities, rather than doing it for them, so that they will continue to influence godly transformation even many years into the future. We connect with and equip churches directly through our *Transformation Resources*, and indirectly through our project partners.

Enabling projects to develop strategically and according to good practice

Our project partners are extraordinary people. They do incredible work, often in the harshest of circumstances and with minimal material reward. They are determined, courageous and deeply committed. We're privileged to work with them, fight battles together and see young lives changed. However, a significant part of our deep commitment to our partners is to identify ways in which their already excellent work could be strengthened. So, drawing on over 24 years' experience, we work alongside our partners to help them in formulating strategies which will enable them to meet their communities' most acute needs. We help them to make the most of the resources and personnel available to them, and to operate in line with best practice in safeguarding and project management, in order to reach and serve marginalised children as effectively as possible.

Enabling projects to monitor and evaluate their work and to be accountable

Monitoring and evaluation are vital in helping our UK team to understand our partners' work. So, we equip our partners to report on their own work: to highlight the measurable outcomes from their efforts and show which areas of their work are most effective and fruitful. Their quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports help us to offer our partners specific advice on how to refine their approach. And partly based on our partners' reports, we work with each of them to devise an annual plan and budget which supports and

emphasises the most effective areas of their work.

Creating resources to challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs

BCT has a range of resources that respond to issues that can lead to the abuse and neglect of children and to strengthen families and communities. Our resources address pressure points, such as food insecurity, physical and mental health, disability, stigma and the pressure on family relationships, with a view to helping individuals, families and communities to thrive, because that is how children are also best able to thrive. These are issues that have been raised both within the communities we serve and in our wider networks, so we know that we are responding to felt needs.

Providing local churches with resources to train their communities makes important ideas accessible to a much wider audience than if we simply delivered the training ourselves. It has the potential to exponentially increase our impact.

These insights have led us to create *Transformation Resources*. These resources address child abuse by unpacking the attitudes and beliefs which cause it. 'Transform Disability' addresses misconceptions about disability and disabled children, 'Transform Families' encourages positive parenting by discussing common views on family life, and 'Let's Grow!' tackles food insecurity through addressing lack of knowledge about nutrition and agriculture. BCT staff have also been involved in creating resources for the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition (see pages 20 and 21), which explore biblical perspectives on physical and mental health, sickness and healing.

All of the completed *Transformation Resources* material is available for download, absolutely free, through our website. Each element of the resources is piloted through trusted churches and Christian agencies – including our project partners – before being released for general use.

Provision of training

As part of our commitment to strengthen and add value to our partners' work, we help them to identify areas in which they would benefit from training, and we then enable them to access training which meets their needs. This either involves delivering the training ourselves or, where the training requires a specialism that we do not have within the organisation, helping our partners to access training from an alternative provider. For example, the Tanari Trust has delivered training in creating positive relationships for APRECOM staff and volunteers, to strengthen and inform their work with children and teenagers.

Enabling networking

Our partners' work can often be enhanced by connecting with other organisations and individuals who support marginalised children: either agencies who work in a similar geographical area to them, or who might be further afield but focus on similar issues. Whenever we become aware of a potentially fruitful connection, we encourage our partners to pursue it. In this way, both parties can benefit from sharing ideas and experiences.

Similarly, we help our partners to identify potential new financial backers, so that they will be better resourced. In the end, we aim for all of our partners to reach a stage where they no longer need BCT's support and are able to operate independently.

Enabling projects to access information resources

Our UK team often has access to professional networks and information which our project partners do not. Therefore, we ensure that our partners can access important and useful resources by emailing them electronic documents or links to websites where such documents are available.

Provision of finances, encouragement and prayer support

We often marvel at how much our partners can achieve on a shoestring budget. However, they still need financial support in order to operate. We work closely with each of our partners to identify their most strategically important activities. We then indicate at the start of the year which activities we intend to fund and at what level, to enable our partners to plan. Although this funding is subject to fundraising, we are invariably able to meet our commitments in this way.

Alongside the provision of funds, we also support our partners in regular prayer and in ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice through email and WhatsApp contact.

BCT supports and partners with projects that are:

- Community-based, church-led or parachurch, if working significantly with churches.
- Working with the most marginalised children, who are significantly at risk in the context within which they live, due to abuse and prevailing circumstances.
- Addressing roots of harmful beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- Equipping local people to meet their own needs.
- Working with replicable and sustainable models (or desire to).
- Working with locally appropriate solutions to local problems.
- Focussing on Child Protection and Children's Rights.
- Emphasising the empowerment and support of parents/guardians and young people.
- Willing to collaborate and network with others.
- Willing to be accountable through monitoring and evaluation and impact measurement of their work, good financial reporting and good, open communication.
- Actively raising or desire to raise awareness within churches and communities of an issue/issues that are harmful to children.
- Willing to progress and develop.
- Willing to be a voice on behalf of marginalised children or those at risk of abuse and/or to enable the children's voices to be heard directly.
- In under-resourced, neglected or isolated areas where marginalised children are exceptionally vulnerable and where there is little service provision.

Projects Supported by BCT from September 2024 to August 2025

APRECOM (AIDS Prevention Care and Outreach Ministry)

Based in: Kigali, Rwanda
Partnered with BCT since: 2002
Supports: Children affected by HIV/AIDS, Children living with disabilities, and vulnerable groups across Rwanda

Context and Mission:
Initially focused on addressing the AIDS epidemic, APRECOM provided support for HIV+ individuals and their families. Recently, it expanded to advocate for disabled children and equip churches to include and support them. While work in Kigali has become self-sustaining, efforts are concentrated in Bukora, Bugesera, and Kajera.

Key Activities:

- **Church Training:** Churches receive training in child protection and inclusion of children with disabilities, with trained churches passing on their knowledge.
- **Outreach to Disabled Children:** Bugesera churches identify and support families with disabled children through gatherings and resources.
- **Child Abuse Prevention:** Using the 'Touch Talk' resource, children are empowered to recognize and report abuse.
- **Youth Support:** The Inshuti Nziza Troop and Clubs support young people and children living with HIV through vocational skills, guidance, and community.
- **Adult HIV+ Support:** Groups in Kajera, Bukora, and Kigali offer advice and encouragement to HIV+ adults.
- **Teenage Girls' Empowerment:** The Queens Group teaches confidence and vocational skills to vulnerable teenage girls.
- **Food Provision:** Regular deliveries of essential food aid support families reliant on antiretroviral medication or affected by COVID.
- **Community Nutrition:** Community gardens and the 'Let's Grow!' resource promote sustainable agriculture and healthy eating.

Impact Highlights

Protection and Advocacy for Children with Disabilities
Over the past year, progress has been made in strengthening the identification, protection and support of children with disabilities. Existing processes have continued to enable children to be identified, recorded and supported within their communities, while churches have been equipped to play an active safeguarding role.

This year:
• A total of 128 children with disabilities were identified and recorded.
• 12 churches engaged, with 24 Child Protection Officers trained (2 per church).
• 107 questionnaires distributed, leading to the identification of 20 new children.
• 8 support groups established, providing ongoing care and support for children and their families.

Building Confidence and Positive Behaviour through Inshuti-Nziza Clubs
Inshuti-Nziza clubs have continued to support children in developing self-esteem, life skills and positive behavioural change through regular gatherings focused on learning, prayer and encouragement. While there have been some challenges due to limited meeting spaces and church closures, progress has still been made in engaging and supporting children.
This year:
• A total of 5 Inshuti-Nziza club sessions were held across the year.
• 193 children attended the clubs, participating in life skills, prayer and encouragement activities.
• 1 new club was established, expanding the reach of the programme.
• 102 children shared that they feel more confident and encouraged, reflecting positive behavioural change.

Improving Living Conditions through Microfinance Support
Families have been supported to improve their living conditions through small start-up projects and savings initiatives. This has enabled vulnerable households, including those caring for children with disabilities, to begin generating income and work towards greater stability.

This year:
• A total of 11 microfinance projects were established across the year.
• 14 instances of families maintaining their projects were recorded, showing ongoing engagement and sustainability.
• 18 reports of improved living conditions were shared by families, reflecting positive changes in income and wellbeing.

Holistic support for Vulnerable Youth through 'Let's Grow!'
Vulnerable young people have been supported to develop life skills, strengthen their wellbeing and improve their ability to meet their basic needs. Through 'Let's Grow!' training and practical activities, young people are gaining skills in food production while being encouraged to live with purpose and confidence.

This year:
• A total of 69 young people received support, including 36 new participants.
• 107 young people were trained in 'Let's Grow!', equipping them with practical skills in food production.
• 15 gardens were established, creating opportunities for learning and demonstration within the community.
• 41 young people were actively involved in growing food, with 30 newly engaged in food production activities.

Supporting Young Mothers through Queens Club and Parenting Training
Young mothers have been supported through the Queens Club to rebuild their lives, strengthen family relationships and develop positive parenting practices. Through regular engagement, training and encouragement, many have grown in confidence and are taking steps towards greater stability for themselves and their children.

This year:
• A total of 163 girls attended the Queens Club, with 155 participating in parenting training.
• 82 young mothers were reunited with their families, strengthening family support systems.
• 4 young mothers began vocational training, and 10 started work, taking steps towards independence.
• All participants received guidance on positive parenting and nutrition, helping them to better care for their children.

Support for Vulnerable Families
Vulnerable families have been supported through regular home visits, practical assistance and encouragement. This has helped to address both physical needs, such as food, and emotional and spiritual wellbeing, particularly for families living in extreme poverty, those affected by HIV and those caring for children with disabilities.

This year:
• A total of 280 individuals were supported with food provision across the year.
• Food distributions were carried out regularly, ensuring families had access to basic needs.
• 170 home visits were conducted, providing encouragement, prayer and ongoing support to families in need.

Empowering Volunteers to Support Vulnerable Families
Volunteers from local churches have been equipped to play an active role in identifying and supporting vulnerable children and families. Through community engagement, collaboration with local leaders and regular follow-up visits, volunteers are helping to ensure that families are known, supported and connected to care. This has also encouraged greater openness within communities, with families more willing to share their challenges and learn how to care for children living with disabilities.

This year:
• 32 volunteers were actively involved in community surveys and outreach.
• 21 children with disabilities were identified, enabling targeted support.
• Volunteers worked closely with churches and local leaders, strengthening local response and coordination.
• Regular home visits and follow-up support were provided to families, offering encouragement and practical care.

Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration
Aprecom has continued to build and strengthen relationships with other organisations and local networks. These partnerships have supported shared learning, collaboration and a more coordinated response to the needs of vulnerable children and families within the community.

This year:
• A total of 8 meetings were held with partner organisations, including Peace Plan, Christ for Nations and Peace of Life.
• 7 meetings were held with Aprecom Champions, strengthening coordination and ongoing engagement.
• Ongoing collaboration with churches and partner organisations has helped to enhance programme delivery and community impact.

Laissez Vivre Les Enfants (Let Children Live) - LVLE

Based in: Goma, Eastern DRC
Partnered with BCT since: January 2017
Supports: Focuses on child protection and reducing vulnerabilities such as abuse, poverty, and street living. The organization partners with local churches and civic authorities to create safe environments for children to grow and thrive, while addressing harmful practices like witchcraft accusations.

Key Activities:

1. **Street Child Outreach:**
    - Weekly engagement with street-living children via 'listening posts'.
    - Mediation for reintegration with families or placement in safe homes.
2. **Child Protection Training:**
    - Equipping church, school, and community leaders to prevent and address child abuse.
    - Ongoing training sessions in Karisimbi, Goma, and Turunga.
3. **Nutrition and Food Security:**
    - Training leaders on agriculture and nutrition principles using the 'Let's Grow!' resource.
    - Initiatives focused on addressing malnutrition in Masisi and Nyiragongo.
4. **Addressing Witchcraft Accusations:**
    - Formation of two 'Synergies'—networks of pastors, police, and civic leaders—to combat witchcraft-related abuse.
    - Training for leaders in new community cells to protect vulnerable children.
5. **Media Advocacy:**
    - Weekly radio shows and monthly TV appearances to raise awareness about child rights and protection.
    - Topics include discipline practices, child abuse prevention, and empowering children.

Impact Highlights:

Awareness and Advocacy through Media

This year:
• 36 radio programmes broadcast in Goma, alongside 12 TV programmes
• 36 radio programmes delivered in Masisi and 36 in Rutshuru
• 637 phone calls received across all locations, reflecting active listener participation
• 651 text messages received, demonstrating strong community engagement
• 80 testimonies shared, highlighting changes in attitudes and increased understanding of child protection
• 7 case studies documented, providing further evidence of impact and behavioural change

Strengthening Trauma-Informed Support for Children

LVLE has strengthened the capacity of key community leaders and professionals to

better support traumatised children. Through training with community chiefs, deputy leaders and police officers, participants have been equipped with practical skills in trauma care and child protection, improving responses to vulnerable children within their communities.

This year:
• 96 heads of avenues, 66 deputy heads and 92 police officers trained
• 51 Action Plans developed to support implementation
• 22 Action Plans put into practice in communities
• 40 testimonies shared, reflecting changes in how children are supported
• Strengthened collaboration between community leaders and local structures

Strengthening and Expanding Church-Based Child Protection (Turunga)
LVLE strengthened the capacity of church leaders in Turunga through both follow-up with previously trained pastors and training of new pastors in child protection and trauma-informed care.

This year:
• 30 pastors were evaluated to assess the implementation of Child Protection Policies and previous training.
• 19 Child Protection Policies were actively in place, and 44 pastors had trained others, demonstrating ongoing multiplication of knowledge.
• 87 new pastors were trained in trauma and child protection, strengthening the overall response within churches.
• 45 action plans were developed, with 26 already being implemented, showing practical application of the training.
• 11 testimonies highlighted improved, trauma-informed approaches in supporting vulnerable children.

Child Protection Training Expansion (New Areas)
In 2025, LVLE expanded child protection training into new areas, equipping church and school leaders with the knowledge and tools to create safer environments for children.

This year:
- 60 pastors were trained in child protection, safe environment practices, and trauma-informed approaches.
- 45 action plans were developed, supporting leaders to apply the training within their churches and communities.
- 44 churches and schools established child protection measures, strengthening safeguarding structures.
- 9 testimonies reflected improved awareness and practical responses to protecting vulnerable children.

Food Security and Livelihoods (Let's Grow)

LVLE strengthened food security and livelihoods by equipping community leaders and families with practical skills in agriculture, nutrition and self-reliance. Through training, follow-up and ongoing support, communities were supported to establish gardens, improve food production and reduce vulnerability across Masisi, Nyiragongo, Turunga, Mugunga, Mubambiro and Kibumba.

This year:
• 237 leaders were trained across multiple locations, strengthening local capacity in agriculture and nutrition.
• 106 experimental gardens were established, creating spaces for learning, demonstration and community engagement.
• 158 gardens were actively cultivated and harvested, improving access to nutritious food for families.
• 32 domestic fields were established through follow-up support, reinforcing continued application of learning.
• 88 testimonies were recorded, showing increased self-reliance, improved food access and positive changes in wellbeing.

Follow-up, Evaluation and Sustainability

LVLE carried out follow-up and evaluation activities to assess how training had been applied in practice and to support ongoing sustainability within communities.

This year:
• 66 leaders demonstrated that they had successfully applied the knowledge and skills gained from the training.
• Follow-up visits confirmed that learning was being put into practice, strengthening long-term impact within churches and communities.

Trauma Support and Reintegration of Children

In 2025, LVLE strengthened trauma-informed support and reintegration efforts in Goma and surrounding areas through training, follow-up, and community engagement.

This year:
• 80 pastors and church leaders were trained in mental health, healing, and challenging harmful beliefs, with 53 testimonies showing positive changes in attitudes and understanding.
• 34 children were successfully reintegrated into their communities, with ongoing support provided through trauma tools such as There is Hope for Me.
• 9 children received targeted trauma support, and 15 testimonies reflected improved wellbeing among children supported.
• Follow-up and community outreach helped identify vulnerable children and support pathways for reintegration, although 6 children returned to the streets, highlighting ongoing challenges.

Communalife, formerly SCWA (Stop Child Witch Accusations)

Communalife, formerly the Stop Child Witch Accusations (SCWA) coalition brings a Christian response to the issue of child witch accusations. We have reached a stage in our growth and development where we have decided that it would be beneficial to our work and reach to rename ourselves Communalife and to apply for registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in our own right. Our application has been with the Charity Commission since the latter part of 2025 and awaits their consideration. Regardless of the outcome of the application, our work continues! The attached statement explains our decision in more detail.

The work in Calabar continues to grow and develop and the local team is taking The Heart of the Matter training to Cross River State Central, with focus group research and a five-day training workshop planned in Yakurr LGA (Local Government Area). This continues the move northwards from Calabar and means that the team is now active in Yakurr as well as in Calabar, Bakassi, Akpabuyo, Odukpani and Akamkpa. The attached map shows the LGAs in Cross River State and gives an idea as to where is being impacted by the rollout of The Heart of the Matter.

The team continues to follow-up with the pastors they have already trained, and this year they held the first one-day conference for them, an event which was very encouraging, with multiple testimonies of impact and change, as well as real enthusiasm and a sense of momentum. This year also saw us complete a report on the impact of the first three years of the work in Cross River State. A copy of the report and a narrative report of the pastors' conference are attached.

The school clubs have continued and there is evidence that the children enjoy them. They are often disrupted by other elements of the school calendar, so there is a sense that it is proving difficult to gain real traction. This is an area that we will review in the coming year, although it is clear that the team is keen to continue with them, and it may yet prove to be worth persevering.

The clubs have been a location for the piloting of the children's resources. This has been slow, for the reasons set out above relating to the disruption of the clubs schedule, but we have received the first feedback, which is generally encouraging. It indicates that the children enjoyed the activities and understood the key messages, finding them relevant and helpful. We are aware that we may need to present the material in two formats, with a parallel approach allowing for shorter sessions and more autonomous use of the resources by the children because of the limited blocks of time available for the clubs. We are awaiting the remaining feedback before making a decision on this. The resources are also being tested in Kenya and by the Salvation Army's Community of Practice team.

The research that we carried out through our collaborators into children's experiences thinking and attitudes to witchcraft-related issues, including accusations, has now been written up formally into a report, in collaboration with Australia National University. It is jointly published by the International Network Against Witchcraft Accusations and Ritual Attacks (INAWARA), the UN Working Group involved in lobbying the UN for Resolution 47/8 on the topic and its implementation, and also by us. It is also being redrafted for publication in relevant academic journals. A copy is attached.

The Salvation Army pilot has been delayed by changes in personal in the Nigerian territory of the Salvation Army, and is now planned for southern Nigeria, probably in Akwa Ibom or River State, carefully avoiding any areas where sensitisation and training have already taken place through our collaborators in Calabar and Eket. We are hopeful that the first stages, including the focus group research and the five-day workshop, will be completed by June. In the meantime, the Salvation Army is raising the issue in other nations, most recently Angola, and is embedding the topic in its broader child protection materials for use in affected areas.

The work in Akwa Ibom has continued, with initial trainings deemed successful, although follow—up has been sporadic. This is an issue that we are addressing with the team there, although the programme is being driven and funded by Safe Child Africa, not by Communalife, and is an example of our light touch involvement as trainers of trainers and background advisors.

The work in Goma remains largely on hold because of the ongoing security situation there and the absence of key personnel, who are currently basing themselves in the USA.

This year, our focus is on continuing the work outlined above and of progressing our application with the Charity Commission. We are also hoping to attend the INAWARA Conference in November in Mzuzu, northern Malawi, at the University of Livingstonia, where it is hoped that we will be able to present on the children's research report and on our research-based, faith-based approach to developing resources and to delivering training, and its proven impact. Our attendance is subject to being above to raise the requisite funding. The venue is in a remote part of the country at some distance from the international airport at Lilongwe, so there are cost and time implications. We are already in discussion with the Vice Chancellor of the university, the Very Rev Dr Timothy Nyasulu, about the adaptation of our materials for a curriculum at the Presbyterian Universities in Malawi and Zambia, and the Conference would provide an opportunity for consolidating and advancing these discussions.

BCT's Transformation Resources

Overview
BCT's "Transformation Resources" project, initiated in August 2017, addresses harmful attitudes and beliefs that underpin child abuse and neglect. It provides leaders in remote and deprived communities with practical, biblically grounded materials to support and empower children. The resources tackle family relationships, disability inclusion, hunger and nutrition, and health issues, and mental health.

Key Activities:

Resource Development and Availability:
Core Bethany resources continue to be developed and used globally:
• **Transform Families (17 modules):** a distinctively Christian resource equipping churches and caregivers with practical and biblical guidance to strengthen family relationships, communication and child protection.
• **Transform Disability:** equips church leaders to understand disability, challenge harmful beliefs and create inclusive communities where children with disabilities can thrive.
• **Let's Grow!:** a practical resource supporting individuals, families and communities to grow their own food, improve nutrition and strengthen food security, even in low-resource settings.
• **Health and trauma-related resources:** a set of faith-based materials addressing physical and mental health, equipping leaders to respond to illness, challenge harmful beliefs and support those facing mental health challenges.

These resources are available in multiple languages including English, French and Swahili.

Collaborations:
Partnerships with organisations such as The Salvation Army have enabled these resources to be used within wider training programmes.

Platform Improvement:
The website has been reorganised to improve access to resources and support wider use.

Impact Highlights

Agriculture and Nutrition:
Let's Grow! has supported families to improve food production, contributing to better nutrition for children.

Disability Inclusion:
Transform Disability has helped mobilise churches in countries such as Rwanda and Zambia to better support and include children with disabilities.

Strengthening Families:
Transform Families has contributed to improved relationships, communication and care within families.

Holistic Health and Safeguarding:
Health and trauma-focused resources have helped address stigma, promote understanding of illness, and strengthen safeguarding practices.

Global Reach:
Resources are being used in over 10 countries, including across Africa, India and Jamaica, with growing potential for wider impact.

Conclusion
BCT's Transformation Resources has significantly improved community well-being, empowered families, supported disabled children, and addressed critical health and agricultural challenges across various nations.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi

Based in: Copperbelt region, Zambia
Partnered with BCT since: 2005
Supports: Children living with disabilities

Overview
Wukwashi WA Nzambi, based in Zambia's Copperbelt region, supports children with disabilities and advocates for their rights. Established in 2005, it partners with local volunteers to provide vital services, addressing challenges like stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to resources

Key Activities

1. **Support Groups**: Sixteen groups provide physiotherapy, play therapy, and social opportunities for children, as well as advice and encouragement for parents.
2. **Mentoring**: Weekly visits and calls offer practical advice and encouragement, especially on physiotherapy exercises.
3. **Physiotherapy**: Professional therapists enhance children's mobility and train parents in home exercises.
4. **Mobility Aids**: Provision of wheelchairs, walking frames, and support shoes; a workshop creates custom supportive chairs.
5. **Medical Referrals**: Doctors assess children at support groups and arrange hospital treatments, with transport costs covered when needed.
6. **Training for Leaders**: Disability awareness workshops for church and community leaders challenge stigma.
7. **Advocacy**: Outreach through media and conferences shifts societal attitudes toward children with disabilities.

Impact Highlights

Promoting Disability Inclusion through Church Engagement (WWN)

Over the past year, WWN has continued to work with churches to raise awareness of disability inclusion and equip leaders to better support children with disabilities. Through church visits, training and practical engagement, there has been growing understanding and response to the needs of children who were previously isolated.

This year:
• A total of 16 churches were visited, raising awareness on disability inclusion.
• 118 church leaders and members signed up for Transform Disability training.
• 41 children came out of isolation, becoming more visible and included within their communities.
• 2 church buildings became more accessible, helping to create inclusive environments for children with disabilities.

Transform Disability Training and Church Inclusion (WWN)
Transform Disability training workshops have equipped church leaders to better understand disability inclusion and take practical steps to support children within their churches and communities. This has strengthened the capacity of churches to respond more

intentionally and create more inclusive environments.

This year:
• 3 four-day Transform Disability workshops were delivered, equipping church leaders.
• 98 church leaders participated in the training across multiple churches.
• 12 action plans were agreed, supporting churches to begin implementing inclusive practices.
• 15 Church Inclusiveness Assessments were carried out, helping churches reflect on and improve accessibility.

Equipping Volunteers to Support and Protect Children (WWN)
Volunteers have been equipped through training in child safeguarding, Let's Grow, financial management and first aid. This has strengthened their ability to support children within their communities and enabled trained volunteers to share their knowledge with others, extending the impact across support groups.

This year:
• 108 volunteers were trained, building their capacity to support and protect children.
• 43 additional volunteers gained skills through the cascading of training within support groups.
• 732 children benefited from support and protection, reflecting a significant reach of the programme.
• 191 parents and guardians were trained in Let's Grow!, supporting families to improve food security and care.
• 5 cases of abuse were identified and reported, demonstrating increased awareness and safeguarding response.
• 5 gardens were established, supporting families in food production and sustainability.

Ongoing Support through Community Support Groups (WWN)
Support groups have continued to provide a safe and consistent space for children with disabilities and their families to receive care, encouragement and practical support. Through regular gatherings, children have accessed services such as therapy, play, feeding programmes and spiritual support, while parents and guardians have been equipped through training and counselling. These groups have also helped to reduce isolation and increase acceptance within families and communities.

This year:
• A total of 1,836 attendances were recorded across support group meetings.
• 196 new children joined the support groups, increasing reach within the community.
• 138 children showed noticeable improvements, as reported by parents and guardians.
• 195 children came out of isolation, becoming more visible and included in their communities.
• Families demonstrated spiritual growth, with many able to pray, share God's word and encourage one another.
• Greater acceptance of children with disabilities was reported, with at least 135 families showing increased inclusion, including participation in school, church and community activities.

Home Visits, physiotherapy Support and Family Empowerment (WWN)
Home visits have continued to play a vital role in supporting children with disabilities and their families. Through personalised assessments, counselling, mentorship and practical services such as physiotherapy and feeding support, families are being equipped to better care for their children within their home environments. This approach has also encouraged greater understanding and acceptance among parents and guardians.

This year:
• 451 children were visited in their homes, supported by 103 volunteers.
• 205 children received assistive equipment, including 29 wheelchairs, 32 special chairs, 23 standing frames and 118 pairs of special shoes.
• 63 children showed improvements in their development, including mobility and daily living activities.

• 238 parents and guardians were actively involved in physiotherapy for their children at home.
• 283 parents demonstrated increased acceptance of their children, with many actively seeking ways to support their development and wellbeing.

Access to Medical Care and Life-Changing Treatment (WWN)
Children with disabilities have been supported to access essential medical care through hospital referrals, transport and financial support. This has enabled children to receive specialist treatment, including corrective surgery and assistive interventions, leading to significant improvements in their health and wellbeing.

This year:
• 57 children secured hospital appointments, enabling access to specialist care.
• 52 children were supported with transport to and from hospitals.
• 60 children had medical fees covered, removing barriers to treatment.
• 73 children showed noticeable improvements in their health and development following medical support.
• 57 children came out of isolation, including those whose confidence and visibility improved after receiving treatment.

Physiotherapy Support and Capacity Building (WWN)
Physiotherapy support has continued to play a key role in improving the mobility and wellbeing of children with disabilities. Through regular visits to support groups and homes, children have received tailored physiotherapy services, while parents, guardians and volunteers have been equipped with practical skills to continue care within the home.

This year:
• 29 support groups were reached across both the Copperbelt and surrounding regions.
• 711 children received physiotherapy services, supporting their physical development.
• 118 children showed direct improvements in mobility, including progress in movement and daily activities.
• 122 volunteers were trained, strengthening local capacity to support children through basic physiotherapy techniques.

Strengthening Families through Let's Grow Training (WWN)
Parents and guardians have been equipped through Let's Grow training to improve food security and support the wellbeing of their families. Through practical training and ongoing support, families are increasingly able to grow their own food and provide better nutrition for their children.

This year:
• 175 parents and guardians were trained in Let's Grow, building their capacity to support their households.
• 59 home gardens were established, enabling families to produce their own food.
• 233 children benefited, with improved access to nutritious food and better overall health.

2024/25 Income and Expenditure

Each year, BCT endeavours to set a realistic income and expenditure budget, in line with its goals and objectives. BCT is prudent with its financial management and knows that it cannot achieve its goals and objectives in supporting projects, raising awareness and networking with churches and other agencies, without the generosity and loyal commitment of its supporters in their various forms: trusts and foundations, businesses, churches and individuals.

Income

BCT's total income in 2024/25 was £142,636 a year-on-year increase of £7,943 (+5.8%). The increase was split as an increase of £17,964 in unrestricted income and a decrease of £10,021 in restricted income. Following last year's year-on-year increase in receipts of 1.4%, this year's larger increase was unexpected. This was due to a number of generous donations from supporters. Moreover, given the current level of inflation and the UK economic forecast for 2026 we have again taken a cautious view in budgeting for income in 2025/2026.

With regard to the primary sources of income in 2024/25, donations from Trusts and Foundations decreased from £49,935 to £46,463 (-7.0%) and donations from business decreased from £3,000 to £2,176 (-27.5%). Conversely, those from supporter increased from £70,636 to £81,526 (+15.4%) and those from churches increased from £10,959 to £12,347 (+12.7%).

An analysis of income by primary source and fund is given below:

	Trusts/ Foundations Restricted	Trusts/ Foundations Unrestricted	Churches Restricted	Churches Unrestricted	Business Restricted	Business Unrestricted	Supporters Restricted	Supporters Unrestricted Total	Total
2024/25	**£37,906**	**£8,557**	**£3,248**	**£9,099**	**£2,176**	**-**	**£15,949**	**£65,577**	**£142,512**
2023/24	**£44,012**	**£5,923**	**£1,763**	**£9,196**	**-**	**£3,000**	**£23,525**	**£47,111**	**£134,530**

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2024/25 was £135,139, a decrease of £9,577 (-6.6%) from 2023/24. Of that decrease, £14,487 came from unrestricted funds due to cost savings following the restructure during the year. Restricted spend increased by £4,910.

We take very careful consideration of our fund levels when making decisions on disbursements and spending on core costs. We continue our direct participation in, and giving financial support towards vital work for the ultimate benefit of some of the most marginalised children. Our biggest expenditure area continues to be the assisting and training of BCT's partner projects and churches to meet the needs of children at risk in their communities. Spend on this in 2024/25 reached £64,288 i.e. 47.6% of the overall total, compared to 42.1% of the overall cost in 2023/24.

	Grants Payable	Other Direct charitable activities costs	Support and Administration	Fundraising	Total Expenditure
2024/25	£64,288	£41,571	£15,478	£13,802	£135,139
2023/24	£60,855	£49,547	£18,598	£15,716	£144,716

Looking Forwards

I am sure you will agree that we have reason to be deeply grateful to God for His faithful provision of both people and finances throughout the past year. After reducing staffing costs, streamlining our processes, and consolidating our operations, we can look to the future with renewed hope and expectation.

As we move forward, we are prayerfully exploring new opportunities to maximise and expand the impact of our work.

In particular, we are excited by the potential to see our proven Transformation Resources for children at risk being used more widely, reaching even more churches, organisations, and communities across Africa, bringing greater positive change. Alongside this, we are investing in strengthening our staff and volunteer team - including recruiting an assistant for Dorcas, developing our funding capacity, and enhancing our digital presence so that our resources and message can reach further than ever before.

We are also encouraged by the continued development of our Board of Trustees. We recently welcomed Michelle Arthur to the Board, and her contribution is already making a positive difference. In the coming year, we hope to appoint two additional Trustees to broaden our skills, experience, and diversity as we continue to grow.

On behalf of all the Trustees - Hazel, Rose, Michelle, and myself - thank you for your faithful support. Every prayer, donation, fundraising effort, word of encouragement, and act of partnership is deeply valued and makes a real difference. We hope you will continue to journey with us as, together, we equip churches, organisations, and communities to bring lasting change to marginalised children in Africa.

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Executive Director (ED) is responsible for the day-to-day running of BCT, and all staff and volunteers report to her. In collaboration with her team, the ED draws up BCT's annual goals and objectives, taking into account the charity commission's Public Benefit Requirement and BCT's vision and mission, and annual budget. These are then passed to BCT's trustees for discussion, revision and final approval. The ED makes recommendations to the trustees at their quarterly meetings, in respect of BCT's policies, procedures, disbursement of monies to BCT's project partners and selection of new project partners. The trustees are responsible for final decision-making in respect of

the above. In all aspects of decisions related to BCT's objectives and activities, they take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

Appointment of BCT Trustees

Potential candidates for BCT trusteeship are given a job description and are required to complete and submit an application form and two references. Suitable candidates are then invited for an initial interview. At least two BCT trustees, one of whom must be the BCT Chair, are present at this interview. A proposal is then made to the board of trustees to appoint the successful candidate. This appointment must be ratified at a meeting of the board of trustees, according to Article 14 of the Declaration of Trust. Successful candidates are given a full set of all BCT's policies, procedures and foundational documents, as well as a copy of the governing Deed of Trust document. They are also given the minutes of the four previous meetings of the board of trustees, a copy of the Charity Commission's guide, 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know' and a copy of the 'Charities and Public Benefit' document. All trustees are required to read BCT's Safeguarding Policy and sign a commitment to upholding it. All new trustees are required to spend an induction day, meeting all members of staff and discussing their roles, and are also required to enhance their knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to children at risk through the reading materials provided to them, and by attending study days or conferences from time to time. Pertinent reports and best practice papers are forwarded to BCT trustees, so that they maintain an awareness of issues that may affect their decision-making.

Appraisal of BCT Trustees

All trustees are required to fulfil a six-month probationary period followed by a review. Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the term of office is for three years, followed by an appraisal. Trustees can then stand for a further term of office if the appraisal is satisfactory. BCT trustees are also required to undergo an appraisal after 18 months in office. The reviews are facilitated by the Chair and one other trustee. The term of office for the Chair of Trustees is 3 years, with an appraisal at 18 months. None of BCT's trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work with BCT.

Risk Management

BCT recognises the need, as well as responsibility, to assess all of its activities against risk, in line with the Charity Commission's 'Statement of Recommended Practice 2005' (SORP 2005). BCT's Risk Management Policy demonstrates potential risks, the steps taken to mitigate or remove them, and BCT's commitment to on-going monitoring and assessment. BCT has also drawn up a Business Continuity Plan as part of its Risk Management Policy. The greatest current risk is economic sustainability in light of the global economic climate, but BCT's trustees confirm that they have reviewed BCT's accounts on a monthly basis and put in place a strategy for on-going fundraising and increasing income for sustainability.

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They 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.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have determined that the charity aim to hold unrestricted cash/net current assets of no less than £13,915 (which equates to about 3 months' of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £43,487 and the charity was complying with its reserves policy as at the balance sheet date.

Grant-making Policy

(Based on Article 18 of the minutes of a meeting of the BCT trustees on 2nd March 2002).

BCT has a Grant Making Policy that outlines criteria for issuing grants to projects and or individuals, the procedure for

issuing grants and the review of grants. This policy is reviewed at set intervals, as are all BCT's policies.

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on Jun 24, 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Gill Bradley
Gill Bradley (Jun 24, 2026 09:49:04 GMT+1)

Gill Bradley
BCT Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 on pages 27 to 37 following, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 29 to 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Trust 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Nicola Harrison
Nicola Harrison (Jun 26, 2026 14:53:16 GMT+1)

Nicola Harrison CA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage, LONDON, EC1Y
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Date: Jun 26, 2026

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

The Bethany Children's Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	83,232	59,280	142,512	134,530
Investments	3	24	0	24	163
Other income	3	100	0	100	0
Total income and endowments		83,356	59,280	142,636	134,693
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	55,952	65,385	121,337	129,000
Raising funds	5	13,516	286	13,802	15,716
Total expenditure		69,468	65,671	135,139	144,716
Net income/(expenditure)		13,888	(6,391)	7,497	(10,023)
Net movement in funds		13,888	(6,391)	7,497	(10,023)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		44,175	45,994	90,168	100,191
Total funds carried forward		58,063	39,603	97,666	90,168

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. The notes on pages 29 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	0	0	0	206
		0	0	0	206
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	16,751	0	16,751	8,995
Cash at bank	9	43,487	39,603	83,090	84,014
		60,238	39,603	99,841	93,009
Current Liabilities					
Liabilities falling due within one year	10	2,175	0	2,175	3,046
Net Current Assets		58,063	39,603	97,666	89,963
NET ASSETS		58,063	39,603	97,666	90,169
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted funds	11				
General funds		58,063	0	58,063	44,174
Restricted funds	11	0	39,603	39,603	45,994
		58,063	39,603	97,666	90,169

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on Jun 24, 2026 by:

Gill Bradley
Gill Bradley (Jun 24, 2026 09:49:04 GMT+1)

Gill Bradley, Chair

The notes on pages 29 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Statutory Information
The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page of the trustees' annual report.

2 Accounting Policies
These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern
The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

b) **Income**
Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

i. Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.
ii. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly those involving connection with our project partners, connection with other organisations and individuals in the furtherance of our aims, and the writing and provision of training resources. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.
iii. Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be reliably measured

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity makes grants to other institutions to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) **Tangible fixed assets**

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £1000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

- Equipment Over 2 to 3 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

f) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

g) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

h) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year-end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

i) Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

j) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
General donations and legacies	78,373	56,354	134,727	127,855
Tax Recoverable	4,859	2,926	7,785	6,675
Other income				
Miscellaneous	100	0	100	0
Bank Interest	24	0	24	163
Total Incoming Resources	83,356	59,280	142,636	134,693

4 Charitable activity

a Direct Charitable Activities		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants Payable	Note 4c	0	64,288	64,288	60,855
Salaries and pension costs		36,381	720	37,101	41,568
Office Expenses		3,573	0	3,573	3,692
Other Charitable Costs		806	92	898	4,287
		40,760	65,100	105,859	110,402
b Support & Administration		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Governance costs		1,444	0	1,444	2,445
Office expenses		3,573	0	3,573	3,692
Other sundry support costs		192	46	238	669
Salaries and pension costs		12,159	240	12,399	13,856
Depreciation		206	0	206	392
		15,192	286	15,478	18,598
Combined charitable activity cost		55,952	65,385	121,337	129,000

The fee payable to the independent examiner for examining the accounts was £1,980 (2024: £1,980); in addition the charity paid £615 (2024: £712) to Stewardship for payroll bureau services.

c Grants	Institutions £	2025 £	2024 £
Analysis by receiving project/appeal			
APRECOM	9,578	9,578	8,852
Transformation Resources	2,196	2,196	1,727
Stop Child Witch Accusation	18,958	18,958	17,194
Wukwashi	21,640	21,640	15,958
LVLE	11,915	11,915	12,538
Food Security	0	0	4,586
	64,288	64,288	60,855
Analysis by key purpose			
Awareness raising	1,899	1,899	2,053
Training	12,146	12,146	18,735
Medical	7,644	7,644	5,911
Food & sanitisation resources	2,545	2,545	6,764
Transport	155	155	152
Parent/Family support	3,420	3,420	1,754
Child/Young person support & empowerment	12,845	12,845	8,799
Enterprise	936	936	372
Administration	22,698	22,698	16,316
	64,288	64,288	60,855

5 Fundraising Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Salaries and pension costs	12,127	240	12,367	13,856
Other fundraising costs	1,389	46	1,435	1,860
	13,516	286	13,802	15,716

6 Staff & Trustees

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£
Gross Wages	47,245	66,571
Employer's national insurance costs	3,609	4,809
Employer's allowance	(3,577)	(4,809)
Employer's pension contributions	1,336	1,997
Redundancy costs	11,438	0
	60,051	68,568

During the year the charity had 1.5 full time equivalent employed staff (2024: 2.5). No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum (2024: none).

Remuneration payable to key management (excluding trustees) amounted to £39,497 in the year (2024: £44,758). Currently, key management is considered to comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director and the Finance Manager.

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year. No trustee received reimbursement for expenses incurred on BCT's behalf (2024: Nil).

The total amount of donations funded by trustees [and connected parties] and key management was £968 (2024: £2,915).

7 Fixed Assets

Cost	Computer & Software	Total 2025
	£	£
At 1st September 2024	5,593	5,593
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2025	5,593	5,593
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1st September 2024	5,387	5,387
Charge for the year	206	206
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2025	5,593	5,593
Net book value		
At 1st August 2025	0	0
At 31st August 2024	206	206

8 Debtors and Prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax receivable	9,288	8,474
Sundry Debtors	0	7
Accrued Revenue	5,632	0
Prepayments	1,831	515
	16,751	8,995

9 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	£	£
Co-operative Bank	66,023	67,237
NatWest Bank	17,067	16,671
Petty cash	0	106
	83,090	84,014

10 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

	£	£
Trade creditors	190	557
Accruals	1,950	2,489
Payroll Liabilities	35	0
	2,175	3,046

11 Funds

a The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year are as follows:

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Administration	880	0	(184)	697
APRECOM	10,000	5,483	(9,578)	5,905
LVLE	8,972	10,292	(11,915)	7,349
Stop Child Witch Accusation	4,105	19,879	(18,958)	5,025
Transformation Resources	6,694	0	(2,196)	4,498
Wukwashi (Zambia)	14,157	19,626	(21,640)	12,143
Food Security	1,186	0	0	1,186
Grants/Bids Writer	0	4,000	(1,200)	2,800
	45,994	59,279	(65,671)	39,603

With the exception of Administration, the movement on each of the above funds reflects donations received and disbursements and expenditures made in the financial year in respect of activities carried out by the named project or in accordance with the named appeal or campaign. Funds unused at the end of the year are carried forward. A description of the purpose of the other funds and the nature of the restriction can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

The Administration fund is solely in respect of donations received for non-project-related and non-appeal or campaign-related purposes. £880 of the Administration fund's opening balance are unused funds carried forward from previous years and are specifically restricted to cover the cost of BCT staff team social activities as and when incurred. £184 was incurred this year on travel costs for a handover with a new staff member. The closing balance is again carried forward.

For comparison, movements in restricted funds in the year to 31st August 2024 are reproduced below:

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Administration	987	200	(306)	880
APRECOM	6,707	11,945	(8,652)	10,000
LVLE	5,954	15,356	(12,338)	8,972
Stop Child Witch Accusation	7,400	13,899	(17,194)	4,105
Transformation Resources	5,264	3,158	(1,727)	6,694
Wukwashi (Zambia)	9,471	20,644	(15,958)	14,157
Food Security	1,673	4,099	(4,586)	1,186
	37,455	69,301	(60,761)	45,994

b The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	Fixed assets	Bank & cash balances	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	0	39,603	0	39,603
Unrestricted funds	0	43,487	14,576	58,063
	0	83,090	14,576	97,666

For comparison, the assets and liabilities represented by the various funds as at 31st August 2024 are reproduced below:

	Fixed assets	Bank & cash balances	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	0	45,994	0	45,994
Unrestricted funds	206	38,019	5,949	44,174
	206	84,014	5,949	90,169

The Bethany Children's Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	83,232	65,230	59,279	69,300	142,512	134,530
Investments	3	24	163	0	0	24	163
Other income	3	100	0	0	0	100	0
Total income and endowments		83,357	65,393	59,279	69,300	142,636	134,693
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	4	55,952	68,303	65,385	60,097	121,337	129,000
Raising funds	5	13,516	15,652	286	64	13,802	15,716
Total expenditure		69,468	83,955	65,671	60,761	135,139	144,716
Net income/(expenditure)		13,889	(18,562)	(6,392)	8,539	7,497	(10,023)
Net movement in funds		13,889	(18,562)	(6,392)	8,539	7,497	(10,023)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		44,175	62,736	45,994	37,455	90,168	100,191
Total funds carried forward		58,064	44,175	39,602	45,994	97,666	90,168

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1073817

Accounts

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST ANNUAL REPORT AUGUST 2024

The Bethany Children's Trust

ANNUAL REPORT

TO AUGUST 2024

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees of The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT)

Mrs Gill Bradley
Ms Rose Ndolo
Mrs Hazel Whiting
Mrs Ruth Evjet (Resigned 20th December 2023)
Mr Geoff Walls (Resigned 17th November 2023)

Chief Executive Officer

Lyn Edwards

Governing Document

Trust Deed dated 23 December 1998, as amended 5 December 2003
Charity Registration Number 1073817

Registered Office

Office 214,
Hill House,
210 Upper Richmond Road,
London
SW15 6NP
www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall, BA, CA,
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
London
EC1Y 8AB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
Head Office
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

NatWest Bracknell
5 High Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DH

Letter from the Chair of Trustees

As we reflect on the year leading up to August 2024, we think of the joy of celebrating and thanking God for 25 years of The Bethany Children's Trust's ministry! We have so much to be grateful for as we look back on our humble beginnings and the pioneering work of Susie Howe alongside the very first Trustees. It's inspiring to consider the thousands of marginalized children and families whose lives have been transformed through the training and equipping work of our partner projects and their local churches, as well as the dedicated efforts of our staff, trustees, and volunteers over the years. We are also deeply appreciative of the loyal support from individuals like you who have faithfully prayed, donated, fundraised, and shared your talents with us. Thank you.

On July 20, our staff and trustees gathered for a day of worship, prayer, and celebration – it was a joy to be able to be with one another in person! Then, on August 7, we held our 25th anniversary online gathering attended by supporters, project partners, staff, volunteers, and trustees. It was a wonderful occasion filled with storytelling, gratitude to God, and prayers for the future work of BCT and our project partners.

April 2024 brought changes for BCT as we bid farewell to one team member and welcomed another. Our wonderful Carolyn Gent, who had passionately worked with us for several years, moved on. We are thankful to maintain our connection with her through her work with SCWA and her links with LVLE. We were excited to welcome Dorcas Rono as our new Project Coordinator, who brings with her valuable experience and insight, and is an asset to the team.

We are grateful to our supporters and donors for your continued support in various forms. Without the prayer and financial giving from you and all our supporters, we wouldn't be able to continue our work with our partners to enable the lives of children at risk to change positively.

In the past few years, BCT has faced a continuous decline in income, with a number of contributing factors, including:

- *A reduction or withdrawal of financial support after members of staff left which whom supporters had a personal connect.*
- *The ongoing cost of living crisis.*
- *The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown.*

In August 2024, the Board of Trustees, in agreement with the staff team, decided that BCT needed to simplify our processes and procedures, transforming the way we work with our partner projects to become more efficient, effective, and financially viable.

After much prayer and seeking God's guidance, we contemplated various options, including winding down the charity, merging with another organization, and major restructuring. We felt confident that God was guiding us toward restructuring, reassuring us that His work through BCT and its partners is not finished. The process is rather like the pruning of a vine—necessary to enable growth and yield abundant fruit.

Gill Bradley

Chair of Trustees - The Bethany Children's Trust

BCT's Approach to Fundraising

BCT is just as committed to 'friend-raising' as to fundraising. We see building relationships with supporters and potential supporters as an integral part of raising funds to resource our own and our partners' work. Therefore, we take a no-pressure approach to fundraising. Our focus is on sharing stories of transformation, highlighting how we are making a difference to individual children and entire communities, then presenting opportunities for members of the public to support this work, if they wish to. We use printed communications, social media channels and presentations at events in order to share these stories and leave it to the public to decide what their response may be, if any. If an existing supporter wishes to cease receiving communications from BCT, they can contact either our own office or the Fundraising Preference Service and we will ensure that they no longer receive such communications.

Our policy means that we value the supporter and their wellbeing as an individual as much as any support they may be able to offer BCT. It means that we offer a range of opportunities to engage with BCT's work beyond financial support and take time and care to nurture positive relationships with them.

A small number of supporters choose to go beyond giving funds to BCT's work and become BCT Ambassadors. These Ambassadors give of their time, expertise and resources to promote BCT's work in their churches and communities, mobilising prayer and even organising their own fundraising events. We maintain close relationships with our Ambassadors, ensuring they are equipped for their efforts, up to date with good practice in fundraising, and fully aware of how grateful we are for their efforts on our behalf.

We also write fundraising applications to grant-making trusts that exist to disburse grants as they see fit.

Currently, funding is provided from a variety of sources:

Grant-making trusts – We have a small but committed group of grant-making trusts who support us on a regular basis. Other grant-making trusts support us with occasional one-off gifts.

Supporters – We receive ongoing monthly donations from many supporters, usually by standing order and direct debit, as well as occasional one-off donations. We also have long-standing relationships with a number of churches and businesses who support us financially.

Events – We occasionally arrange fundraising events, or encourage our supporters to join us in taking part in fundraising events arranged by other organisations. (We ensure that any external event meets our ethical standards and faith values). We receive funding from supporters who have raised sponsorship by taking part in such events.

Legacy funding – We receive occasional funding by legacy donations.

Media – BCT also encourages fundraising through the promotion of its charitable activities via its communications media: print publications, online presence and social media.

Commitment to Public Benefit

BCT's trustees confirm that they have paid due attention to public benefit in their role of overseeing the work of BCT and are satisfied that all BCT activities meet public benefit requirements as defined by the Charity Commission's general guidelines. Everything BCT has done in the period covered by this report has been to bring benefit to the lives of our key beneficiaries – children at risk – by influencing, equipping and enabling churches, Christian projects and individuals to respond to their needs, and to address root issues, beliefs and practices that harm them.

Summary of BCT's objects, as set out in its Declaration of Trust

a) To relieve persons, particularly children who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are sick, and to relieve the distress caused thereby in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

b) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with BCT's Statement of Beliefs in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

c) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate.

BCT's Vision…

…is to equip the Christian Church to lead the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, valued, safe, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential.

BCT's Mission…

…is to mobilise a Christian response to the needs of the most marginalised children. We work wherever God leads us, strengthening the capacity of churches to lead their communities in caring for children and addressing the roots of beliefs, practices and circumstances that harm them. We work with churches directly, through local project partners and by networking and collaborating with other organisations.

HOW BCT HAS BENEFITED MARGINALISED CHILDREN

We assisted churches and Christian organisations to develop initiatives to bring about holistic transformation in the lives of vulnerable children

BCT exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children. We believe wholeheartedly that every child is created in God's image and therefore inherently precious. And we believe that every child should be loved, cared for and enabled to fulfil their God-given potential. Therefore, we actively seek out the most marginalised of children – the ones who slip through the net, who are neglected by their communities and whose suffering goes unnoticed because they are hidden away or overlooked – and we act to see their lives changed, practically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We believe in the Church. We believe churches are uniquely placed to influence change on a local basis, and that they understand their communities, their children and the most important local issues far better than we do. So, local churches are our focus. We seek to equip churches to reach their own communities, rather than doing it for them, so that they will continue to influence godly

transformation even many years into the future. We connect with and equip churches directly through our *Transformation Resources*, and indirectly through our project partners.

Enabling projects to develop strategically and according to good practice

Our project partners are extraordinary people. They do incredible work, often in the harshest of circumstances and with minimal material reward. They are determined, courageous and deeply committed. We're privileged to work with them, fight battles together and see young lives changed. However, a significant part of our deep commitment to our partners is to identify ways in which their already excellent work could be strengthened. So, drawing on over 24 years' experience, we work alongside our partners to help them in formulating strategies which will enable them to meet their communities' most acute needs. We help them to make the most of the resources and personnel available to them, and to operate in line with best practice in safeguarding and project management, in order to reach and serve marginalised children as effectively as possible.

Enabling projects to monitor and evaluate their work and to be accountable

Monitoring and evaluation are vital in helping our UK team to understand our partners' work. So, we equip our partners to report on their own work: to highlight the measurable outcomes from their efforts and show which areas of their work are most effective and fruitful. Their quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports help us to offer our partners specific advice on how to refine their approach. And partly based on our partners' reports, we work with each of them to devise an annual plan and budget which supports and emphasises the most effective areas of their work.

Creating resources to challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs

BCT is has a range of resources that respond to issues that can lead to the abuse and neglect of children and to strengthen families and communities. Our resources address pressure points, such as food insecurity, physical and mental health, disability, stigma and the pressure on family relationships, with a view to helping individuals, families and communities to thrive, because that is how children are also best able to thrive. These are issues that have been raised both within the communities we serve and in our wider networks, so we know that we are responding to felt needs.

Providing local churches with resources to train their communities makes important ideas accessible to a much wider audience than if we simply delivered the training ourselves. It has the potential to exponentially increase our impact.

These insights have led us to create *Transformation Resources*. These resources address child abuse by unpacking the attitudes and beliefs which cause it. 'Transform Disability' addresses misconceptions about disability and disabled children, 'Transform Families' encourages positive parenting by discussing common views on family life, and 'Let's Grow!' tackles food insecurity through addressing lack of knowledge about nutrition and agriculture. BCT staff have also been involved in creating resources for the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition (see pages 20 and 21), which explore biblical perspectives on physical and mental health, sickness and healing.

All of the completed *Transformation Resources* material is available for download, absolutely free, through our website. Each element of the resources is piloted through trusted churches and Christian agencies – including our project partners – before being released for general use.

Provision of training

As part of our commitment to strengthen and add value to our partners' work, we help them to identify areas in which they would benefit from training, and we then enable them to access training which meets their needs. This either involves delivering the training ourselves or, where the training requires a specialism that we do not have within the organisation, helping our partners to access training from an alternative provider. For example, the Tanari Trust has delivered training in creating positive relationships for APRECOM staff and volunteers, to strengthen and inform their work with children and teenagers.

Enabling networking

Our partners' work can often be enhanced by connecting with other organisations and individuals who support marginalised children: either agencies who work in a similar geographical area to them, or who might be further afield but focus on similar issues. Whenever we become aware of a potentially fruitful connection, we encourage our partners to pursue it. In this way, both parties can benefit from sharing ideas and experiences.

Similarly, we help our partners to identify potential new financial backers, so that they will be better resourced. In the end, we aim for all of our partners to reach a stage where they no longer need BCT's support and are able to operate independently.

Enabling projects to access information resources

Our UK team often has access to professional networks and information which our project partners do not. Therefore, we ensure that our partners can access important and useful resources by emailing them electronic documents or links to websites where such documents are available.

Provision of finances, encouragement and prayer support

We often marvel at how much our partners can achieve on a shoestring budget. However, they still need financial support in order to operate. We work closely with each of our partners to identify their most strategically important activities. We then indicate at the start of the year which activities we intend to fund and at what level, to enable our partners to plan. Although this funding is subject to fundraising, we are invariably able to meet our commitments in this way.

Alongside the provision of funds, we also support our partners in regular prayer and in ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice through email and WhatsApp contact.

BCT supports and partners with projects that are:

- Community-based, church-led or parachurch, if working significantly with churches.
- Working with the most marginalised children, who are significantly at risk in the context within which they live, due to abuse and prevailing circumstances.

- Addressing roots of harmful beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- Equipping local people to meet their own needs.
- Working with replicable and sustainable models (or desire to).
- Working with locally appropriate solutions to local problems.
- Focussing on Child Protection and Children's Rights.
- Emphasising the empowerment and support of parents/guardians and young people.
- Willing to collaborate and network with others.
- Willing to be accountable through monitoring and evaluation and impact measurement of their work, good financial reporting and good, open communication.
- Actively raising or desire to raise awareness within churches and communities of an issue/issues that are harmful to children.
- Willing to progress and develop.
- Willing to be a voice on behalf of marginalised children or those at risk of abuse and/or to enable the children's voices to be heard directly.
- In under-resourced, neglected or isolated areas where marginalised children are exceptionally vulnerable and where there is little service provision.

Projects Supported by BCT from September 2023 to August 2024

APRECOM

Overview

APRECOM (AIDS Prevention Care and Outreach Ministry), based in Kigali, Rwanda, operates under Youth with a Mission (YWAM) and has partnered with BCT since 2002. It supports children affected by HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, and vulnerable groups across Rwanda.

Context and Mission:

Initially focused on addressing the AIDS epidemic, APRECOM provided support for HIV+ individuals and their families. It also advocates for disabled children and equip churches to include and support them. While work in Kigali has become self-sustaining, efforts are concentrated in Bukora, Bugesera, and Kajera.

Key Activities:

- **Church Training:** Churches receive training in child protection and inclusion of children with disabilities, with trained churches passing on their knowledge.
- **Outreach to Disabled Children:** Bugesera churches identify and support families with disabled children through gatherings and resources.
- **Child Abuse Prevention:** Using the 'Touch Talk' resource, children are empowered to recognize and report abuse.

- **Youth Support:** The Inshuti Nziza Troop and Clubs support young people and children living with HIV through vocational skills, guidance, and community.
- **Adult HIV+ Support:** Groups in Kajera, Bukora, and Kigali offer advice and encouragement to HIV+ adults.
- **Teenage Girls' Empowerment:** The Queens Group teaches confidence and vocational skills to vulnerable teenage girls.
- **Food Provision:** Regular deliveries of essential food aid support families reliant on antiretroviral medication or affected by COVID.
- **Community Nutrition:** Community gardens and the 'Let's Grow!' resource promote sustainable agriculture and healthy eating.

Impact Highlights

- **Support for Disabled Children**
  Trained churches now offer practical assistance, including wheelchairs and accessibility features. This year:
  - 10 new churches engaged, with 320 pastors trained.
  - 20 churches implemented a Child Protection Policy.
  - 17 children received wheelchairs.
  - 9 churches became fully accessible for individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Creating Safe Environments**
  Strengthened child protection policies empower children to report abuse with confidence.
- **Youth Empowerment**
  - 14 young people returned to school.
  - 4 individuals quit smoking.
  - 10 new members joined community groups.
- **Supporting HIV+ Communities**
  Both adults and youth now feel more encouraged, supported, and equipped to manage their conditions effectively.
- **Empowering Teenage Girls**
  - An average of 30 teenage girls attended the *Queens Group* each quarter.
  - The *Aprecom Team* provided training on healthy eating, hygiene, sanitation, and the *Let's Grow!* Training.
  - Some of the girls gained confidence and took on leadership roles in their churches.
- **Improving Family Nutrition**
  - Over 260 food packs distributed, supporting families' health and medication effectiveness.
- **Building Sustainable Communities**
  - Training programs and model gardens have improved community skills in growing and sustaining nutritious crops.

APRECOM's holistic and community-centered approach has created meaningful and sustainable changes in the lives of vulnerable groups across Rwanda.

The Queens Group - Grace in Action: How Faith and Fellowship Changed Lives

In June 2024 a group of 35 girls came together for a meeting where they had the opportunity to interact with young women from Christian Life Assembly Church. The Queen Girls were especially excited to connect with the visitors, and the gathering turned out to be both uplifting and impactful.

During the meeting, three of the Queen Girls were blessed with financial support to help them start small businesses. The church also donated clothes and sanitary supplies, which were gratefully received. The atmosphere was warm and open, and many of the girls felt comfortable enough to share their personal testimonies. It was a moving moment for everyone — the team was deeply encouraged, especially when three girls made the decision to give their lives to Christ.

Before connecting with Aprecom, many of the Queen Girls were struggling. They felt desperate, weighed down by conflicts with their families due to early pregnancies. But after engaging with Aprecom, things began to change. The girls have since reconciled with their families and are now actively caring for their children. Even more inspiring, three of them have returned to vocational school this quarter, ready to rebuild their futures.

LVLE

LVLE (Laissez Vivre Les Enfants), based in Goma, DRC, focuses on child protection and reducing vulnerabilities such as abuse, poverty, and street living. The organization partners with local churches and civic authorities to create safe environments for children to grow and thrive, while addressing harmful practices like witchcraft accusations.

Key Activities:

1. **Street Child Outreach:**
    - Weekly engagement with street-living children via 'listening posts'.
    - Mediation for reintegration with families or placement in safe homes.
2. **Child Protection Training:**
    - Equipping church, school, and community leaders to prevent and address child abuse.
    - Ongoing training sessions in Karisimbi, Goma, and Turunga.
3. **Nutrition and Food Security:**
    - Training leaders on agriculture and nutrition principles using the 'Let's Grow!' resource.
    - Initiatives focused on addressing malnutrition in Masisi and Nyiragongo.
4. **Addressing Witchcraft Accusations:**
    - Formation of two 'Synergies'—networks of pastors, police, and civic leaders—to combat witchcraft-related abuse.
    - Training for leaders in new community cells to protect vulnerable children.

5. **Media Advocacy:**
    - Weekly radio shows and monthly TV appearances to raise awareness about child rights and protection.
    - Topics include discipline practices, child abuse prevention, and empowering children.

Impact Highlights:

- **Reintegration of Street Children:** 78 children returned to families, with ongoing family support.
- **Abuse Prevention:** Improved awareness and response mechanisms among leaders, with child protection policies in place. Communities report increased vigilance and responsiveness to abuse cases.
- **Leader Mobilization:** 33 additional leaders trained and active in safeguarding children through Synergie networks.
- **Attitude Shifts:** Media outreach is transforming community perspectives on child care and discipline.
- **Improved Nutrition:** Over 40 new gardens planted, enhancing diets and food security for families.

LVLE's holistic approach addresses root causes of child vulnerability while fostering systemic and cultural change to protect children in challenging environments.

A place of safety

Miezi was first encountered by the LVLE team during outreach work at the listening points. Small and barefoot, he had joined a group of street children who regularly visited the area. He explained that he came from Kimoka, a small village near Sake. There, he had witnessed the brutal murder of his parents and two sisters—a traumatic event that changed his life forever.

In the aftermath, Miezi fled with his uncle, who was only 17 years old at the time. When they arrived in Goma, the two were separated, and Miezi never saw his uncle again. Alone in an unfamiliar city, he ended up living on the streets, surviving by begging for food.

When he was found by the LVLE team Miezi was *sleeping outside with other homeless children. He spoke of the violence and abuse he faces daily, especially from older street kids who often beat him and steal whatever little money or food he manages to collect. Miezi expressed a deep longing to leave the streets behind. He said he dreams of finding shelter with a family—somewhere safe where he can feel cared for and begin to rebuild his life.*

He has been found that place of safety and the LVLE team keep in touch with him regularly to ensure he is doing well.

Stop Child Witch Accusations (SCWA)

Witchcraft accusations and related abuse affect thousands of children worldwide. BCT remains committed to the Stop Child Witch Accusations (SCWA) coalition, raising awareness and mobilizing churches to protect vulnerable children. Through training and support, including SCWA's tool *The Heart of the Matter*, BCT plays a key role, with Carolyn Gent as Chair and Lyn Edwards and Susie Howe on the Steering Committee.

SCWA collaborates with teams in Calabar, Nigeria, and Goma, DR Congo. In Calabar, pastors receive training and follow-up support, expanding efforts into rural areas and local schools. *The Heart of the Matter* has reached thousands, prompting interventions for accused children.

SCWA's partnership with the Salvation Army has expanded, training child protection teams and planning a pilot program in Nigeria, with future rollout in six African nations. SCWA also engages with the UN, contributing to policies addressing harmful witchcraft accusations. In Calabar, advocacy led to a law criminalizing child witch accusations in Cross River State.

The coalition continues to develop resources, including a specialized toolkit for children to help address the intergenerational transfer of harmful beliefs and practices. Extensive research has been conducted across multiple areas, identifying key themes and insights. As a result, the first set of resources has been created and is set to undergo pilot testing soon.

Transformation Resources

Overview

BCT's "Transformation Resources" project, initiated in August 2017, addresses harmful attitudes and beliefs that underpin child abuse and neglect. It provides leaders in remote and deprived communities with practical, biblically grounded materials to support and empower children. The resources tackle family relationships, disability inclusion, hunger and nutrition, and health issues, and mental health.

Key Activities:

1. **Resource Creation:** "Transform Families" (17 modules) is completed and available online. Health-related resources translated into Swahili; "Let's Grow!" is available in English, French, and Swahili.
2. **Collaborations:** Partnered with global Christian organisations like the Salvation Army, which has incorporated these resources into training workshops.
3. **Platform Improvement:** Website reorganized for easier access to materials.

Impact Highlights:

1. **Agriculture:** "Let's Grow!" improved food security, enhancing child nutrition.
2. **Disability Support:** "Transform Disability" has mobilized churches in Rwanda and Zambia to support disabled children effectively.
3. **Strengthening Families:** Improved family dynamics through "Transform Families" training on communication and mutual respect.

4. **Holistic Health:** Resources on health and mental well-being address stigmas and promote safeguarding practices.
5. **Global Reach:** Resources utilized in over 10 countries, including Africa, India, and Jamaica, with potential wider impact.

Conclusion

BCT's Transformation Resources has significantly improved community well-being, empowered families, supported disabled children, and addressed critical health and agricultural challenges across various nations.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi

Overview

Wukwashi WA Nzambi, based in Zambia's Copperbelt region, supports children with disabilities and advocates for their rights. Established in 2005, it partners with local volunteers to provide vital services, addressing challenges like stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to resources.

Key Activities

1. **Support Groups**: Sixteen groups provide physiotherapy, play therapy, and social opportunities for children, as well as advice and encouragement for parents.
2. **Mentoring**: Weekly visits and calls offer practical advice and encouragement, especially on physiotherapy exercises.
3. **Physiotherapy**: Professional therapists enhance children's mobility and train parents in home exercises.
4. **Mobility Aids**: Provision of wheelchairs, walking frames, and support shoes; a workshop creates custom supportive chairs.
5. **Medical Referrals**: Doctors assess children at support groups and arrange hospital treatments, with transport costs covered when needed.
6. **Training for Leaders**: Disability awareness workshops for church and community leaders challenge stigma.
7. **Advocacy**: Outreach through media and conferences shifts societal attitudes toward children with disabilities.

Impact Highlights

- **Support for Families**: Over 410 families benefit from mentoring, gaining confidence and skills to support their children.
- **Improved Health**: children quarterly experience enhanced physical and social development through therapy.
- **Increased Mobility**: 218 children per quarter gain independence through physiotherapy and mobility aids. Mobility solutions help children attend school and engage with their communities.
- **Social Integration and inclusion**: 682 children attended and received support, play and speech therapy through weekly support groups

- **Life-Changing Treatments**: 48 children benefitted from medical interventions and operations.
- **Church and Community Engagement**: 75 Church leaders trained in Transform Disability, Training inspires leaders to include and support children with disabilities, reducing stigma and isolation.
- **Attitude Shifts**: Advocacy efforts are fostering broader societal acceptance and inclusion.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi empowers children with disabilities and their families, enabling them to overcome barriers and thrive within their communities.

The Support Groups – empowering progress

*A total of **682 children** participated in support group sessions, gaining access to a range of essential services. These gatherings have played a pivotal role in helping children come out of isolation, as more families were inspired by the visible impact and encouraged by their communities to join the WWN support groups.*

*Children like Abeba**,** Aberash, and Adea have shown remarkable improvements—whether it's learning to sit, stand, or walk—thanks to continued **physiotherapy, play therapy**, and the support of **mobility equipment**.*

*Equally transformative has been the impact on **parents and guardians**. By attending these sessions, they've found strength in shared experiences, gaining acceptance and understanding of their children's conditions. Surrounded by others facing similar journeys, they exchange stories, offer advice, and build a powerful network of support.*

2023/24 Income and Expenditure

Each year, BCT endeavours to set a realistic income and expenditure budget, in line with its goals and objectives. BCT is prudent with its financial management and knows that it cannot achieve its goals and objectives in supporting projects, raising awareness and networking with churches and other agencies, without the generosity and loyal commitment of its supporters in their various forms: trusts and foundations, businesses, churches and individuals.

Income

BCT's total income in 2023/24 was £134,693 a year-on-year increase of £1,921 (+1.4%). The increase was split as a decrease of £9,821 in unrestricted income and an increase of £11,741 in restricted income. Following last year's year-on-year decrease in receipts of over 6.73%, this year's small increase was as expected. Moreover, given the current level of inflation and the UK economic forecast for 2024 we have again taken a cautious view in budgeting for income in 2024/2025.

With regard to the primary sources of income in 2023/24, donations from Trusts and Foundations increased from £47,186 to £49,935 (5.8%) and those from supporters increased from £68,747 to

£70,636 (2.7%). Conversely, donations from churches decreased from £12,493 to £10,959 (-12.3%%) and those from businesses decreased from £4,347 to £3,000 (-30.1%).

An analysis of income by primary source and fund is given below:

	Trusts/ Foundations Restricted	Trusts/ Foundations Unrestricted	Churches Restricted	Churches Unrestricted	Business Restricted	Business Unrestricted	Supporters Restricted	Supporters Unrestricted Total	Total
2023/24	**£44,012**	**£5,923**	**£1,763**	**£9,196**	**-**	**£3,000**	**£23,525**	**£47,111**	**£134,530**
2022/23	**£37,826**	**£9,360**	**£5,061**	**£7,432**	**£3,090**	**£1,257**	**£11,582**	**£57,011**	**£132,619**

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2023/24 was £145,282, an increase of £2,314 (+1.6%) from 2022/23. Of that increase, £6,099 came from unrestricted funds and included spend on the improvement and upgrade of our website. Restricted spend decreased by £3,785. This year, our funding of our partner projects' many key activities included disbursements sent as part of BCT's efforts to address food scarcity in our partners' communities, and organising Tanari Trust to deliver invaluable training to APRECOM staff and volunteers in creating positive relationships, to strengthen and inform their work with children and teenagers.

We take very careful consideration of our fund levels when making decisions on disbursements and spending on core costs. We continue our direct participation in and giving financial support towards vital work for the ultimate benefit of some of the most marginalised children. Our biggest expenditure area continues to be the assisting and training of BCT's partner projects and churches to meet the needs of children at risk in their communities. Spend on this in 2023/24 reached £76,679 i.e. 52.8% of the overall total. Across the other expenditure categories there was a net year-on-year increase of £2,314.

	Administration	Assisting Projects/ Churches	Mobilising Champions	Connecting	Resourcing Our Work	Total Expenditure
2023/24	£18,608	£76,679	£18,323	£15,953	£15,720	£145,282
2022/23	£17,920	£77,931	£17,776	£14,803	£14,537	£142,968

Summary

Total income for the year was £134,693 (2023: £132,773) and total expenditure was £145,282 (2023: £142,968). The deficit for the year was £10,589 (2023: £10,195) and the charity's net assets decreased by the same amount to £89,602, of which £43,443 were unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose. Net current assets decreased by £10,196 to £89,397.

Looking Forwards

Following the decision to restructure in August 2024, we devoted much effort to planning the way forward. It was imperative to reduce our staffing costs and create a more streamlined and agile organization. This has been a challenging time for staff and trustees, particularly saying goodbye to two valuable team members, Steve Jardine (Finance Manager) and Jane Negus (Administrator).

Currently, our staff team includes Lyn Edwards (CEO), Dorcas Rono (Project Coordinator), and Stephanie Farrant (volunteer providing project support). We are pleased to announce that we have recently recruited a part-time Finance Officer, and we are grateful to God for bringing her to us. Her experience, skills, passions, and personality align perfectly with the mission of BCT.

As we look ahead to a period of consolidation and realignment, we are eager to implement new approaches to our work and are excited to see how God will lead us into a time of fresh growth and productivity. There is much work to do, with a major focus on securing new funding—this includes appointing someone to concentrate on grants and fundraising, and someone to enhance our digital marketing and social media work.

Thank you for your patience during this challenging yet exciting time. We appreciate your prayers, continued financial support, and encouragement.

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the day-to-day running of BCT, and all staff and volunteers report to her. In collaboration with her team, the CEO draws up BCT's annual goals and objectives, taking into account the charity commission's Public Benefit Requirement and BCT's vision and mission, and annual budget. These are then passed to BCT's trustees for discussion, revision and final approval. The CEO makes recommendations to the trustees at their quarterly meetings, in respect of BCT's policies, procedures, disbursement of monies to BCT's project partners and selection of new project partners. The trustees are responsible for final decision-making in respect of the above. In all aspects of decisions related to BCT's objectives and activities, they take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

Appointment of BCT Trustees

Potential candidates for BCT trusteeship are given a job description and are required to complete and submit an application form and two references. Suitable candidates are then invited for an initial interview. At least two BCT trustees, one of whom must be the BCT Chair, are present at this interview. A proposal is then made to the board of trustees to appoint the successful candidate. This appointment must be ratified at a meeting of the board of trustees, according to Article 14 of the Declaration of Trust. Successful candidates are given a full set of all BCT's policies, procedures and foundational documents, as well as a copy of the governing Deed of Trust document. They are also given the minutes of the four previous meetings of the board of trustees, a copy of the Charity Commission's guide, 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know' and a copy of the 'Charities and Public Benefit' document. All trustees are required to read BCT's Safeguarding Policy and sign a commitment to upholding it. All new trustees are required to spend an induction day, meeting all

members of staff and discussing their roles, and are also required to enhance their knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to children at risk through the reading materials provided to them, and by attending study days or conferences from time to time. Pertinent reports and best practice papers are forwarded to BCT trustees, so that they maintain an awareness of issues that may affect their decision-making.

Appraisal of BCT Trustees

All trustees are required to fulfil a six-month probationary period followed by a review. Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the term of office is for three years, followed by an appraisal. Trustees can then stand for a further term of office if the appraisal is satisfactory. BCT trustees are also required to undergo an appraisal after 18 months in office. The reviews are facilitated by the Chair and one other trustee. The term of office for the Chair of Trustees is 3 years, with an appraisal at 18 months. None of BCT's trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work with BCT.

Risk Management

BCT recognises the need, as well as responsibility, to assess all of its activities against risk, in line with the Charity Commission's 'Statement of Recommended Practice 2005' (SORP 2005). BCT's Risk Management Policy demonstrates potential risks, the steps taken to mitigate or remove them, and BCT's commitment to on-going monitoring and assessment. BCT has also drawn up a Business Continuity Plan as part of its Risk Management Policy. The greatest current risk is economic sustainability in light of the global economic climate, but BCT's trustees confirm that they have reviewed BCT's accounts on a monthly basis and put in place a strategy for on-going fundraising and increasing income for sustainability.

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

5. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They 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.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have determined that the charity aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £32,367 (which equates to about 4 months' of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £38,019 and the charity was complying with its reserves policy as at the balance sheet date.

Grant-making Policy

(Based on Article 18 of the minutes of a meeting of the BCT trustees on 2nd March 2002).

BCT has a Grant Making Policy that outlines criteria for issuing grants to projects and or individuals, the procedure for

issuing grants and the review of grants. This policy is reviewed at set intervals, as are all BCT's policies.

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on Jun 23, 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Gill Bradley

Gill Bradley (Jun 23, 2025 12:28 GMT+1)

Gill Bradley
BCT Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

('the Charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 on pages 20 to 30 following which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 22 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do 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.

Archie McDowall
Archie McDowall (Jun 24, 2025 13:28 GMT+1)

Archie McDowall BA CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
London
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Jun 24, 2025

The Bethany Children's Trust

Statement of Financial Activities

year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	65,230	69,300	134,530	132,619
Investments	3	163	0	163	154
Total income and endowments		65,393	69,300	134,693	132,773
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	68,303	60,697	129,000	128,431
Raising funds	5	15,652	64	15,716	14,537
Total expenditure		83,955	60,761	144,716	142,968
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(18,562)	8,539	(10,023)	(10,195)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
		(18,562)	8,539	(10,023)	(10,195)
Net movement in funds		(18,562)	8,539	(10,023)	(10,195)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		62,736	37,455	100,191	110,386
Total funds carried forward		44,175	45,994	90,168	100,191

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. The notes on pages 22 to 30 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust

Balance Sheet

year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	206	0	206	598
		206	0	206	598
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	8,995	0	8,995	9,310
Cash at bank	9	38,019	45,994	84,014	94,277
		47,014	45,994	93,009	103,587
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Liabilities falling due within one year	10	3,046	0	3,046	3,994
Net Current Assets		43,968	45,994	89,963	99,593
NET ASSETS		44,174	45,994	90,169	100,191
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted funds	12				
General Funds		44,174	0	44,174	62,736
Restricted Funds	12	0	45,994	45,994	37,455
		44,174	45,994	90,169	100,191

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on Jun 23, 2025 by:

Gill Bradley

Gill Bradley (Jun 23, 2025 12:28 GMT+1)

Gill Bradley, Chair

The notes on pages 22 to 30 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Statutory Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page of the trustees' annual report.

2. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular, the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. In making this assessment the trustees have considered how Covid-19 might affect projections.

b) **Income**

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and

receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

i. Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

ii. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly those involving connection with our project partners, connection with other organisations and individuals in the furtherance of our aims, and the writing and provision of training resources. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

iii. Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be reliably measured

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity makes grants to other institutions to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) Intangible fixed assets

The cost of software is capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, which is expected to be 3 years.

f) **Tangible fixed assets**

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £1000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

- Equipment Over 2 to 3 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

g) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities, and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year-end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3. Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General donations and legacies	61,238	66,618	127,855	127,229
Tax recoverable	3,993	2,682	6,675	5,390
	65,230	69,300	134,530	132,619
Other income				
Bank interest	163	-	163	154
Total Incoming Resources	65,393	69,300	134,693	132,773

4. Charitable activity

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
a Direct Charitable Costs					
Assisting Churches	Note 4c	16,207	60,468	76,675	77,931
Connecting		15,872.506	77	15,949	14,803
Mobilising Champions		17,701	77	17,778	17,776
		49,781	60,621	110,402	110,511
b Support & Administration		£	£	£	£
Governance costs		2,445		2,445	1,965
GDPR compliance		35		35	35
Salaries and pension costs		13,856		13,856	11,614
Office rent & services		142		142	132
Events & Fundraising		9		9	0
I.T., telephone and postage		1,073		1,073	1,402
Office supplies		21		21	39
Travel costs		76	77	152	103
Insurance		189		189	204
Professional Fees		0		0	450
Recruitment		35		35	27
Depreciation		392		392	1,658
Sundry		249		249	291
		18,522	77	18,599	17,920
Combined charitable activity cost		68,303	60,697	129,000	128,431

The fee payable to the independent examiner for examining the accounts was £1,980 (2023: £1,920); in addition the charity paid £712 (2023: £654) to Stewardship for payroll bureau services.

c Grants

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2024 £	2023 £
Analysis by receiving project/appeal				
APRECOM	8,852		8,852	9,925
Transformation Resources	1,727		1,727	7,036
Stop Child Witch Accusation	17,194		17,194	13,471
Wukwashi	15,958		15,958	18,886
LVLE	12,538		12,538	11,302
Food Security campaign	4,586		4,586	500
Nyiragongo appeal	0		0	250
	60,855	0	60,855	61,370
Analysis by key purpose				
Awareness raising	2,053		2,053	6,322
Training	18,735		18,735	25,548
Medical	5,911		5,911	7,250
Covid response	0		0	0
Food & sanitisation resources	6,764		6,764	2,350
Transport	152		152	598
Parent/Family support	1,754		1,754	2,364
Child/Young person support & empowerment	8,799		8,799	5,700
Enterprise	372		372	100
School Fees	0		0	399
Administration	16,316		16,316	10,739
	60,855	0	60,855	61,370

Within 'Assisting Churches' are grants made to projects. The main features of the grants made were to provide practical support and finance to children's projects in Africa in three locations with the key purposes being as allocated above.

5. Fundraising Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Salaries and pension costs	13,856		13,856	11,613
Communication services			0	913
Travel costs	53	64	117	108
Printing and stationery	21		21	39
IT Costs	805		805	1,081
Telephone	251		251	301
Fundraising	9		9	
Storage	64		64	59
Insurance	189		189	204
Training, Conferences & meetings	-3		-3	7
Postage & mailbox hire	91		91	92
Governance	50		50	0
Recruitment	35		35	27
Miscellaneous	232		232	93
	15,652	64	15,716	14,537

6. Staff & Trustees

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross wages, salaries & benefits in kind	66,571	55,742
Employer's National Insurance costs	4,809	3,986
Employer's Allowance	(4,809)	(3,986)
Employer's Pension Contributions	1,997	1,672
Total staff costs	68,568	57,414

During the year the charity had 2.5 full time equivalent employed staff (2023: 3). No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum (2023: none).

Remuneration payable to key management (excluding trustees) amounted to £44,758 in the year (2023: £51,968). Currently, key management is considered to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance Manager.

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year. No trustee received reimbursement for expenses incurred on BCT's behalf (2023: Nil).

The total amount of donations funded by trustees [and connected parties] and key management was £2,915 (2023: £5,217).

7. Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer & Software £	Total 2024 £
Cost		
At 1st September 2023	5,593	5,593
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2024	5,593	5,593
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1st September 2023	4,995	4,995
Charge for the year	392	392
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2024	5,387	5,387
Net book value		
At 31st August 2024	206	206
At 1st September 2023	598	598

8. Debtors and Prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Income tax receivable	8,474	8,395
Sundry Debtors	7	16
Prepayments	515	899
	8,995	9,310

9. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	£	£
Co-operative Bank	67,237	77,902
NatWest Bank	16,671	16,275
Petty cash	106	100
	84,014	94,277

10. Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

	£	£
Trade Creditors	557	1,476
Accruals	2,489	2,518
	3,046	3,994

11. Funds

a The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year are as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	987	200	(306)		880
APRECOM	6,707	11,945	(8,652)		10,000
LVLE	5,954	15,356	(12,338)		8,972
Stop Child Witch Accusation	7,400	13,899	(17,194)		4,105
Transformation Resources	5,264	3,158	(1,727)		6,694
Wukwashi (Zambia)	9,471	20,644	(15,958)		14,157
Food Security campaign	1,673	4,099	(4,586)		1,186
Nyiragongo appeal	0	0	0		0
	37,455	69,301	(60,761)	0	45,994

With the exception of Administration, the movement on each of the above funds reflects donations received and disbursements and expenditures made in the financial year in respect of activities carried out by the named project or in accordance with the named appeal or campaign. Funds unused at the end of the year are carried forward. A description of the purpose of the other funds and the nature of the restriction can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

The Administration fund is solely in respect of donations received for non project-related and non appeal or campaign-related purposes. The movement on this fund in the year concerned one item. Secondly, £1,220 of the Administration fund's opening balance are unused funds carried forward from previous years and are specifically restricted to cover the cost of BCT staff team social activities as and when incurred. £306 was incurred this year on travel costs for a handover with a new staff member and to the anniversary celebrations. The closing balance is again carried forward.

For comparison, movements in restricted funds in the year to 31st August 2023 are reproduced below:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,328	0	(341)		987
APRECOM	6,107	12,148	(11,548)		6,707
LVLE	4,741	13,561	(12,348)		5,954
Stop Child Witch Accusation	9,497	10,832	(13,471)	544	7,400
Transformation Resources	7,843	5,000	(7,036)	(544)	5,264
Wukwashi (Zambia)	13,088	15,268	(18,886)		9,471
Food Security campaign	1,423	750	(500)		1,673
Nyiragongo appeal	250	0	(250)		0
	44,276	57,559	(64,380)	0	37,455

b The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	45,994	-	45,994
Unrestricted funds	206	38,019	5,949	44,174
	206	84,014	5,949	90,169

For comparison, the assets and liabilities represented by the various funds as at 31st August 2023 are reproduced below:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	37,455	-	37,455
Unrestricted funds	598	56,822	5,316	62,736
	598	94,277	5,316	100,191

The Bethany Children's Trust

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	65,230	75,060	69,300	57,559	134,530	132,619
Investments	3	163	154	0	0	163	154
Total income and endowments		65,393	75,214	69,300	57,559	134,693	132,773
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	4	68,303	64,109	60,697	64,322	129,000	128,431
Raising funds	5	15,652	14,479	64	58	15,716	14,537
Total expenditure		83,955	78,588	60,761	64,380	144,716	142,968
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(18,562)	(3,374)	8,539	(6,821)	(10,023)	(10,195)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0	0
		(18,562)	(3,374)	8,539	(6,821)	(10,023)	(10,195)
Net movement in funds		(18,562)	(3,374)	8,539	(6,821)	(10,023)	(10,195)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		62,736	66,110	37,455	44,276	100,191	110,386
Total funds carried forward		44,175	62,736	45,994	37,455	90,168	100,191

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1073817

Accounts

The Bethany Children's Trust

Annual Report to 31 August 2023

Charity information

Trustees of The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT)

Mrs Gill Bradley
Mrs Ruth Ejvet (until January 2024)
Ms Rose Ndolo
Mr Geoff Walls (until November 2023)
Mrs Hazel Whiting

Chief Executive Officer

Lyn Edwards

Governing Document

Trust Deed dated 23 December 1998, as amended 5 December 2003
Charity Registration Number 1073817

Registered Office

Office 214, Hill House, 210 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 6NP

Website

www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall, BA, CA, Stewardship, 1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
Head Office
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Natwest
Bracknell Branch
5 High Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DH

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

BCT is dedicated to mobilising Christians to respond to the needs of children at risk.

Our vision is to see the Christian church leading the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, safe, valued, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential. Through teaching, training, advice, networking and financial support, BCT equips project partners to help restore the lives of marginalised and vulnerable children and to bring about changes in the attitudes, practices and situations that harm them. These marginalised children include those affected by abuse, exploitation, HIV, homelessness, disability and poverty.

Cover photo: Jf Lefèvre/Adobe Stock

The Bethany Children's Trust
Annual Report to 31 August 2023

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Letter from the Chair of Trustees

Psalms 9:11 "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds".

Another year has passed and I am so grateful to our awesome God for all that he has done this past year through BCT and our partners. I am sure you will find this annual report an encouraging read, because of the inspiring accounts of the positive impact God is enabling!

I am back in the Chairperson's seat after a year's break. Thank you to Ruth Ejvet for taking on the role during that time. It's good to be back – especially as it means I'm working more closely with Lyn and the staff team again, which is a joy!

My fellow trustees and I are grateful to each of our staff members who give so much of their time, talents, and energy with dedication and faithfulness. Please do pray for them.

We are also deeply grateful to God for His provision of resources through you our supporters. I'd like to thank you for your support through prayer, encouragement, finance, and spreading awareness of BCT's work. Please recognise that you are an important part of BCT and very appreciated. May the Lord bless you.

I also want to honour our wonderful BCT partners. Joyce and Henry in Zambia, Odeth and Emma in Rwanda, and Rev Aruna in DRC all lead so passionately, humbly, and effectively. Despite experiencing such adverse circumstances, including food shortages, they persevere and serve.

Together, let's look forward with expectation to all that the Lord will do in each of us, through each of us, and in spite of each of us! We trust God for His provision and ask Him to release to BCT resources of all kinds to facilitate all that he is asking us to do.

Gill Bradley

BCT Chair of Trustees

BCT's Approach to Fundraising

BCT is just as committed to 'friend-raising' as to fundraising. We see building relationships with supporters and potential supporters as an integral part of raising funds to resource our own and our partners' work. Therefore, we take a no-pressure approach to fundraising. Our focus is on sharing stories of transformation, highlighting how we are making a difference to individual children and entire communities, then presenting opportunities for members of the public to support this work, if they wish to. We use printed communications, social media channels and presentations at events in order to share these stories and leave it to the public to decide what their response may be, if any. If an existing supporter wishes to cease receiving communications from BCT, they can contact either our own office or the Fundraising Preference Service and we will ensure that they no longer receive such communications.

Our policy means that we value the supporter and their wellbeing as an individual as much as any support they may be able to offer BCT. It means that we offer a range of opportunities to engage with BCT's work beyond financial support and take time and care to nurture positive relationships with them.

A small number of supporters choose to go beyond giving funds to BCT's work and become BCT Ambassadors. These Ambassadors give of their time, expertise and resources to promote BCT's work in their churches and communities, mobilising prayer and even organising their own fundraising events. We maintain close relationships with our Ambassadors, ensuring they are equipped for their efforts, up to date with good practice in fundraising, and fully aware of how grateful we are for their efforts on our behalf.

We also write fundraising applications to appropriate grant-making trusts.

Currently, funding is provided from a variety of sources:

Grant-making Trusts – We have a small but committed group of grant-making trusts who support us on a regular basis. Other grant-making trusts support us with occasional one-off gifts.

Supporters – We receive ongoing monthly donations from many supporters, usually by standing order and direct debit, as well as occasional one-off donations. We also have long-standing relationships with a number of churches and businesses who support us financially.

Events – We occasionally arrange fundraising events, or encourage our supporters to join us in taking part in fundraising events arranged by other organisations. (We ensure that any external event meets our ethical standards and faith values). We receive funding from supporters who have raised sponsorship by taking part in such events.

Legacy Funding – We receive occasional funding by legacy donations.

Media – BCT also encourages fundraising through the promotion of its charitable activities via its communications media: print publications, online presence and social media.

BCT's vision and mission

Commitment to Public Benefit

BCT's trustees confirm that they have paid due attention to public benefit in their role of overseeing the work of BCT and are satisfied that all BCT activities meet public benefit requirements as defined by the Charity Commission's general guidelines. Everything BCT has done in the period covered by this report has been to bring benefit to the lives of our key beneficiaries – children at risk – by influencing, equipping and enabling churches, Christian projects and individuals to respond to their needs, and to address root issues, beliefs and practices that harm them.

Summary of BCT's objects, as set out in its Declaration of Trust

a) To relieve persons, particularly children who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are sick, and to relieve the distress caused thereby in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

b) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with BCT's Statement of Beliefs in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

c) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate.

BCT's Vision…

…is to equip the Christian Church to lead the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, valued, safe, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential.

BCT's Mission…

…is to mobilise a Christian response to the needs of the most marginalised children. We work wherever God leads us, strengthening the capacity of churches to lead their communities in caring for children and addressing the roots of beliefs, practices and circumstances that harm them. We work with churches directly, through local project partners and by networking and collaborating with other organisations.

How BCT has benefited marginalised children

We assisted churches and Christian organisations to develop initiatives to bring about holistic transformation in the lives of vulnerable children

BCT exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children. We believe wholeheartedly that every child is created in God's image and therefore inherently precious. And we believe that every child should be loved, cared for and enabled to fulfil their God-given potential. Therefore, we actively seek out the most marginalised of children – the ones who slip through the net, who are neglected by their communities and whose suffering goes unnoticed because they are hidden away or overlooked – and we act to see their lives changed, practically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We believe in the Church. We believe churches are uniquely placed to influence change on a local basis, and that they understand their communities, their children and the most important local issues far better than we do. So, local churches are our focus. We seek to equip churches to reach their own communities, rather than doing it for them, so that they will continue to influence godly transformation even many years into the future. We connect with and equip churches directly through our *Transformation Resources*, and indirectly through our project partners.

Enabling projects to develop strategically and according to good practice

Our project partners are extraordinary people. They do incredible work, often in the harshest of circumstances and with minimal material reward. They are determined, courageous and deeply committed. We're privileged to work with them, fight battles together and see young lives changed. However, a significant part of our deep commitment to our partners is to identify ways in which their already excellent work could be strengthened. So, drawing on over 24 years' experience, we work alongside our partners to help them in formulating strategies which will enable them to meet their communities' most acute needs. We help them to make the most of the resources and personnel available to them, and to operate in line with best practice in safeguarding and project management, in order to reach and serve marginalised children as effectively as possible.

Enabling projects to monitor and evaluate their work and to be accountable

Monitoring and evaluation are vital in helping our UK team to understand our partners' work. So, we equip our partners to report on their own work: to highlight the measurable outcomes from their efforts and show which areas of their work are most effective and fruitful. Their quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports help us to offer our partners specific advice on how to refine their approach. And partly based on our partners' reports, we work with each of them to devise an annual plan and budget which supports and emphasises the most effective areas of their work.

Creating resources to challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs

BCT has a range of resources that respond to issues that can lead to the abuse and neglect of children and to strengthen families and communities. Our resources address pressure points, such as food insecurity, physical and mental health, disability, stigma and the pressure on family relationships, with a view to helping individuals, families and communities to thrive, because that is how children are also best able to thrive. These are issues that have been raised both within the communities we serve and in our wider networks, so we know that we are responding to felt needs.

Providing local churches with resources to train their communities makes important ideas accessible to a much wider audience than if we simply delivered the training ourselves. It has the potential to exponentially increase our impact.

These insights have led us to create *Transformation Resources*. These resources address child abuse by unpacking the attitudes and beliefs which cause it. 'Transform Disability' addresses misconceptions about disability and disabled children, 'Transform Families' encourages positive parenting by discussing common views on family life, and 'Let's Grow!' tackles food insecurity through addressing lack of knowledge about nutrition and agriculture. BCT staff have also been involved in creating resources for the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition (see page 21), which explore biblical perspectives on physical and mental health, sickness and healing.

All of the completed *Transformation Resources* material is available for download, absolutely free, through our website. Each element of the resources is piloted through trusted churches and Christian agencies – including our project partners – before being released for general use.

Provision of training

As part of our commitment to strengthen and add value to our partners' work, we help them to identify areas in which they would benefit from training, and we then enable them

to access training which meets their needs. This either involves delivering the training ourselves or, where the training requires a specialism that we do not have within the organisation, helping our partners to access training from an alternative provider. For example, the Tanari Trust has delivered training in creating positive relationships for APRECOM staff and volunteers, to strengthen and inform their work with children and teenagers.

In July we were able to carry out our first overseas project visit since before the pandemic. We travelled to Rwanda and spent time with APRECOM, which is based in Kigali, to monitor and evaluate their work, and to discuss their plans and priorities for the year ahead. We were able to see the work on the ground among teenagers, families of children with disabilities, and those affected by HIV/AIDS. We were also able to deliver training to around 100 church leaders, including some living and working in the UNHCR refugee camp in the Bukora area, in trauma and building resilience in families. The APRECOM team benefitted from bespoke training in responding to trauma. FCO advice against all but essential travel to Goma, DR Congo, meant that we were not able to visit LVLE in-country, but the shared border between Rwanda and DR Congo meant that the LVLE team could cross into Rwanda and we were able to meet in Gisenyi. The primary focus of the time in Gisenyi was to provide in-depth training for the team in trauma in children, and intervention strategies which promote healing and recovery. We were also able to review LVLE's work and discuss their plans and priorities for the future.

Enabling networking

Our partners' work can often be enhanced by connecting with other organisations and individuals who support marginalised children: either agencies who work in a similar geographical area to them, or who might be further afield but focus on similar issues. Whenever we become aware of a potentially fruitful connection, we encourage our partners to pursue it. In this way, both parties can benefit from sharing ideas and experiences.

Similarly, we help our partners to identify potential new financial backers, so that they will be better resourced. In the end, we aim for all of our partners to reach a stage where they no longer need BCT's support and are able to operate independently.

Enabling projects to access information resources

Our UK team often has access to professional networks and information which our project partners do not. Therefore, we ensure that our partners can access important and useful resources by emailing them electronic documents or links to websites where such documents are available.

Provision of finances, encouragement and prayer support

We often marvel at how much our partners can achieve on a shoestring budget. However, they still need financial support in order to operate. We work closely with each of our partners to identify their most strategically important activities. We then indicate at the start of the year which activities we intend to fund and at what level, to enable our partners to plan. Although this funding is subject to fundraising, we are invariably able to meet our commitments in this way.

Alongside the provision of funds, we also support our partners in regular prayer and in ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice through email and WhatsApp contact.

BCT supports and partners with projects that are:

- Community-based, church-led or parachurch, if working significantly with churches.
- Working with the most marginalised children, who are significantly at risk in the context within which they live, due to abuse and prevailing circumstances.
- Addressing roots of harmful beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- Equipping local people to meet their own needs.
- Working with replicable and sustainable models (or desire to).
- Working with locally appropriate solutions to local problems.
- Focussing on Child Protection and Children's Rights.
- Emphasising the empowerment and support of parents/guardians and young people.
- Willing to collaborate and network with others.
- Willing to be accountable through monitoring and evaluation and impact measurement of their work, good financial reporting and good, open communication.
- Actively raising or desire to raise awareness within churches and communities of an issue/issues that are harmful to children.
- Willing to progress and develop.
- Willing to be a voice on behalf of marginalised children or those at risk of abuse and/or to enable the children's voices to be heard directly.
- In under-resourced, neglected or isolated areas where marginalised children are exceptionally vulnerable and where there is little service provision.

Photo: Zambia, Yoreh/Adobe Stock

Case study: Harry

Harry spent most of his 11 years hidden away at home. He was born with cerebral palsy and is unable to walk. He could not go outside, join in activities, socialise or be part of his community. Harry started going to a support group in Kabala, which is in Kitwe, Zambia. There he has met other children, received physiotherapy, and has been given a wheelchair. Harry has learnt to push himself around, giving him independence that he did not have before. He and his family are able to go to church together. He has just been accepted at a Special School in Zambia.

BCT by numbers

Between **175** and **200** children affected by HIV are members of Inshuti Nziza clubs in Rwanda.

Between **30** and **35** marginalised teenage girls have been provided with mentoring and life skills training.

302 church leaders in Nyamata attended quarterly training in child protection and disability awareness.

30 new leaders of **6** new Synergie cells were trained to teach their communities to address abuse related to accusations of witchcraft.

Up to **40** street-living children have been enabled to return to their families.

80+ new gardens have been planted in Goma and the surrounding area, to improve families' nutrition.

An average of **6** children per quarter have received wheelchairs and **50** received support shoes from Wukwashi.

364 children with disabilities per quarter receive physiotherapy

16 weekly support groups for Zambian children living with disabilities, and their parents.

140 children per quarter have 1:1 support through the Wukwashi Mentorship Programme.

APRECOM
(AIDS Prevention Care and Outreach Ministry)

Based in:	**Kigali, Rwanda**
Run by:	**Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Rwanda**
Partnered with BCT since:	**2002**
Supports:	• **Children affected by HIV/AIDS** • **Children living with disabilities**

Context

APRECOM was established in response to the AIDS epidemic in Rwanda. Millions of Rwandans had been diagnosed HIV+ but had little or no access to support, advice or medication. APRECOM has addressed these needs since its inception, and continues to do so, through children's clubs; advice, counselling and vocational guidance for young people; and support groups and practical helps for parents.

More recently, APRECOM has become aware of the huge numbers of Rwandan children with disabilities, and the lack of understanding and access to essential services which they contend with on a daily basis. APRECOM has therefore added a second strand to its work, advocating for the rights and needs of disabled children and equipping churches to serve and welcome children with disabilities in their own communities.

APRECOM has previously worked extensively in Kigali, but the initiatives there are now self-sustaining, allowing the team to focus its resources in other areas of the country, especially Bukora, Bugesera and Kajera.

Photo: Odeth

Key activities

- **Training churches to care for children** – Churches in Bugesera and Kigali have received quarterly training in child protection and the inclusion of children with disabilities. These churches have, in turn, been encouraged to pass on their training to others.
- **Outreach to children with disabilities** – Bugesera churches are now identifying children with disabilities in their communities and offering their families help and support. This support includes regular gatherings for such families.
- **Combatting child abuse** – APRECOM has provided the 'Touch Talk' resource to churches in Bugesera and Kajera, to help them empower children to recognise and report abuse.
- **Inspiring young people with HIV** – The Inshuti Nziza Troop for young people, living with HIV. Through the Troop, APRECOM offers vocational skills, practical advice on managing their condition, and encouragement to live in hope and make wise life choices. The Inshuti Nziza Clubs provide vital support for over a 100 younger children affected by HIV.
- **Supporting adults with HIV** – APRECOM runs support groups for HIV+ adults, in Kajera, Bukora and Kigali. These groups are a source of advice and spiritual encouragement.
- **Supporting vulnerable teenage girls** – The Queens Group welcomes on average 30-35 vulnerable teenage girls and teaches them confidence, self-respect and vocational skills. This is vital in a context where teenage girls are often drawn into abusive relationships or fall pregnant.

- **Providing essential food** – The majority of the families in APRECOM's network either rely on regular food supplies in order to take antiretroviral medication, or have had their livelihoods jeopardised by COVID, or both. Similarly, children with disabilities often struggle to absorb nutrients, so they have a particular need for regular, nutritious foods too. While searching for a more long-term solution, APRECOM is providing these families with regular deliveries of essential food items.

- **Safeguarding community nutrition** – APRECOM is modelling vital principles of agriculture and healthy nutrition, through its community gardens. The team is also teaching these principles through BCT's 'Let's Grow!' resource.

Impact

- **Practical support for disabled children** – Churches which have received training in disability awareness are taking practical steps to help and welcome disabled children, including buying wheelchairs and building ramps at their premises.

- **Safe environments for children** – Churches have a better understanding of child abuse, and have clear policies and processes to prevent and address such abuse. As a result, children in these churches are confident in reporting abuse and safe to grow and thrive. These churches are also rolling out the training to others in their networks.

- **Young people with renewed purpose** – 48 young people who attend the youth group in Bugesera have returned to school, 20 have quit smoking and the group has welcomed 25 new young people. At the group training is given using BCTs 'Lets Grow resource' and the Tanari Trust Creating Positive Relationships training.

- **Secure and confident children** – The young members of the Inshuti Nziza Clubs feel welcome, accepted and that they belong. They are growing in maturity, in their friendships with one another and in their relationship with God. They are also well-equipped, through 'Touch Talk', to recognise and report abuse

- **Renewed hope for HIV+ adults** – The members of APRECOM's adult support groups feel accepted, well supported and equipped to make wise decisions in handling their condition. And they are providing practical care and support for one another, including help when hospital care is needed.

- **Teenage girls encouraged and empowered** – 30 teenage girls are playing active roles and taking on key responsibilities in their churches.

- **Healthy families** – Through APRECOM's food deliveries, 301 food packs have been given to most vulnerable of families. Helping them to be healthier and better nourished. (Also, those of them affected by HIV are better able to tolerate their medication.)

- **Communities equipped to feed themselves** – Through APRECOM's 'Let's Grow!' training and model gardens, whole communities are better placed to grow nutritious crops and ensure their children are well fed.

Photo: Thomas/Adobe Stock

Figures

In any given quarter, APRECOM offers support to up to 280 children and 174 adults.

BCT donated £10,425.00 to APRECOM this year, including funds sent as part of BCT's efforts to address food scarcity in our project partners' communities.

How BCT has benefited APRECOM this year

- Ongoing support and advice, by email and WhatsApp.
- Detailed guidance on formulating annual plans and evaluating and developing the work.
- Information resources.
- Funding for:
  - Quarterly training seminars in 10 churches in Bugesera, on child protection and disability awareness.
  - Supporting churches in Bugesera to develop child protection policies and procedures.
  - Quarterly training 4 new churches and 8 formerly trained churches in Kajera (350 leaders) on child protection and care for children with disabilities.
  - Training church leaders and volunteers in Gahanga to set up and run support groups for disabled children.
  - Quarterly meetings for 120 young people, to provide mentoring, spiritual guidance and training in agriculture and nutrition.
  - Providing the 'Touch Talk' resource to churches with child protection policies, along with training on how to use the resource with children.
  - Monthly meetings for 30 girls, from vulnerable families, to equip them with life and vocational skills.
  - Emergency food supplies and hygiene products for vulnerable families.
  - Administration, transport and networking.

Ernesto's story

Many of Kajera's people are in limbo, struggling to refocus their lives since the genocide. Many have turned to alcohol; half the marriages end in divorce.

Ernesto's father used to drink heavily: Ernesto's mother was threatening to leave. Ernesto, who's 14, suffers multiple disabilities and is often very sick. He is unable to communicate but can babble, which he does all the time including at night.

APRECOM started supporting them, and since then Ernesto's father has given up alcohol and is committed to his family. APRECOM Director Odeth's church gave them a cow; members of another church provide respite care for Ernesto.

Joining an APRECOM support group, hosted by another family with a disabled child, has 'changed everything', says Ernesto's father. 'With the support of our friends there, who understand our situation perfectly, and visits from Odeth, we have been able to rebuild our family. We know we're not alone.'

Pastor Sebahizi, who set up the group after 'Transform Disability' training, says he's 'learned how to love'.

BCT donated £10,425 to **APRECOM** this year

LVLE (Laissez Vivre Les Enfants)

Based in:	**Goma, eastern DRC**
Run by:	**A church pastor, Rev Aruna, and members of local churches**
Partnered with BCT since:	**January 2017**
Supports:	**Children living in poverty, on the streets and/or accused of witchcraft]. Promotes child protection and addresses issues which make children more vulnerable to abuse**

Context

Goma is hard ground, as are the surrounding rural areas, where LVLE also works. Poverty and deprivation are widespread, violence (including armed insurrection) is common and child abuse is often simply accepted as part of life. LVLE is determined that, even in this harsh environment, children should be safe to grow and thrive. LVLE provides direct support to Goma's most marginalised children, especially to those who live on the streets. The team also trains church and community leaders in children's rights and child protection, equipping them to create environments where children can thrive. This includes training using BCT's 'Let's Grow!' resource to address malnutrition and improve food security.

A major focus of LVLE's work is on addressing abuse arising from accusations of witchcraft against children, and the harmful beliefs which underlie these accusations. This involves direct intervention on behalf of children facing abuse related to accusations of witchcraft, and also teaching and training for church leaders to enable them to address the issue in their communities. As part of this, LVLE has created two 'Synergies' – networks of local pastors and civic authorities (including the police) – which promote child protection, particularly in unregulated contexts where false accusations and the resulting harm are commonplace. The Synergies provide systematic training in child witch accusations to counter false teaching and misunderstandings on the topic.

Key activities

- **Outreach to street-living children** – LVLE directly supports around 50 children who live on the streets of Goma. The team meet these children every week at LVLE's two 'listening posts'. Support takes the form of practical advice and, for those who want to leave the streets, mediation with their families or help in finding a safe home.

Photo: Travel Stock/Adobe Stock

- **Child protection training** – Rev Aruna trains church leaders, school leaders and community leaders, teaching important principles of child protection and equipping them to address and prevent child abuse. Over local leaders benefit from this training, including follow-up and refresher training, in Karisimbi, Goma, and Turunga.

- **Addressing nutrition and food scarcity** – Malnutrition and food scarcity continue to be significant problems, especially in areas around Masisi and Nyiragongo. LVLE are addressing these problems by training local leaders in principles of agriculture and nutrition, using BCT's *Let's Grow!* resource.

- **Building networks to address accusations of witchcraft** – LVLE's two 'Synergies' bring together church leaders, police officers and civic authorities to address accusations of witchcraft against children in Masisi and Rutshuru. This year, the Synergies have carried out mapping exercises to identify areas with high incidences of child witch accusations, and established six more cells those communities.

- **Training Synergie cells** – 30 leaders of the six newly established cells have been trained to address witchcraft accusations (using the SCWA* resource 'The Heart of the Matter') and safeguard vulnerable children in their communities.

- **Radio and TV broadcasts** – Rev Aruna appears weekly on three local radio stations in Goma, Rutshuru and Masisi, and once a month on local television in Goma, sharing information and ideas about children's rights, child protection and violence against children, particularly in the context of discipline (beatings and deprivation of food both being common ways to 'discipline' children). These broadcasts enable him to spread important messages to a far wider audience than would otherwise be possible, and they generate a high level of engagement, with dozens of SMS texts and calls to the team every quarter.

  *(*Stop Child Witch Accusations – see 'Connecting with others' section, p20.)*

Impact

- **Children leaving the streets** – Through LVLE's encouragement and mediation, around 40 children have been reintegrated into families. Team members continue to help those families resolve any difficulties, once the children are home, particularly behavioural challenges often linked to trauma.

- **Prevention of abuse** – Through LVLE's child protection training, church, school and community leaders are better informed about abuse and know how to respond to it. All the churches represented have created child protection policies, with LVLE's guidance. They also pass on their understanding of the issue to their churches and communities, enabling others to recognise the signs of abuse and empowering children to report abuse against them. Similarly, listeners to Rev Aruna's radio shows have begun reporting instances of child abuse, and are more vigilant in preventing this abuse. Children are also equipped to protect themselves from abuse, through 'Touch Talk'.

- **Leaders mobilised** – Through the Synergie cell groups, 30 more local leaders have been trained and mobilised to safeguard the children in their communities, and added to their local Synergie networks.

- **Changing attitudes** – Rev Aruna's weekly radio shows frequently lead to lively discussions with listeners on how best to care for children. The programme content presents listeners with important principles which are often entirely new to them, and gently challenges any negative attitudes and abusive behaviours towards children.

- **Improved nutrition** – The 'Let's Grow!' training has resulted in over 80 more new gardens being planted, providing families with nutritious plants to improve and diversify their diets, and to promote greater food security.

Figures

The numbers of adults LVLE reaches vary from quarter to quarter. The team provide training for several cohorts of pastors, school leaders and local authorities during the year, and also conduct follow-up visits to cohorts who have already received training. The result is that LVLE impact several hundred men, women and children through their training initiatives, along with the listeners and viewers of the radio and television broadcasts. The numbers of listeners and viewers are hard to ascertain, but the team receive dozens of text messages and calls every quarter. Indicating strong engagement

In an average quarter, LVLE directly supports around 50 street-living children.

BCT donated £11,301.96 to LVLE this year.

Photo: Rev Aruna

How BCT has benefited LVLE this year

- Ongoing support, advice and encouragement from BCT staff, through email and WhatsApp.
- In-person visit in July 2023, including training in Trauma for the team. This took place in Gisenyi, on the DRC/Rwanda border because of travel restrictions relating to entering Goma (armed conflict).
- Guidance on developing strategic plans and measuring the impact of their work.
- Training resources, including:
  - 'The Heart of the Matter', which helps train church and community leaders to address child witch accusations.
  - 'Touch Talk', which empowers children to recognise and report abuse.
  - 'Let's Grow!', which addresses nutrition and food security.
  - 'Sickness, Health and Healing' and 'Mental Health Matters', which address issues around physical and mental health.
- Funding for:
  - Two weekly listening posts, to connect with and support street-living children.
  - Mediation visits to families of children who wish to return home.
  - Weekly radio shows on child protection, good parenting and violence against children (on three local radio stations).
  - Monthly TV programmes on the same subjects.
  - Refresher training for 33 community leaders in Karisimbi in child protection and addressing accusations of witchcraft
  - Training of a further 33 (deputies of the 33 community leaders trained last year) in Karisimbi.
  - Refresher training for 33 community leaders in Goma in child protection and addressing accusations of witchcraft.
  - Training of a further 33 (deputies of the 33 community leaders trained last year) in Goma.
  - An introductory meeting, three x two-day trainings and a review session, for 30 new pastors in Turunga, focusing on child protection and addressing accusations of witchcraft, including the creation of child protection policies.
  - A mapping activity for six communities in Masisi and Rutshuru, with a view to establishing six new Synergie cells.
  - Five days of training in addressing child witch accusations for 15 new Synergie cell leaders and refresher training for 10 older leaders in each of Masisi and Rutshuru (50 in total).
  - Refresher training for 50 church leaders from Nyiragongo who received training in 'Let's Grow!' in 2022.
  - Training of 40 new leaders in two further sites in Mubambiro and Masisi in 'Let's Grow!'
  - Administration costs.

BCT donated £11,301.96 to **LVLE** this year

Raoul's story

Raoul is a 9 year old boy whose father is also called Raoul. The child was a habitual thief and was regularly beaten by his father 'to set an example to his younger brothers'. Eventually, the situation escalated to the extent that his father burnt his hands as a punishment. Raoul Jr could no longer bear it and ran away to the streets. His family tracked him down and took him home, but he ran away again immediately. He lived on the streets for three years until he met Rev Aruna and the team. Rev Aruna worked with him, gently, patiently and effectively, until one day, Raoul said that he wanted to go home and that he was no longer compelled to steal and fight. The team visited Raoul Sr, who broke down in tears when he heard the news of his son. He wept and wept, repenting of the way he had treated his eldest son, and vowing never to do such a thing again. Eventually, the team felt that it was appropriate to reunite them, with careful monitoring. So far, the reinsertion has been a real success and the family is being knit back together with love and mutual understanding.

Transformation Resources

BCT donated £7,035.61 to **Transformation Resources** this year

Run by:	**BCT's UK-based team, with advice and input from our overseas partners and experts on particular issues**
A project since:	**August 2017**
Addresses:	**Harmful attitudes and beliefs, and principles for healthy family and community life**

The abuse and neglect of children is so often underpinned by harmful attitudes and beliefs, or by a lack of understanding of children's needs. In order to effectively prevent abuse, we must therefore address the beliefs behind it. Mindful of this, BCT has created *Transformation Resources*, a suite of resources exploring issues which keep children on the margins and offering practical advice on how best to support and empower them.

All of the resource material is designed for leaders in remote and deprived communities, contextualised to ensure it is relevant to these communities, and grounded in biblical teaching. The material is also rigorously tested by our project partners and other Christian workers on the ground. By producing and disseminating the *Transformation Resources*, we serve communities we would otherwise never reach, and increase our impact exponentially.

Transformation Resources include material which addresses: issues around family relationships and parenting; disability inclusion; hunger, nutrition and food scarcity, and preventing the spread of COVID-19. As a member organisation of the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition, BCT has also taken the lead in creating resources which offer biblical perspectives on sickness and on mental health: issues which are important in themselves and which often underpin accusations of witchcraft.

Key activities

- **Writing and creation** – 'Transform Families' (modules 1-17) has been completed and formatted, and is now available for use through the BCT website.
- **Translation and editing** – *Sickness, Health and Healing and Mental Health Matters* (BCT's resources concerning health, especially as it relates to accusations of witchcraft) have been translated into Swahili and are being formatted, ahead of release. 'Let's Grow!' is now available in English and French, and Swahili.
- **Building relationships with collaborators** – We have connected with international Christian organisations, including the Salvation Army, and Operation Mobilisation. The Salvation Army have already used our resources in training workshops in several countries, and plan to integrate the material into their own training programme.
- **Refining the web platform** – The resources area of the website has been restructured, so as to make it easier for visitors to find the material they need.

Impact

- **Improved crop yields** – 'Let's Grow!' is having an impact where it is being used, with increased yields and new individual and community gardens springing up. As a result, children in these communities have access to improved food supplies.
- **Improved support for disabled children** – 'Transform Disability', is continuing to prove effective in mobilising churches to respond to the needs of children with disabilities in their communities. For example, our partners in Rwanda and Zambia have been particularly effective in using the resource to train local churches, and then mobilising those churches to reach and support disabled children in their communities.
- **Strengthened families** – Families in many communities have learned vital principles for communication, respect and mutual support, through 'Transform Families' training.
- **Safeguarding health** –*Sickness, Health and Healing and Mental Health Matters Resources* are helping to promote holistic health.
- **Increased reach** – The resources have been used in Zambia, Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, India and Jamaica and potentially in multiple other nations. We make the material freely available and so we receive partial feedback; its true impact may be wider and deeper than we know.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi

Based in:	**Copperbelt region, Zambia**
Run by:	**Local volunteers**
Partnered with BCT since:	**2005**
Supports:	**Children living with disabilities**

Context

An estimated 93 million children worldwide live with disabilities. All of them must overcome obstacles in order to fulfil their potential. This is especially true of disabled children in the majority world, who must often contend with stigma, discrimination and lack of access to essential services, as well as their own physical or mental challenges.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi ('God's help') is dedicated to supporting children with disabilities and advocating for their needs and rights. The cornerstone of Wukwashi's work is their network of support groups – run by teams of volunteers from local churches – which offers children and their parents practical support, advice and encouragement. Through these groups, Wukwashi offers physiotherapy and play therapy to disabled children, helping them to become stronger and develop social and motor skills. They also provide access to mobility aids, artificial limbs and medical interventions, not to mention advice and encouragement for parents, and refer children to specialist schools when appropriate.

The Wukwashi team also works tirelessly to change common stigma around disability, and to provide parents with information they desperately need but rarely receive. Through training and awareness-raising in churches and through appearances on local media outlets, Wukwashi is making its message heard. Slowly but surely, attitudes are changing, stigma is diminishing and communities are enabling children with disabilities to thrive.

Key activities

- **Support groups** – The backbone of Wukwashi's work is its network of sixteen support groups for children with disabilities and their parents. At these groups, children receive physiotherapy and play therapy, benefit socially from strong relationships with one another and with group leaders, and are assessed for any mobility aids and medical treatment they might need. The parents benefit from invaluable practical advice, moral support and spiritual encouragement.

Photo: Logan Venture/Adobe Stock

- **Mentoring** – Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Wukwashi continued to support families in its network through a mentoring programme. This involved weekly visits and phone calls to families with disabled children, offering encouragement and practical advice, particularly on physiotherapy exercises. As the pandemic ended Wukwashi has further developed the Mentorship Programme. They have strengthened, trained and supported the volunteers in this new role. The number of support groups using this new model of working has grown from five to eight.

- **Physiotherapy** – Three physiotherapists visit Wukwashi's support groups. Their treatments improve the children's strength, muscle tone and range of movement, and they teach parents simple exercises to perform with their children at home.

- **Providing mobility aids** – The team source and provide a range of mobility aids, including wheelchairs, walking frames, standing frames and support shoes for children with mobility problems. 23 children per quarter receive wheelchairs and 198 receive support shoes. Wukwashi also has a workshop to build supportive chairs, which help children sit upright and improve their posture.

- **Referrals to hospital** – The support groups are visited by doctors who assess the children's needs for medical treatments and surgical interventions. In a typical quarter, 15 children are assessed and referred on to hospitals for treatment. When necessary, Wukwashi will cover the costs of transport for a child to attend hospital.

- **Training workshops for church and community leaders** – Wukwashi challenges stigma and misguided beliefs around disability by providing disability awareness training for leaders – especially pastors.

- **Wider advocacy** – Joyce and Henry regularly visit other churches, speak at conferences and appear on TV and radio broadcasts, to advocate for children with disabilities and share insights on how best to meet their needs.

Photo: Joyce and Henry

Impact

- **Parents encouraged and empowered** – Over 560 families have received support through Wukwashi's mentoring programme. As a result, parents feel supported even when unable to attend support groups, and are equipped to meet their children's therapeutic needs.

- **Dramatic improvements in children's conditions** – Typically, over 779 children per quarter attend Wukwashi's support groups. The majority of them make great improvements, both in their physical conditions and in their capacity for social interactions.

- **Improved movement** – Around 364 children receive physiotherapy in an average quarter. Those who receive this therapy almost all show dramatic improvements in their abilities to sit, stand or walk. These are vital steps towards independence. This is greatly helped by the professional physiotherapists training parents and group leaders, so that the exercises can be continued between formal physiotherapy sessions.

- **Independence and integration** – Children with mobility problems are often stranded at home, unable to attend school or interact with their peers. Wheelchairs and standing frames transform their ability to move, and therefore offer them opportunities to attend school, play with friends and play a full part in their communities.

- **Prospects for the future** – Providing wheelchairs and mobility aids to children with physical disabilities transforms their ability to access education and play a full role in their communities. It is hugely significant in helping them develop independence and a sense of purpose, and to build a bright future for themselves.

- **Life-saving treatment** – Access to medical treatments always makes a tangible difference to a child with a disability and is, in some cases, literally life-saving.

- **Church leaders inspired** – Wukwashi's training for church leaders' challenges harmful beliefs and, beyond that, inspires them with the biblical mandate to care for the most vulnerable. This training results in churches seeking out disabled children in their communities, bringing them out of isolation, and in taking practical steps to welcome disabled children, including installing ramps at church premises.

- **Influencing harmful beliefs** – Wukwashi's advocacy for children with disabilities is changing attitudes towards them. Gradually, children with disabilities are being seen and treated differently, within individual communities and wider Zambian society.

Figures

Wukwashi typically engages over 779 children per quarter, with many families benefiting from more than one aspect of their work. The team also reaches large (but hugely varying) numbers of adults every quarter, through its training and advocacy initiatives.

BCT donated £18,885.73 to Wukwashi this year.

How BCT has benefited Wukwashi this year

- Ongoing support, advice and guidance from BCT staff, by email, phone, Zoom and WhatsApp.
- Focused guidance in formulating strategy and annual plans.
- Provision of resource material, including 'Transform Disability' and 'Let's Grow!'
- Funding for:
  - Running 16 weekly support groups for disabled children and their parents.
  - Assessing children's mobility needs and sourcing mobility aids and wheelchairs as needed.
  - Arranging visits to support groups by doctors from local hospitals, to assess children for medical and surgical interventions.
  - Engaging physiotherapists to visit the support groups and treat the children.
  - A five-day training workshop for 80 support group leaders, covering first aid, feeding and ergonomics.
  - Annual visits to support groups to encourage and train the leaders and monitor progress.
  - A forum event for 350 parents of disabled children.
  - Recruiting new volunteers.
  - Staff training, administration, record-keeping and travel expenses.

Alice's story

Alice has Down's syndrome. When she was born, her mother was given advice on how to care for a child with Down's syndrome. It was difficult for her to accept that Alice is her child and she kept her hidden away. Alice's mother met a volunteer from one of the Wukwashi support groups in Zambia. The volunteer invited Alice and her mother to the support group. Alice received physiotherapy, play therapy and speech therapy. She is doing well in all aspects of her development. At the support group, her mother met other parents with disabled children and was able to talk about how she was feeling. Alice is now part of her community and is flourishing.

BCT donated £18,885.73 to **Wukwashi** this year

Connecting with others

Connecting with others around the issue of children accused of witchcraft

Witchcraft accusations – and the abuse which accompanies them – affect thousands of children worldwide. BCT remains committed to the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition, raising awareness of child witch accusations and mobilising churches in affected communities to take action to protect vulnerable children. It does this through direct guidance and support and through using SCWA's training tool 'The Heart of the Matter'. Carolyn Gent has continued in her role as Chair this year, with Lyn Edwards and Susie Howe also serving on the Steering Committee, and BCT as an organisation is integral to SCWA's activities.

SCWA is collaborating with a team on the ground in Calabar, Nigeria, and with LVLE in Goma, DR Congo. The Calabar team trained its first group of pastors in the city in 2021, and has now extended the work with a second five day training in a rural area outside Calabar called Odukpani. The team systematically follows-up with the groups of pastors who have been trained, monitoring how they pass on the teaching in their respective churches and communities, and providing encouragement and refresher trainings as required. Those who have received training are also continuing to network together, sharing ideas and experiences. The team has also decided to take the teaching into local secondary schools, as one of the trained pastors is a school governor, and is able to provide a pathway in. LVLE's work in Goma has been described in more detail above. 'The Heart of the Matter' teaching has reached literally thousands of adults and children this year, and has prompted active interventions in the cases of numerous specific children who were suffering as a result of being accused.

This is crucial work in an area where witchcraft accusations against children – and associated abuse – are rife. These are the first steps in transforming the prevailing attitudes and thus making these communities safe places for children to grow.

The collaboration with Salvation Army has grown and deepened. SCWA has been able to train members of the Salvation Army's child protection team, and will be running a pilot training with team members on the ground in the Niger region of Nigeria, with a view to rolling out the programme in six African nations in the coming year or two. The Salvation Army is now represented on the SCWA Steering Committee.

SCWA's involvement with the UN has continued, too. The UN Human Right's Council's Resolution calling for the Elimination of harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks has been followed by the Pan African Parliament's Guidelines, issues this year, for the implementation of the Resolution. In addition, the team in Calabar has campaigned successfully for the passing of a local law making it a punishable offence in Cross River State to accuse children of witchcraft.

'The Heart of the Matter' continues to be an effective training resource in addressing child witch accusations. We have produced a further resource on 'Dreams', which are often misinterpreted in the context of accusations. And combatting witchcraft-related abuse remains an essential strand of LVLE's work in DRC (see p14).

Mobilising resources

Financial resources are essential to enable our project partners to continue and develop their work. BCT therefore provides each project with funding, to help enable its work. However, this is not a simple matter of handing each of our partners a blank cheque. We work together with each partner in drawing up an annual plan and budget, and we provide targeted funding for the most strategically important areas of their work. Quarterly reports from our partners then help us to monitor how this funding is being used.

BCT must, in turn, raise funding from a variety of sources. This funding largely comes from individuals, from churches and from a few grant-making trusts. We also welcome income from fundraising events, as and when they occur.

Effective communication is essential in encouraging members of the public to give to BCT – and to support us through prayer and advocacy. Our website, print publications and social media channels all enable us to showcase BCT's work, engage a wider audience and encourage new supporters to get involved.

BCT's approach to fundraising is outlined in detail on p5 of this report.

Prayer support

Prayer is BCT's engine. It drives our work and it is at the heart of everything we do. For example, we prioritise prayer within our UK team's meetings, and we always pray for our project partners within our conversations with them. It is also a huge encouragement to us to have a network of supporters who pray regularly for BCT, for our project partners and for the children they serve. 273 of our supporters pray for us regularly, using our Bethany News and Prayer Magazine, and we have 158 prayer partners who receive ad hoc prayer requests by email.

Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors are elite level BCT supporters. They represent BCT within their churches and communities, raising awareness of issues affecting marginalised children and mobilising prayer for BCT. When circumstances allow it our Ambassadors also sometimes organise fundraising events. We meet with our Ambassadors on Zoom to pray, share ideas and encourage one another.

2022/23 Income and Expenditure

General

Each year, BCT endeavours to set a realistic income and expenditure budget, in line with its goals and objectives. BCT is prudent with its financial management and knows that it cannot achieve its goals and objectives in supporting projects, raising awareness and networking with churches and other agencies, without the generosity and loyal commitment of its supporters in their various forms: trusts and foundations, businesses, churches and individuals.

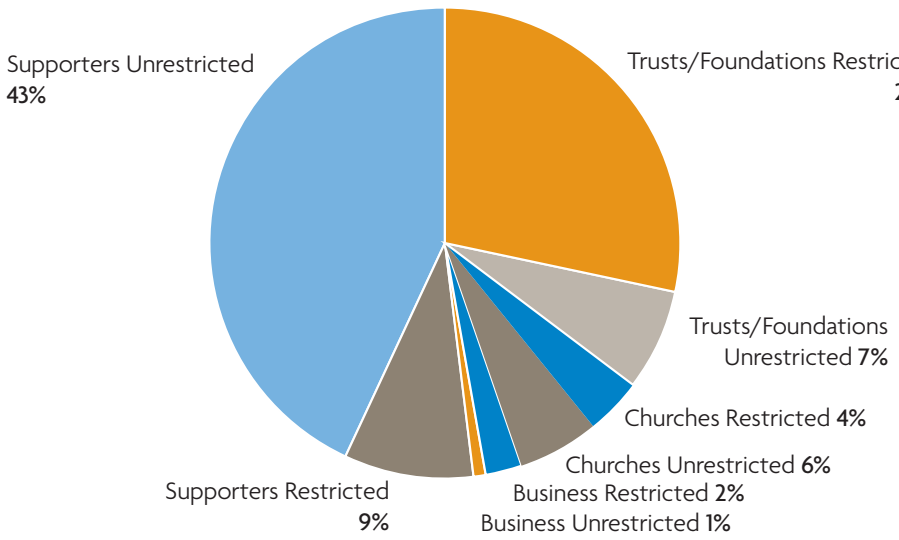
Income

BCT's total income in 2022/23 was £132,773, a year-on-year fall of £9,579 (-6.73%). This was the result of a £12,868 drop in unrestricted income being partly offset by a £3,289 increase in restricted income. Given the position of the UK economy generally and the exceptionally high level of inflation in particular, the net reduction was fully expected because of the inevitable squeeze on disposable incomes. Moreover, we have taken a cautious view in budgeting for income in 2023/24.

With regard to the primary sources of income in 2022/23, donations from Trusts and Foundations fell from £48,609 to £47,186 (-2.93%), those from churches decreased from £17,146 to £12,493 (-27.14%) and those from supporters fell from £72,397 to £68,747 (-5.04%). Conversely, donations from businesses rose marginally from £4,200 to £4,347 (+3.50%)

An analysis of income by primary source and fund is given below:

	Trusts/ Foundations Restricted	Trusts/ Foundations Unrestricted	Churches Restricted	Churches Unrestricted	Business Restricted	Business Unrestricted	Supporters Restricted	Supporters Unrestricted	Total
2022/23	£37,826	£9,360	£5,061	£7,432	£3,090	£1,257	£11,582	£57,165	£132,773
2021/22	£31,749	£16,860	£6,345	£10,801	£3,000	£1,200	£13,176	£59,221	£142,352

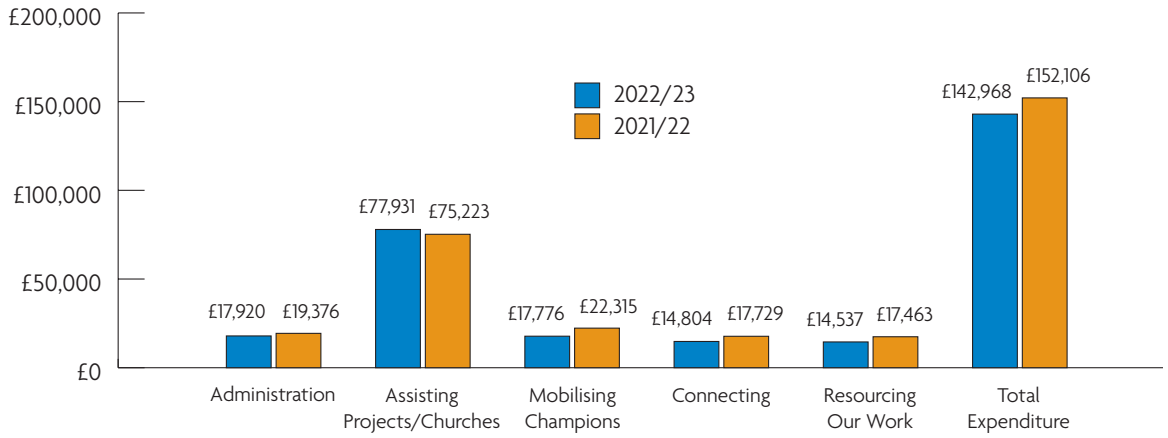


Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2022/23 was £142,968, a decrease of £9,138 (-6.01%) from 2021/22. The decrease came from a £12,696 drop in spend from unrestricted funds being partly offset by an increase in restricted spend of £3,558. Most of the former was a combination of cost savings from bringing our communications work in-house and a year-on-year reduction in website costs. Wonderfully, most of the latter was the cost of our first overseas trip to any of our project partners since before the pandemic, visiting both APRECOM and LVLE in July 2023. Details of what was achieved on the trip are given in other parts of this report.

We take very careful consideration of our fund levels when making decisions on disbursements and spending on core costs. We continue our direct participation in, and giving financial support towards vital work for the ultimate benefit of some of the most marginalised children. Our biggest expenditure area continues to be the assisting and training of BCT's partner projects and churches to meet the needs of children at risk in their communities. Spend on this in 2022/23 reached £77,931, i.e. 54.51% of the overall total. Across the other expenditure categories there was a net year-on-year decrease of £11,846.

	Administration	Assisting Projects/ Churches	Mobilising Champions	Connecting	Resourcing Our Work	Total Expenditure
2022/23	£17,920	£77,931	£17,776	£14,804	£14,537	£142,968
2021/22	£19,376	£75,223	£22,315	£17,729	£17,463	£152,106



Looking forwards

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up". (Galatians 6:9)

Looking back over the last year, good things have been happening, even in incredibly tough circumstances for our project partners. The lives of some of the most marginalised children have been impacted positively, by the grace of God. Through the dedication, skill and creativity of our project partners, staff and volunteers, together with those who give BCT their time, skills, prayers and financial support, lives are being changed for the better.

We have no doubt that our faithful God will continue to guide and provide for our work, and through it will transform children, families and communities. We look forward to the year ahead with faith and expectation. The circumstances in which our partners work continue to be difficult and challenging. However, by God's strength we and they are willing to meet the challenges ahead. We will press on into the next year in the knowledge of the vital importance of BCT's work, in full assurance of God's faithfulness. There's hard work ahead, with lean resources and with risks, but we continue forward with perseverance trusting that Christ, in his love, will bring in the harvest of transformed lives.

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on 21st June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Gill Bradley
Chair of Trustees

The Bethany Children's Trust Report and Accounts

year ended 31 August 2023

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 on pages 28 to 37 following which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 30 and 31.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirements under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

(1) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;

(2) follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011;

(3) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement

This report is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 a review of the accounts and making such enquiries as are necessary for the purpose of this report. 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.

Examiner's Statement

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records, or comply with the accounting requirement of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my notice in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Archie McDowall BA, CA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

25 June 2024

The Bethany Children's Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	75,060	57,559	132,619	142,340
Investments	3	154	0	154	12
Total income and endowments		75,214	57,559	132,773	142,352
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	64,109	64,322	128,431	134,643
Raising funds	5	14,479	58	14,537	17,463
Total expenditure		78,588	64,380	142,968	152,106
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,374)	(6,821)	(10,195)	(9,754)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
		(3,374)	(6,821)	(10,195)	(9,754)
Net movement in funds		(3,374)	(6,821)	(10,195)	(9,754)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		66,110	44,276	110,386	120,140
Total funds carried forward		62,736	37,455	100,191	110,386

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	7	0	0	0	957
Tangible assets	7	598	0	598	514
		598	0	598	1,471
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	9,310	0	9,310	14,360
Cash at bank	9	56,822	37,455	94,277	97,915
		66,132	37,455	103,587	112,275
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Liabilities falling due within one year	10	3,994	0	3,994	3,360
Net Current Assets		62,138	37,455	99,593	108,915
NET ASSETS		62,736	37,455	100,191	110,386
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted funds	12				
General Funds		62,736	0	62,736	66,110
Restricted Funds	12	0	37,455	37,455	44,276
		62,736	37,455	100,191	110,386

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 21st June 2024 by:

Gill Bradley, Chair

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Statutory Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page of the trustees' annual report.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. In making this assessment the trustees have considered how Covid-19 might affect projections.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

ii) The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly those involving connection with our project partners, connection with other organisations and individuals in the furtherance of our aims, and the writing and provision of training resources. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

iii) Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be reliably measured.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) Intangible fixed assets

The cost of software is capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, which is expected to be 3 years.

f) Tangible fixed assets

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £100 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Equipment	Over 2 to 3 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

g) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 **Voluntary income**	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General donations and legacies	70,957	56,272	127,229	136,079
Tax recoverable	4,103	1,287	5,390	6,261
	75,060	57,559	132,619	142,340
Other income				
Bank interest	154	–	154	12
Total Incoming Resources	75,214	57,559	132,773	142,352

4 **Charitable activity**		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
a Direct Charitable Costs					
Assisting Churches	*Note 4c*	13,892	64,039	77,931	75,223
Connecting		14,745	58	14,803	17,729
Mobilising Champions		17,718	58	17,776	22,315
		46,356	64,155	110,511	115,267
		£	£	£	£
b Support & Administration					
Governance costs		1,965		1,965	1,583
GDPR compliance		35		35	40
Salaries and pension costs		11,614		11,614	11,210
Office rent & services		132		132	127
I.T., telephone and postage		1,402		1,402	2,362
Office supplies		39		39	30
Travel costs		44	59	103	72
Insurance		204		204	219
Professional Fees		450		450	230
Recruitment		27		27	58
Depreciation		1,550	108	1,658	3,226
Sundry		291		291	219
		17,753	167	17,920	19,376
Combined charitable activity cost		64,109	64,322	128,431	134,643

The fee payable to the independent examiner for examining the accounts was £1,860 (2022: £1,824); in addition the charity paid £654 (2022: £635) to Stewardship for payroll bureau services.

c Grants	Institutions £	Individuals £	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis by receiving project/appeal				
APRECOM	9,925		9,925	11,511
Transformation Resources	7,036		7,036	7,982
Stop Child Witch Accusation	13,471		13,471	7,992
Wukwashi	18,886		18,886	17,405
LVLE	11,302		11,302	12,749
Food Security campaign	500		500	3,027
Nyiragongo appeal	250		250	3
	61,370	0	61,370	60,669

4 Charitable activity *(continued)*	Institutions £	Individuals £	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis by key purpose				
Awareness raising	6,322		6,322	1,868
Training	25,548		25,548	25,553
Medical	7,250		7,250	10,950
Covid response	0		0	5,400
Food & sanitisation resources	2,350		2,350	0
Transport	598		598	518
Parent/Family support	2,364		2,364	48
Child/Young person support & empowerment	5,700		5,700	4,090
Enterprise	100		100	335
School Fees	399		399	1,927
Administration	10,739		10,739	9,980
	61,370	0	61,370	60,669

Within 'Assisting Churches' are grants made to projects. The main features of the grants made were to provide practical support and finance to children's projects in Africa in three locations with the key purposes being as allocated above.

5 Fundraising costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Salaries and pension costs	11,613		11,613	11,210
Communication services	913		913	3,264
Travel costs	50	58	108	72
Printing and stationery	39		39	30
IT Costs	1,081		1,081	2,051
Telephone	301		301	278
Storage	59		59	55
Insurance	204		204	218
Training, Conferences & meetings	7		7	43
Postage & mailbox hire	92		92	105
Governance	0		0	0
Recruitment	27		27	58
Miscellaneous	93		93	79
	14,479	58	14,537	17,463

6 Staff & Trustees	2023 £	2022 £
Gross wages, salaries & benefits in kind	55,742	53,801
Employer's National Insurance costs	3,986	3,858
Employer's Allowance	(3,986)	(3,858)
Employer's Pension Contributions	1,672	1,614
Total staff costs	57,414	55,415

During the year the charity had 3 full time equivalent employed staff (2022: 3). No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum (2022: none).

Remuneration payable to key management (excluding trustees) amounted to £42,278 in the year (2022: £39,603). Currently, key management is considered to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance Manager.

6 Staff & Trustees *(continued)*

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year. No trustee received reimbursement for expenses incurred on BCT's behalf (2022: Nil). Simeon Whiting, the son of trustee Hazel Whiting, invoiced BCT a total of £2,879 during the year for communication services provided to the charity (2022: £9,890).

The total amount of donations funded by trustees [and connected parties] and key management was £5,217 (2022: £521).

7 Fixed Assets

Intangible Fixed Assets	**Website**	**Total 2023**
	£	**£**
Cost		
At 1st September 2022	5,744	5,744
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2023	5,744	5,744
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1st September 2022	4,787	4,787
Charge for the year	957	957
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2023	5,744	5,744
Net book value		
At 31st August 2023	0	0
At 1st September 2022	957	957

Tangible Fixed Assets	**Computer & Software**	**Furniture & Equipment**	**Total 2023**
	£	**£**	**£**
At 1st September 2022	4,943	120	5,063
Additions	785	0	785
Disposals	(135)	0	(135)
At 31st August 2023	5,593	120	5,713
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1st September 2022	4,456	93	4,549
Charge for the year	674	27	701
Disposals	(135)	0	(135)
At 31st August 2023	4,995	120	5,115
Net book value			
At 31st August 2023	598	0	598
At 1st September 2022	487	27	514

8 Debtors and Prepayments

	2023 £	2022 £
Income tax receivable	8,395	10,586
Sundry Debtors	16	7
Prepayments	899	3,767
	9,310	14,360

9 Cash at Bank and in Hand

Co-operative Bank	77,902	81,936
NatWest Bank	16,275	15,879
Petty cash	100	100
	94,277	97,915

10 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

Trade Creditors	1,476	752
Accruals	2,518	2,608
	3,994	3,360

11 Multi-year contract commitments

The charity had a five year contract with Academia Ltd for the provision of cloud services which commenced on 1 May 2020. It had an option to terminate the contract after three years. The charity decided to take up that option and the contract ended on 30th April 2023. Nothing was paid in the year in respect of this contract (2022: £5,027).

	2023 £	2022 £
Payments falling due:		
Within one year	–	5,027
Between one and five years	–	5,027
After five years	–	–
	–	10,054

12 Funds

a The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year are as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,328	0	(341)		987
APRECOM	6,107	12,148	(11,548)		6,707
LVLE	4,741	13,561	(12,348)		5,954
Stop Child Witch Accusation	9,497	10,832	(13,471)	544	7,400
Transformation Resources	7,843	5,000	(7,036)	(544)	5,264
Wukwashi (Zambia)	13,088	15,268	(18,886)		9,471
Food Security campaign	1,423	750	(500)		1,673
Nyiragongo appeal	250	0	(250)		0
	44,276	57,559	(64,380)	0	37,455

12 Funds *(continued)*

With the exception of Administration, the movement on each of the above funds reflects donations received and disbursements and expenditures made in the financial year in respect of activities carried out by the named project or in accordance with the named appeal or campaign. Funds unused at the end of the year are carried forward. A description of the purpose of the other funds and the nature of the restriction can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

The Administration fund is solely in respect of donations received for non project-related and non appeal or campaign-related purposes. The movement on this fund in the year concerned two items. Firstly, in financial year 2019/20 a donation of £650 was received towards the cost of incorporating a specific facility in our website.The website is being depreciated over a period of 3 years and £108 is this year's depreciation charge for the facility in question. Secondly, £1,220 of the Administration fund's opening balance are unused funds carried forward from previous years and are specifically restricted to cover the cost of BCT staff team social activities as and when incurred. £233 was incurred this year on travel costs when attending a staff team day in January 2023. The closing balance is again carried forward.

For comparison, movements in restricted funds in the year to 31st August 2022 are reproduced below:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,545	0	(217)		1,328
APRECOM	7,878	9,739	(11,511)		6,107
LVLE	10,528	6,935	(12,722)		4,741
Stop Child Witch Accusation	5,946	11,543	(7,992)		9,497
Transformation Resources	11,193	4,595	(7,945)		7,843
Wukwashi (Zambia)	13,486	17,007	(17,405)		13,088
Food Security campaign	0	4,450	(3,027)		1,423
Nyiragongo appeal	253	0	(3)		250
	50,828	54,270	(60,822)	0	44,276

b The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	37,455	–	37,455
Unrestricted funds	598	56,822	5,316	62,736
	598	94,277	5,316	100,191

For comparison, the assets and liabilities represented by the various funds as at 31st August 2022 are reproduced below:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	44,276	–	44,276
Unrestricted funds	1,471	53,639	11,000	66,110
	1,471	97,915	11,000	110,386

13 Events since the year end

On 17th November 2023 Mr Geoff Walls stepped down as trustee after four years on the Board.

On 24th January 2024 Mrs Ruth Ejvet stepped down as Chair and trustee after four years on the board. Mrs Gill Bradley, trustee, has taken over as Chair.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	75,060	88,070	57,559	54,270	132,619	142,340
Investments	3	154	12	0	0	154	12
Total income and endowments		75,214	88,082	57,559	54,270	132,773	142,352
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	4	64,109	73,821	64,322	60,822	128,431	134,643
Raising funds	5	14,479	17,463	58	0	14,537	17,463
Total expenditure		78,588	91,284	64,380	60,822	142,968	152,106
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,374)	(3,202)	(6,821)	(6,552)	(10,195)	(9,754)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0	0
		(3,374)	(3,202)	(6,821)	(6,552)	(10,195)	(9,754)
Net movement in funds		(3,374)	(3,202)	(6,821)	(6,552)	(10,195)	(9,754)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		66,110	69,312	44,276	50,828	110,386	120,140
Total funds carried forward		62,736	66,110	37,455	44,276	100,191	110,386

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on page 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

APPENDIX 1

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the day-to-day running of BCT, and all staff and volunteers report to her. In collaboration with her team, the CEO draws up BCT's annual goals and objectives, taking into account the charity commission's Public Benefit Requirement and BCT's vision and mission, and annual budget. These are then passed to BCT's trustees for discussion, revision and final approval.

The CEO makes recommendations to the trustees at their quarterly meetings, in respect of BCT's policies, procedures, disbursement of monies to BCT's project partners and selection of new project partners.

The trustees are responsible for final decision-making in respect of the above. In all aspects of decisions related to BCT's objectives and activities, they take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

Appointment of BCT Trustees

Potential candidates for BCT trusteeship are given a job description and are required to complete and submit an application form and two references. Suitable candidates are then invited for an initial interview. At least two BCT trustees, one of whom must be the BCT Chair, are present at this interview. A proposal is then made to the board of trustees to appoint the successful candidate. This appointment must be ratified at a meeting of the board of trustees, according to Article 14 of the Declaration of Trust.

Successful candidates are given a full set of all BCT's policies, procedures and foundational documents, as well as a copy of the governing Deed of Trust document. They are also given the minutes of the four previous meetings of the board of trustees, a copy of the Charity Commission's guide, 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know' and a copy of the 'Charities and Public Benefit' document. All trustees are required to read BCT's Safeguarding Policy and sign a commitment to upholding it. All new trustees are required to spend an induction day, meeting all members of staff and discussing their roles, and are also required to enhance their knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to children at risk through the reading materials provided to them, and by attending study days or conferences from time to time. Pertinent reports and best practice papers are forwarded to BCT trustees, so that they maintain an awareness of issues that may affect their decision-making.

Appraisal of BCT Trustees

All trustees are required to fulfil a six-month probationary period followed by a review.

Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the term of office is for three years, followed by an appraisal. Trustees can then stand for a further term of office if the appraisal is satisfactory. BCT trustees are also required to undergo an appraisal after 18 months in office. The reviews are facilitated by the Chair and one other trustee. The term of office for the Chair of Trustees is 3 years, with an appraisal at 18 months.

None of BCT's trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work with BCT.

Risk Management

BCT recognises the need, as well as responsibility, to assess all of its activities against risk, in line with the Charity Commission's 'Statement Of Recommended Practice 2005' (SORP 2005). BCT's Risk Management Policy demonstrates potential risks, the steps taken to mitigate or remove them, and BCT's commitment to on-going monitoring and assessment. BCT has also drawn up a Business Continuity Plan as part of its Risk Management Policy. The greatest current risk is economic sustainability in light of the global economic climate, but BCT's trustees confirm that they have reviewed BCT's accounts on a monthly basis and put in place a strategy for on-going fundraising and increasing income for sustainability.

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They 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.

APPENDIX 2

Reserves Policy

(Based on Article 19 of a meeting of BCT trustees, dated 2nd March 2002. Latest amendment by agreement of BCT trustees, 22nd November 2023.)

At any one time, BCT will, as a minimum, maintain an unrestricted fund reserve of at least £32,367. Funds pertaining to any reserve may be retained in one or more BCT accounts. The purpose of the unrestricted fund reserve is to:

- Maintain an adequate level of unrestricted funds to provide security against unforeseen liabilities and funding changes, and;
- For a period of at least three months, meet BCT's running costs if it experiences unforeseen financial difficulties or is in a position where it will soon cease to operate as a charity.

BCT will endeavour to have appropriately disbursed restricted donations no later than six months after the end of the previous financial year.

Grant-making Policy

(Based on Article 18 of the minutes of a meeting of the BCT trustees on 2nd March 2002).

BCT has a Grant Making Policy that outlines criteria for issuing grants to projects and or individuals, the procedure for issuing grants and the review of grants. This policy is reviewed at set intervals, as are all BCT's policies.

Registered Office:
Office 214, Hill House,
210 Upper Richmond Road,
London SW15 6NP
www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1073817

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1073817

Accounts

The Bethany Children's Trust

Annual Report to 31 August 2022

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

Charity information

Trustees of The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT)

Mrs Gill Bradley
Mrs Ruth Ejvet
Ms Rose Ndolo
Mr Geoff Walls
Mrs Hazel Whiting

Chief Executive Officer

Lyn Edwards

Governing Document

Trust Deed dated 23 December 1998, as amended 5 December 2003
Charity Registration Number 1073817

Registered Office

Office 214, Hill House, 210 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 6NP

Website

www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall, BA, CA, Stewardship, 1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
Head Office
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Natwest
Bracknell Branch
5 High Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DH

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

BCT is dedicated to mobilising Christians to respond to the needs of children at risk.

Our vision is to see the Christian church leading the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, safe, valued, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential. Through teaching, training, advice, networking and financial support, BCT equips project partners to help restore the lives of marginalised and vulnerable children and to bring about changes in the attitudes, practices and situations that harm them. These marginalised children include those affected by abuse, exploitation, HIV, homelessness, disability and poverty.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Annual Report to 31 August 2022

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Letter from the Chair of Trustees

As you will see when you read through this Annual Report, The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT) has continued, by the grace of God, to make significant positive impact to the lives of marginalised children and to their communities through our partnerships in the field in Zambia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Our partners have experienced such challenging circumstances related to various Covid restrictions and severe food shortages, and yet we have seen such incredible dedication, resilience, and passion demonstrated by their staff and volunteers.

I am enormously proud of our BCT staff team, and grateful for their consistent hard work, using their gifts and competence to make sure BCT is able to make a difference, and 'punch above our weight'. I am delighted that Lyn Edwards has taken up the role of CEO, and I have every confidence in her as she leads us forward. It is a joy to work with Lyn, Steve, Carolyn and Jane.

I am also immensely thankful for our faithful supporters who partner with us in this work through prayer, financial giving, fundraising, and encouragement, without whom we wouldn't be able to achieve our goals. I would like to thank every individual and organisation that has contributed towards the significant impact BCT and our partners have made throughout the year.

Our faithful God continues to provide for this work, to sustain us, and to guide and direct us. What a faithful God we serve! We praise God that in the midst of various challenges, we have not been consumed. His deep compassion for us, our supporters, and our partners, has certainly not failed us and will continue as we look forward in trust, to impact for good the lives of the most marginalised children.

After having the honour of serving as Chair of Trustees for over 3 years, I have now stepped down and handed over the reins to one of our current Trustees, Ruth Ejvet. Ruth has been inspiring to work with on the Board of Trustees. She has excellent experience and gifts that will serve her brilliantly in the role of Chair of Trustees, as well as her passion for BCT's work, and a strong and active faith in Christ.

This report has been signed by Ruth as she was already Chair at the time of signing. I remain a trustee on the Board and look forward to continuing to work with Ruth and our fellow trustees, and Lyn and the staff team.

As we face the joys and challenges ahead, we look to God for His provision of all the resources we need to fulfil all He is asking us to do.

Gill Bradley

BCT Chair of Trustees (to February 11th 2023)

BCT's Approach to Fundraising

BCT is just as committed to 'friend-raising' as to fundraising. We see building relationships with supporters and potential supporters as an integral part of raising funds to resource our own and our partners' work. Therefore, we take a no-pressure approach to fundraising. Our focus is on sharing stories of transformation, highlighting how we are making a difference to individual children and entire communities, then presenting opportunities for members of the public to support this work, if they wish to. We use printed communications, social media channels and presentations at events in order to share these stories and leave it to the public to decide what their response may be, if any. If an existing supporter wishes to cease receiving communications from BCT, they can contact either our own office or the Fundraising Preference Service and we will ensure that they no longer receive such communications.

Our policy means that we value the supporter and their wellbeing as an individual as much as any support they may be able to offer BCT. It means that we offer a range of opportunities to engage with BCT's work beyond financial support and take time and care to nurture positive relationships with them.

A small number of supporters choose to go beyond giving funds to BCT's work and become BCT Ambassadors. These Ambassadors give of their time, expertise and resources to promote BCT's work in their churches and communities, mobilising prayer and even organising their own fundraising events. We maintain close relationships with our Ambassadors, ensuring they are equipped for their efforts, up to date with good practice in fundraising, and fully aware of how grateful we are for their efforts on our behalf.

We also write fundraising applications to grant-making trusts that exist to disburse grants as they see fit.

Currently, funding is provided from a variety of sources:

Grant-making Trusts – We have a small but committed group of grant-making trusts who support us on a regular basis. Other grant-making trusts support us with occasional one-off gifts.

Supporters – We receive ongoing monthly support from many supporters, usually by standing order and direct debit, and also one-off donations. We also have long-standing relationships with a number of churches and schools, which include their supporting us financially.

Events – We occasionally arrange fundraising events or encourage our supporters to join us in taking part in fundraising events arranged by other organisations. (We ensure that any external event meets our ethical standards and faith values.) We receive funding from supporters who have raised sponsorship by taking part in such events.

Legacy Funding – We receive occasional funding by legacy donations.

Media – BCT also encourages fundraising through the promotion of its charitable activities via its communications media: print publications, online presence and social media.

BCT's vision and mission

Commitment to Public Benefit

BCT's trustees confirm that they have paid due attention to public benefit in their role of overseeing the work of BCT and are satisfied that all BCT activities meet public benefit requirements as defined by the Charity Commission's general guidelines. Everything BCT has done in the period covered by this report has been to bring benefit to the lives of our key beneficiaries – children at risk – by influencing, equipping and enabling churches, Christian projects and individuals to respond to their needs, and to address root issues, beliefs and practices that harm them.

Summary of BCT's objects, as set out in its Declaration of Trust

a) To relieve persons, particularly children who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are sick, and to relieve the distress caused thereby in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

b) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with BCT's Statement of Beliefs in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

c) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate.

BCT's Vision…

…is to equip the Christian Church to lead the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, valued, safe, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential.

BCT's Mission…

…is to mobilise a Christian response to the needs of the most marginalised children. We work wherever God leads us, strengthening the capacity of churches to lead their communities in caring for children and addressing the roots of beliefs, practices and circumstances that harm them. We work with churches directly, through local project partners and by networking and collaborating with other organisations.

How BCT has benefited marginalised children

We assisted churches and Christian organisations to develop initiatives to bring about holistic transformation in the lives of vulnerable children

BCT exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children. We believe wholeheartedly that every child is created in God's image and therefore inherently precious. And we believe that every child should be loved, cared for and enabled to fulfil their God-given potential. Therefore, we actively seek out the most marginalised of children – the ones who slip through the net, who are neglected by their communities and whose suffering goes unnoticed because they are hidden away or overlooked – and we act to see their lives changed, practically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We believe in the Church. We believe churches are uniquely placed to influence change on a local basis, and that they understand their communities, their children and the most important local issues far better than we do. So, local churches are our focus. We seek to equip churches to reach their own communities, rather than doing it for them, so that they will continue to influence godly transformation even many years into the future. We connect with and equip churches directly through our *Transformation Resources*, and indirectly through our project partners.

Note: Before the pandemic, it was our longstanding habit to visit each of our overseas project partners at least once every two years. COVID has made such visits impossible. However, we have remained in close contact with our project partners by phone, WhatsApp and email, and this technology has enabled us to provide support, encouragement and detailed guidance. Our partners have also continued to provide quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports, which give us valuable insights into how their work is progressing.

Enabling projects to develop strategically and according to good practice

Our project partners are extraordinary people. They do incredible work, often in the harshest of circumstances and with minimal material reward. They are determined, courageous and deeply committed. We're privileged to work with them, fight battles together and see young lives changed. However, a significant part of our deep commitment to our partners is to identify ways in which their already excellent work could be strengthened. So, drawing on over 20 years' experience, we work alongside our partners to help them in formulating strategies which will enable them to meet their communities' most acute needs. We help them to make the most of the resources and personnel available to them, and to operate in line with best practice in safeguarding and project management, in order to reach and serve marginalised children as effectively as possible.

Enabling projects to monitor and evaluate their work and to be accountable

Monitoring and evaluation are vital in helping our UK team to understand our partners' work. So, we equip our partners to report on their own work: to highlight the measurable outcomes from their efforts and show which areas of their work are most effective and fruitful. Their quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports help us to offer our partners specific advice on how to refine their approach. And partly based on our partners' reports, we work with each of them to devise an annual plan and budget which supports and emphasises the most effective areas of their work.

Creating resources to challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs

BCT is increasingly focusing on creating resources, in order to respond to issues that can lead to the abuse and neglect of children and to strengthen families and communities. Our resources address pressure points, such as food insecurity, physical and mental health, disability, stigma and the pressure on family relationships, with a view to helping individuals, families and communities to thrive, because that is how children are also best able to thrive. These are issues that have been raised both within the communities we serve and in our wider networks, so we know that we are responding to felt needs.

Providing local churches with resources to train their communities makes important ideas accessible to a much wider audience than if we simply delivered the training ourselves. It has the potential to exponentially increase our impact.

These insights have led us to create *Transformation Resources*. These resources address child abuse by unpacking the attitudes and beliefs which cause it. 'Transform Disability' addresses misconceptions about disability and disabled children, 'Transform Families' encourages positive parenting by discussing common views on family life, and 'Let's Grow!' tackles food insecurity through addressing lack of knowledge about nutrition and agriculture. BCT staff have also been involved in creating resources for the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition (see pages 20-21), which explore biblical perspectives on physical and mental health, sickness and healing.

All of the completed *Transformation Resources* material is available for download, absolutely free, through our website. And each element of the resources is piloted through trusted churches and Christian agencies – including our project partners – before being released for general use. The latest developments on *Transformation Resources* are outlined on Page 17 of this report.

Provision of training

As part of our commitment to strengthen and add value to our partners' work, we help them to identify areas in which they would benefit from training, and we then enable them to access training which meets their needs. This either involves delivering the training ourselves or, where the training requires a specialism, we do not have within the organisation, helping our partners to access training from an alternative provider . For example, the Tanari Trust has delivered training in creating positive relationships for APRECOM staff and volunteers, to strengthen and inform their work with children and teenagers.

For the past two years, COVID has made face-to-face training very difficult, and overseas travel has been all but impossible. However, we have still been able to provide our partners with standalone training materials which we have created (most notably on COVID, health and healing, mental health issues, and principles for agriculture and nutrition). We also created an opportunity to share expertise and good practice through the SCWA online forum in October.

Enabling networking

Our partners' work can often be enhanced by connecting with other organisations and individuals who support marginalised children: either agencies who work in a similar geographical area to them, or who might be further afield but focus on similar issues. Whenever we become aware of a potentially fruitful connection, we encourage our partners to pursue it. In this way, both parties can benefit from sharing ideas and experiences.

Similarly, we help our partners to identify potential new financial backers, so that they will be better resourced. In the end, we aim for all of our partners to reach a stage where they no longer need BCT's support and are able to operate independently.

Enabling projects to access information resources

Our UK team often has access to professional networks and information which our project partners do not. Therefore, we ensure that our partners can access important and useful resources by emailing them electronic documents or links to websites where such documents are available.

Provision of finances, encouragement and prayer support

We often marvel at how much our partners can achieve on a shoestring budget. However, they still need financial support in order to operate. We work closely with each of our partners to identify their most strategically important activities. We then indicate at the start of the year which activities we intend to fund and at what level, to enable our partners to plan. Although this funding is subject to fundraising, we are invariably able to meet our commitments in this way.

Alongside the provision of funds, we also support our partners in regular prayer and in ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice through email and WhatsApp contact.

BCT supports and partners with projects that are:

- Community-based, church-led or parachurch, if working significantly with churches.
- Working with the most marginalised children, who are significantly at risk in the context within which they live, due to abuse and prevailing circumstances.
- Addressing roots of harmful beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- Equipping local people to meet their own needs.
- Working with replicable and sustainable models or who desire to.
- Working with locally appropriate solutions to local problems.
- Focussing on Child Protection and Children's Rights.
- Emphasising the empowerment and support of parents/guardians and young people.
- Willing to collaborate and network with others.
- Willing to be accountable through monitoring and evaluation and impact measurement of their work; good financial reporting and good, open communication.
- Actively raising awareness within churches and communities of issues or an issue that is harmful to children, or desire to do so.
- Willing to progress and develop.
- Willing to be a voice on behalf of marginalised children or those at risk of abuse and/or to enable the children's voices to be heard directly.
- In under-resourced, neglected or isolated areas where marginalised children are exceptionally vulnerable and where there is little service provision.

Case study: Jan

Photo: APRECOM's Odeth with Jan.

Raising Jan was a lonely journey for her mother. Jan is living with both physical and mental disabilities and is unable to walk. She's 17 but extremely small for her age.

Jan's mum has struggled to cope and the pandemic has brought extra pressure, including food shortages. But through an APRECOM support group in Kajera, led by church volunteers, Jan and her mother have found loving, unconditional support. It's made all the difference in the world to know there are people who care.

Even though COVID has meant support groups have not been able to meet in Kajera, the volunteers, led by Mama Keven, have continued to visit families like Jan's at home. Their input has been lifechanging: they are helping parents free themselves from addiction, building self-esteem among teenage girls, restoring hope among families living with HIV and disability.

These successes have given fresh impetus to the APRECOM team to train more churches to support families affected by HIV or disability. And churches feel motivated to help more families because of the impact they're having – without needing further support from the government or APRECOM.

BCT by numbers

200 children affected by HIV are members of Inshuti Nziza clubs in Rwanda.

35 marginalised teenage girls have been provided with mentoring and life skills training.

37 church leaders in Kajera attended quarterly training in child protection and disability awareness.

75 members of Synergie cells were trained to address witchcraft-related abuse in their communities.

Up to **17** street-living children per quarter have been enabled to return to their families.

100+ new gardens have been planted in Goma, to improve families' nutrition.

90 phone calls from listeners during and after each radio programme on COVID, hosted by LVLE.

Our *Transformation Resources* files have been downloaded **112** times.

7 children per quarter have received wheelchairs and **45** received support shoes from Wukwashi.

250 children with disabilities have received physiotherapy, every quarter.

16 weekly support groups for Zambian children living with disabilities, and their parents.

APRECOM
(AIDS Prevention Care and Outreach Ministry)

Based in:	**Kigali, Rwanda**
Run by:	**Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Rwanda**
Partnered with BCT since:	**2002**
Supports:	• **Children affected by HIV/AIDS** • **Children living with disabilities**

Context

APRECOM was established in response to the AIDS epidemic in Rwanda. Millions of Rwandans had been diagnosed HIV+ but had little or no access to support, advice or medication. APRECOM has addressed these needs since its inception, and continues to do so, through children's clubs; advice, counselling and vocational guidance for young people; and support groups and practical helps for parents.

More recently, APRECOM has become aware of the huge numbers of Rwandan children with disabilities, and the lack of understanding and access to essential services which they contend with on a daily basis. APRECOM has therefore added a second strand to its work, advocating for the rights and needs of disabled children and equipping churches to serve and welcome children with disabilities in their own communities.

APRECOM has previously worked extensively in Kigali, but the initiatives there are now self-sustaining, allowing the team to focus its resources in other areas of the country, especially Bukora, Bugesera and Kajera.

Key activities

- **Training churches to care for children** – Churches in Bugesera and Kigali have received quarterly training in child protection and the inclusion of children with disabilities. These churches have, in turn, been encouraged to pass on their training to others.

- **Outreach to children with disabilities** – Bugesera churches are now identifying children with disabilities in their communities and offering their families help and support. This support includes regular gatherings for such families.

- **Combatting child abuse** – APRECOM has provided the 'Touch Talk' resource to churches in Bugesera and Kajera, to help them empower children to recognise and report abuse.

- **Inspiring young people with HIV** – The Inshuti Nziza Troop comprises 30 young people, living with HIV. Through the Troop, APRECOM offers vocational skills, practical advice on managing their condition, and encouragement to live in hope and make wise life choices. Similarly, the Inshuti Nziza Clubs provide vital support for nearly 200 younger children affected by HIV.

Photo: Inshuti Nziza Club at Kajera.

- **Supporting adults with HIV** – APRECOM runs support groups for HIV+ adults, in Kajera, Bukora and Kigali. These groups are a source of advice and spiritual encouragement.

- **Supporting vulnerable teenage girls** – The Queens Group welcomes 35 vulnerable teenage girls and teaches them confidence, self-respect and vocational skills. This is vital in a context where teenage girls are often drawn into abusive relationships or fall pregnant.

- **Providing essential food** – The majority of the families in APRECOM's network either rely on regular food supplies in order to take antiretroviral medication, or have had their livelihoods jeopardised by COVID, or both. Similarly, children with disabilities often struggle to absorb nutrients, so they have a particular need for regular, nutritious foods too. While searching for a more long-term solution, APRECOM is providing these families with regular deliveries of essential food items.

- **Safeguarding community nutrition** – APRECOM is modelling vital principles of agriculture and healthy nutrition, through its community gardens. The team is also teaching these principles through BCT's 'Let's Grow!' resource.

Impact

- **Practical support for disabled children** – Churches which have received training in disability awareness are taking practical steps to help and welcome disabled children, including buying wheelchairs and building ramps at their premises.

- **Safe environments for children** – Churches have a better understanding of child abuse, and have clear policies and processes to prevent and address such abuse. As a result, children in these churches are confident in reporting abuse and safe to grow and thrive. These churches are also rolling out the training to others in their networks.

- **Young people with renewed purpose** – 19 members of the Inshuti Nziza Troop have returned to school and are doing well in their studies. Four others have joined a vocational training school and are due to graduate in December 2022.

- **Secure and confident children** – The young members of the Inshuti Nziza Clubs feel welcome, accepted and that they belong. They are growing in maturity, in their friendships with one another and in their relationship with God. They are also well-equipped, through 'Touch Talk', to recognise and report abuse

- **Renewed hope for HIV+ adults** – The members of APRECOM's adult support groups feel accepted, well supported and equipped to make wise decisions in handling their condition. And they are providing practical care and support for one another, including help when hospital care is needed.

- **Teenage girls encouraged and empowered** – 28 teenage girls are playing active roles and taking on key responsibilities in their churches. Five girls with new-born babies, who had been ostracised by their families, received counselling and guidance and were reunited with their families.

- **100 healthy families** – Through APRECOM's food deliveries, 100 vulnerable families are healthier and better nourished. (Also, those of them affected by HIV are better able to tolerate their medication.)

- **Communities equipped to feed themselves** – Through APRECOM's 'Let's Grow!' training and model gardens, whole communities are better placed to grow nutritious crops and ensure their children are well fed. 35 families have benefited directly from the harvest from APRECOM's gardens.

Photo: The garden at Bukora.

Figures

In any given quarter, APRECOM offers support to up to 280 children and 174 adults.

BCT donated £11,510.50 to APRECOM this year.

We also donated £3,027.61 as part of BCT's efforts to address food scarcity in our project partners' communities.

How BCT has benefited APRECOM this year

- Ongoing support and advice, by email and WhatsApp.
- Detailed guidance on formulating annual plans and evaluating and developing the work.
- Information resources.
- Funding for:
    - Quarterly training seminars in 11 churches in Bugesera, on child protection and disability awareness.
    - Supporting churches in Bugesera to develop child protection policies and procedures.
    - Quarterly training for 6 churches in Kajera (37 leaders) on child protection and care for children with disabilities.
    - Quarterly training for 8 other churches on child protection and disability awareness.

- Training 50 church leaders and volunteers in Gahanga to set up and run support groups for disabled children.
- Quarterly meetings for 55 young people, to provide mentoring, spiritual guidance and training in agriculture and nutrition.
- Providing the 'Touch Talk' resource to churches with child protection policies, along with training on how to use the resource with children.
- Monthly meetings for 55-60 teenage girls, to equip them with life and vocational skills.
- Maintaining community gardens in Bukora and Kajera.
- The team to receive training in 'Creating Positive Relationships', to be passed on to young people in their network.
- Emergency food supplies and hygiene products for vulnerable families.
- Administration, transport and networking.

Glory's story

For women like Glory, hunger is a double threat. She is living with HIV and needs substantial meals to be able to take her antiretrovirals. Now, more than ever, she needs her strength to care for her five-month-old daughter Milly: Glory lost her husband three months ago. He was HIV-positive too, and so is Milly, like so many whom APRECOM serves.

APRECOM Coordinator Odeth says Glory was really struggling when they first met. 'We've been supporting her with food and visiting her in her home, providing her with counselling especially over the loss of her husband. Now, she is strong and courageous.'

Glory's little family is just one of 60 whom APRECOM has supported with food parcels in the last few months. As the global food crisis grows, APRECOM continues to support some of the most vulnerable families, especially those affected by disability and HIV who would otherwise be last to the table.

LVLE (Laissez Vivre Les Enfants)

Based in:	**Goma, eastern DRC**
Run by:	**A church pastor and members of other local churches**
Partnered with BCT since:	**January 2017**
Supports:	**Children living in poverty, on the streets and/or accused of witchcraft]**

Context

Goma is hard ground. Poverty and deprivation are widespread, violence (including armed insurrection) is common and child abuse is often simply accepted as part of life. LVLE is determined that, even in this harsh environment, children should be safe to grow and thrive. LVLE provides direct support to Goma's most marginalised children, especially to those who live on the streets. The team also trains church and community leaders in children's rights and child protection, equipping them to create environments where children can thrive.

A major focus of LVLE's work is on addressing abuse arising from accusations of witchcraft against children, and the harmful beliefs which underlie these accusations. This involves direct intervention on behalf of children facing witchcraft-related abuse, and also informative training for church leaders. As part of this, LVLE has created two 'Synergies' – networks of local pastors and civic authorities (including the police) – which promote child protection, particularly in unregulated contexts where false accusations and the resulting harm are commonplace. The Synergies provide systematic training in child witch accusations to counter false teaching and misunderstandings on the topic.

Key activities

- **Outreach to street-living children** – LVLE directly supports around 50 children who live on the streets of Goma. The team meet these children every week at LVLE's two 'listening posts'. Support takes the form of practical advice and, for those who want to leave the streets, mediation with their families or help in finding a safe home.
- **Child protection training** – Rev Aruna trains church leaders, school leaders and community leaders, teaching important principles of child protection and equipping them to address and prevent child abuse. Up to 100 local leaders benefit from this training, every quarter.
- **Follow up** – LVLE has gathered 30 church leaders in Turunga, all of whom have previously received child protection training, to check on their progress and offer refresher training. During the training, all of the delegates created child protection policies for their churches, with LVLE's guidance.
- **Addressing nutrition and food scarcity** – Malnutrition and food scarcity continue to be significant problems, especially in the Monigi and Nyiragongo areas. LVLE are addressing these problems by training local leaders in principles of agriculture and nutrition, using BCT's 'Let's Grow!' resource.
- **Building networks to address accusations of witchcraft** – LVLE's two 'Synergies' bring together church leaders, police officers and civic authorities to address accusations of witchcraft against children in Masisi and Monigi. This year, the Synergies have carried out mapping exercises to identify areas with high incidences of child witch accusations, and established cells in six of those communities.

Photo: Jean-Paul with a Synergy Cell.

- **Training Synergie cells** – 50 members of the newly established cells have been trained to address witchcraft accusations (using the SCWA* resource 'The Heart of the Matter') and safeguard vulnerable children in their communities. They have also received training in 'Sickness, Health and Healing' and 'Mental Health Matters', which is particularly important given the common association of health problems with witchcraft in their communities.

- **Radio and TV broadcasts** – Rev Jean-Paul appears weekly on two local radio stations and once a month on local television, sharing important information and ideas about children's rights, child protection and COVID-19. These broadcasts enable him to spread important messages to a far wider audience than would otherwise be accessible.

  *(*Stop Child Witch Accusations – see 'Connecting with others' section, p21.)*

Impact

- **Children leaving the streets** – Through LVLE's encouragement and mediation, between 12 and 17 children return home, every quarter. And team members continue to help those families resolve any difficulties, once the children are home.

- **Prevention of abuse** – Through LVLE's child protection training, church, school and community leaders are better informed about abuse and able to report it. They also pass on their understanding of the issue to their churches and communities, enabling others to recognise the signs of abuse and empowering children to report abuse against them. Similarly, listeners to Rev Jean-Paul's radio shows have begun reporting instances of child abuse, and are more vigilant in preventing this abuse. Children are also equipped to protect themselves from abuse, through 'Touch Talk'.

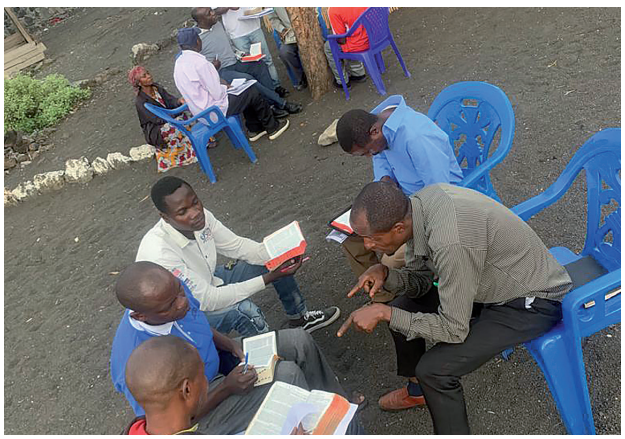


Photo: LVLE training.

- **Leaders mobilised** – Through the Synergie cell groups, 50 local leaders have been trained and mobilised to safeguard the children in their communities, and added to their local Synergie networks.

- **Changing attitudes** – Rev Jean-Paul's weekly radio shows frequently lead to lively discussions with listeners on how best to care for children. The programme content presents listeners with important principles which are often entirely new to them, and gently challenges any negative attitudes towards children.

Photo: Jean-Paul presenting on the radio.

- **Improved nutrition** – The 'Let's Grow!' training has resulted in over 100 new gardens being planted, providing families with nutritious plants to improve and diversify their diets, and to promote greater food security.

- **Limiting the spread of COVID** – COVID remains a significant and potentially life-threatening problem. Rev Jean-Paul's radio broadcasts on the subject provide vital advice to help limit the spread of the virus.

Figures

The numbers of adults LVLE reaches vary from quarter to quarter. The team provide training for several cohorts of pastors, school leaders and local authorities during the year, and also conduct follow-up visits to cohorts who have already received training. The result is that LVLE impact several hundred men, women and children through their training initiatives.

In an average quarter, LVLE directly supports around 50 street-living children.

BCT donated £12,748.74 to LVLE this year.

How BCT has benefited LVLE this year

- Ongoing support, advice and encouragement from BCT staff, through email and WhatsApp.
- Guidance on developing strategic plans and measuring the impact of their work.
- Information resources, including:
  - 'The Heart of the Matter', which helps train church and community leaders to address child witch accusations.
  - 'Touch Talk', which empowers children to recognise and report abuse.
  - 'Let's Grow!', which addresses nutrition and food security.
  - 'Sickness, Health and Healing' and 'Mental Health Matters', which address issues around physical and mental health.
- Funding for:
  - Two weekly listening posts, to connect with and support street-living children.
  - Mediation visits to families of children who wish to return home.
  - Weekly radio shows on child protection, good parenting and preventing the spread of COVID-19.
  - Monthly TV programmes on the same subjects.
  - Training 33 community leaders in Karisimbi in child protection and addressing accusations of witchcraft.
  - Training 21 community leaders in Goma in child protection and addressing accusations of witchcraft.

Photo: Jean-Paul and Paluku whilst training.

  - A three-day training session for 50 pastors and school leaders on health and witchcraft accusations.
  - An introductory meeting, three-day training and review session, for 30 pastors in Turunga, focusing on child protection and addressing accusations of witchcraft.
  - Four follow-up training sessions for the Turunga pastors, and assistance in setting up support and discussion groups.
  - A mapping activity for six communities in Masisi and Rutshuru, with a view to establishing Synergie cells.
  - Refresher training for 50 church leaders who received training in 'Let's Grow!' in 2021.
  - Five days of training in addressing child witch accusations for 50 Synergie cell leaders in Masisi and Rutshuru.
  - Follow-up training for 40 leaders previously trained in 'Let's Grow!'.
  - Refresher training for 80 school leaders previously trained in child protection.
  - Administration costs.

Glodi's story

When Glodi first came to one of LVLE's 'listening posts' in Nyiragongo, he was not in the mood to listen. Glodi blamed his father for his situation and was determined to kill him.

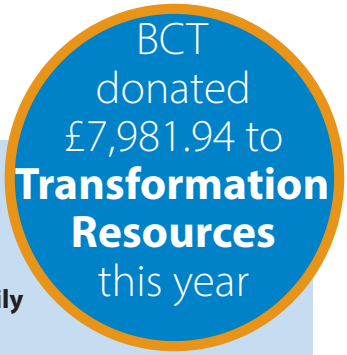
Glodi, now ten, left home two years ago after seeing his father beat his mum almost daily. But violence pursued him: a soldier caught Glodi picking pockets to survive and Glodi lost an eye in the assault.

When LVLE's outreach team met Glodi, he insisted that he had to avenge his mother. Gently, patiently, LVLE listened, showed compassion and helped soften Glodi's heart. Then they visited his father, a carpenter. On the first visit, he was drunk. The second time, he was sober, repentant. 'He cried when we told him Glodi had lost an eye,' says LVLE's Director, Rev Jean-Paul Aruna.

Glodi has now been reconciled with his father and moved back in with his family. LVLE will continue to support the household as they reconnect.

BCT donated £12,748.74 to **LVLE** this year

Transformation Resources



Run by:	**BCT's UK-based team, with advice and input from our overseas partners and experts on particular issues**
A project since:	**August 2017**
Addresses:	**Harmful attitudes and beliefs, and principles for healthy family and community life]**

The abuse and neglect of children is so often underpinned by harmful attitudes and beliefs, or by a lack of understanding of children's needs. In order to effectively prevent abuse, we must therefore address the beliefs behind it. Mindful of this, BCT has created *Transformation Resources*, a suite of resources exploring issues which keep children on the margins and offering practical advice on how best to support and empower them.

All of the resource material is designed for leaders in remote and deprived communities, contextualised to ensure it is relevant to these communities, and grounded in biblical teaching. The material is also rigorously tested by our project partners and other Christian workers on the ground. By producing and disseminating the *Transformation Resources*, we serve communities we would otherwise never reach, and increase our impact exponentially.

Transformation Resources include material which addresses: issues around family relationships and parenting; disability inclusion; hunger, nutrition and food scarcity, and preventing the spread of COVID-19. As a member organisation of the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition, BCT has also taken the lead in creating resources which offer biblical perspectives on sickness and on mental health: issues which are important in themselves and which often underpin accusations of witchcraft.

Key activities

- **Writing and creation** – 'Transform Families' (modules 1-17) has been completed and formatted, and is now available for use through the BCT website.
- **Translation and editing** – Sickness, Health and Healing and Mental Health Matters (BCT's resources concerning health, especially as it relates to accusations of witchcraft) have been translated into Swahili and are being formatted, ahead of release. 'Let's Grow!' is now available in English and French, and the translation into Swahili is almost complete.
- **Building relationships with collaborators** – We have connected with international Christian organisations, including the Salvation Army, Compassion and Operation Mobilisation. The Salvation Army have already used our resources in training workshops in several countries, and plan to integrate the material into their own training programme. Compassion and OM are interested in using 'Let's Grow!' and 'Transform Disability' respectively.
- **Refining the web platform** – The resources area of the website has been restructured, so as to make it easier for visitors to find the material they need.

Impact

- **Improved crop yields** – 'Let's Grow!' is having an impact where it is being used, with increased yields and new individual and community gardens springing up. As a result, children in these communities have access to improved food supplies and a balanced diet.
- **Improved support for disabled children** – 'Transform Disability', is continuing to prove effective in mobilising churches to respond to the needs of children with disabilities in their communities. For example, our partners in Rwanda and Zambia have been particularly effective in using the resource to train local churches, and then mobilising those churches to reach and support disabled children in their communities.
- **Strengthened families** – Families in many communities have learned vital principles for communication, respect and mutual support, through 'Transform Families' training.
- **Safeguarding health** – Our COVID-19 resources continue to help numerous communities to protect themselves against the virus. Also, Sickness, Health and Healing and Mental Health Matters are helping to promote holistic health.
- **Increased reach** – The resource material has been downloaded from the website 112 times this year, compared with last year's 41 downloads. Thus, nearly three times as many church and community leaders have accessed our resources this year. The resources have been used in Zambia, Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, India and Jamaica and potentially in multiple other nations. We make the material freely available and so we receive partial feedback; its true impact may be wider and deeper than we know.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi

Based in:	**Copperbelt region, Zambia**
Run by:	**Local volunteers**
Partnered with BCT since:	**2005**
Supports:	**Children living with disabilities]**

Context

An estimated 93 million children worldwide live with disabilities. All of them must overcome obstacles in order to fulfil their potential. This is especially true of disabled children in the majority world, who must often contend with stigma, discrimination and lack of access to essential services, as well as their own physical or mental challenges.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi ('God's help') is dedicated to supporting children with disabilities and advocating for their needs and rights. The cornerstone of Wukwashi's work is their network of support groups – run by teams of volunteers from local churches – which offers children and their parents practical support, advice and encouragement. Through these groups, Wukwashi offers physiotherapy and play therapy to disabled children, helping them to become stronger and develop social and motor skills. They also provide access to mobility aids, artificial limbs and medical interventions, not to mention advice and encouragement for parents, and refer children to specialist schools when appropriate.

The Wukwashi team also works tirelessly to change common stigma around disability, and to provide parents with information they desperately need but rarely receive. Through training and awareness-raising in churches and through appearances on local media outlets, Wukwashi is making its message heard. Slowly but surely, attitudes are changing, stigma is diminishing and communities are enabling children with disabilities to thrive.

Key activities

- **Support groups** – The backbone of Wukwashi's work is its network of sixteen support groups for children with disabilities and their parents. At these groups, children receive physiotherapy and play therapy, benefit socially from strong relationships with one another and with group leaders, and are assessed for any mobility aids and medical treatment they might need. The parents benefit from invaluable practical advice, moral support and spiritual encouragement.

Photo: Wukwashi Chililabombwe Support group.

- **Mentoring** – While support groups were unable to meet because of COVID restrictions, Wukwashi supported families in its network through a mentoring programme. This involved weekly visits and phone calls to families with disabled children, to offer encouragement and practical advice, particularly on physiotherapy exercises.

- **Physiotherapy** – Three physiotherapists visit Wukwashi's support groups. Their treatments improve the children's strength, muscle tone and range of movement, and they teach parents simple exercises to perform with their children at home.

- **Providing mobility aids** – The team source and provide a range of mobility aids, including wheelchairs, walking frames, standing frames and support shoes for children with mobility problems. As many as 7 children per quarter receive wheelchairs and up to 45 receive support shoes. Wukwashi also has a workshop to build supportive chairs, which help children sit upright and improve their posture.

- **Referrals to hospital** – The support groups are visited by doctors who assess the children's needs for medical treatments and surgical interventions. In a typical quarter, 32 children are assessed and referred on to hospitals for treatment. When necessary, Wukwashi will cover the costs of transport for a child to attend hospital.

- **Transport to school** – Children with limited mobility often struggle to make the journey to school. Wukwashi helps by simply providing transport, and by providing school fees for children attending Mambilima Special School.

- **Training workshops for church and community leaders** – Wukwashi challenges stigma and misguided beliefs around disability by providing disability awareness training for leaders – especially pastors. For example, three Wukwashi volunteers have used 'Transform Disability' to train students at Gospel Literature Outreach, encouraging them to welcome and support children with disabilities.

- **Wider advocacy** – Joyce and Henry regularly visit other churches, speak at conferences and appear on TV and radio broadcasts, to advocate for children with disabilities and share insights on how best to meet their needs.

Impact

- **Parents encouraged and empowered** – Over 100 families have received support through Wukwashi's mentoring programme. As a result, parents feel supported even when unable to attend support groups, and are equipped to meet their children's therapeutic needs.

- **Dramatic improvements in children's conditions** – Typically, over 600 children per quarter attend Wukwashi's support groups. The majority of them make great improvements, both in their physical conditions and in their capacity for social interactions.

- **Improved movement** – Around 250 children receive physiotherapy in an average quarter. Those who receive this therapy almost all show dramatic improvements in their abilities to sit, stand or walk. These are vital steps towards independence. This is greatly helped by the professional physiotherapists training parents and group leaders, so that the exercises can be continued between formal physiotherapy sessions.

- **Independence and integration** – Children with mobility problems are often stranded at home, unable to attend school or interact with their peers. Wheelchairs and standing frames transform their ability to move, and therefore offer them opportunities to attend school, play with friends and play a full part in their communities.

- **Prospects for the future** – Providing wheelchairs and mobility aids to children with physical disabilities transforms their ability to access education and play a full role in their communities. It is hugely significant in helping them develop independence and a sense of purpose, and to build a bright future for themselves.

- **Life-saving treatment** – Access to medical treatments always makes a tangible difference to a child with a disability and is, in some cases, literally life-saving.

- **Church leaders inspired** – Wukwashi's training for church leaders challenges harmful beliefs and, beyond that, inspires them with the biblical mandate to care for the most vulnerable. This training results in churches seeking out disabled children in their communities, bringing them out of isolation, and in taking practical steps to welcome disabled children, including installing ramps at church premises.

- **Influencing harmful beliefs** – Wukwashi's advocacy for children with disabilities is changing attitudes towards them. Gradually, children with disabilities are being seen and treated differently, within individual communities and wider Zambian society.

Figures

Wukwashi typically engages over 600 children per quarter, with many families benefiting from more than one aspect of their work. The team also reaches large (but hugely varying) numbers of adults every quarter, through its training and advocacy initiatives.

BCT donated £17,404.97 to Wukwashi this year.

How BCT has benefited Wukwashi this year

- Ongoing support, advice and guidance from BCT staff, by email, phone, Zoom and WhatsApp.

- Focused guidance in formulating strategy and annual plans.

- Provision of resource material, including 'Transform Disability' and 'Let's Grow!'.

- Funding for:

    - Running 16 weekly support groups for disabled children and their parents.

    - Assessing children's mobility needs and sourcing mobility aids and wheelchairs as needed.

- Arranging visits to support groups by doctors from local hospitals, to assess children for medical and surgical interventions.
- Engaging physiotherapists to visit the support groups and treat the children.
- A five-day training workshop for 62 support group leaders, covering first aid, feeding and ergonomics.
- Annual visits to support groups to encourage and train the leaders and monitor progress.
- A forum event for 500 parents of disabled children.
- Recruiting new volunteers.
- Fees for children attending Mambilima Special School.
- Staff training, administration, record-keeping and travel expenses.

BCT donated £17,404.97 to **Wukwashi** this year

Samson's story

Samson was only a few days old when a mosquito bite changed his life. Born a perfectly healthy baby, he succumbed to yellow fever. As he developed, he could not sit up, support his head or use his hands. His mother, Elyse, struggled alone for two years. Then, six months ago, she joined one of Wukwashi's 16 support groups. There, Samson has received physiotherapy, play therapy, a special chair and a standing frame. Now, he can sit unsupported, plays happily with toys and holds his head high.

All support groups are up and running again, after COVID forced their closure for months. With new groups in Musenga and Chililabombwe, many more parents are learning the joy of nurturing their children's development. Now Elyse can give Samson physio at home, change lies in her hands, literally. And if hope is the belief that things can change, Elyse has hope in abundance too.

Connecting with others

Connecting with others around the issue of children accused of witchcraft

Witchcraft accusations – and the abuse which accompanies them – affect thousands of children worldwide. The West is still only beginning to grasp how widespread this issue is. So BCT remains committed to the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition, raising awareness of child witch accusations and mobilising churches in affected communities to take action to protect vulnerable children. Carolyn Gent has continued in her role as Chair this year, with Lyn Edwards also serving on the steering group, and BCT as an organisation is integral to SCWA's activities.

Following on from last August's highly successful 'Heart of the Matter' training-of-trainers event in Calabar, Nigeria, local church leaders are passing on their understanding to their communities. Those who have received training are also continuing to network together, sharing ideas and experiences. This is crucial work in an area where witchcraft accusations against children – and associated abuse – are rife. These are the first steps in transforming the prevailing attitudes and thus making these communities safe places for children to grow.

This year has seen burgeoning collaborations between SCWA and the Salvation Army and Barnardo's. Three Salvation Army territories have asked for help in addressing witchcraft accusations and the related harm and this will be a major focus area in the next year or so, with the potential for wider rollout across their network. SCWA is also in contact with Barnardo's, with the hope of developing resources for professionals in the UK on recognising and responding appropriately to abuses relating to faith and belief. This is a great opportunity to extend SCWA's work in the UK.

SCWA's involvement with the UN has continued, too. The committee was invited to submit an update to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, focusing on the SCWA Model of Change and on training resources. Rev Aruna was also able to submit a response to the UN, outlining the work of LVLE in this area. It is encouraging to see that this issue is still on the agenda for the OHCHR, following last year's historic UN resolution on witchcraft-related abuse.

October 2021 saw the latest SCWA online Forum. This event focused on practitioners and was attended by delegates from DRC and Kenya, as well as the UK. The agenda looked at work with people with disabilities, cultural beliefs around physical and mental health, and the UN Resolution on the Elimination of harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks. As usual, this was a valuable opportunity to connect and discuss with individuals interested in the issues.

The Heart of the Matter continues to be an invaluable (and unique) training resource in addressing child witch accusations. This year, the Swahili translation was completed and launched, and the first draft of the Lingala version was finished. And combatting witchcraft-related abuse remains an essential strand of LVLE's work in DRC (see p14).

Connecting with others around the issue of disability

This year, we have continued our working relationship with Hub of Hope in Kenya, who have used 'Transform Disability' to mobilise church leaders in supporting disabled children and their families. We are excited to see how Hub of Hope are influencing the thinking in local communities and look forward to seeing how the prospects improve for children with disabilities as a result.

Mobilising resources

Financial resources are essential to enable our project partners to continue and develop their work. BCT therefore provides each project with funding, to help enable its work. However, this is not a simple matter of handing each of our partners a blank cheque. We work together with each partner in drawing up an annual plan and budget, and we provide targeted funding for the most strategically important areas of their work. Quarterly reports from our partners then help us to monitor how this funding is being used.

BCT must, in turn, raise funding from a variety of sources. This funding comes from individuals, from churches and from a few grant-making trusts. We also welcome income from fundraising events, as and when they occur.

Effective communication is essential in encouraging members of the public to give to BCT – and to support us through prayer and advocacy. Our website, print publications and social media channels all enable us to showcase BCT's work, engage a wider audience and encourage new supporters to get involved.

BCT's approach to fundraising is outlined in detail on p5 of this report.

Prayer support

Prayer is BCT's engine. It drives our work and it is at the heart of everything we do. For example, we prioritise prayer within our UK team's meetings, and we always pray for our project partners within our conversations with them. It is also a huge encouragement to us to have a network of supporters who pray regularly for BCT, for our project partners and for the children they serve. 274 of our supporters pray for us regularly, using our prayer diary, and we have 104 prayer partners who receive ad hoc prayer requests by email.

Ambassadors

Our 13 Ambassadors are elite level BCT supporters. They represent BCT within their churches and communities, raising awareness of issues affecting marginalised children and mobilising prayer for BCT. When circumstances allow it (e.g. in the absence of COVID restrictions), our Ambassadors also sometimes organise fundraising events. We meet with our Ambassadors on Zoom, every two months, to pray, share ideas and encourage one another.

2021/22 Income and Expenditure

General

Each year, BCT endeavours to set a realistic income and expenditure budget, in line with its goals and objectives. BCT is prudent with its financial management and knows that it cannot achieve its goals and objectives in supporting projects, raising awareness and networking with churches and other agencies, without the generosity and loyal commitment of its supporters in their various forms: trusts and foundations, businesses, churches and individuals.

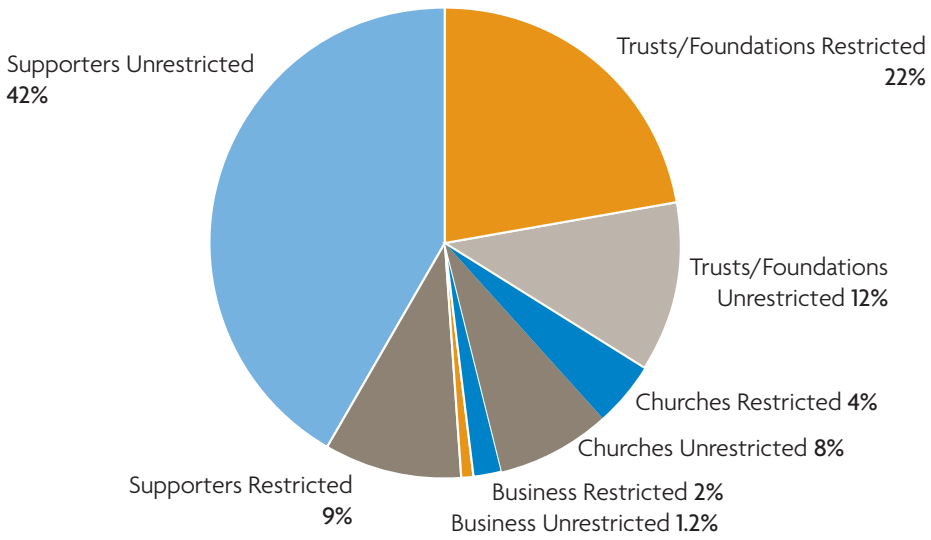
Income

BCT's total income in 2021/22 was £142,352, a year-on-year fall of £25,746 (-15.3%). The decrease was split £17,811 in unrestricted income and £7,935 in restricted income. Following last year's unexpected year-on-year rise in receipts of over 24% - largely due to significantly increased one-off donations - this year's reduction was fully expected and very close to the figure we budgeted for. Moreover, given the current level of inflation and the UK economic forecast for 2023 we have again taken a cautious view in budgeting for income in 2022/23.

With regard to the primary sources of income in 2021/22, donations from Trusts and Foundations fell from £51,860 to £48,609 (-6.27%), those from businesses decreased from £6,277 to £4,200 (-33.09%) and those from supporters fell from £94,996 to £72,397 (-23.79%). Conversely, donations from churches rose from £14,965 to £17,146 (+14.57%).

An analysis of income by primary source and fund is given below:

	Trusts/ Foundations Restricted	Trusts/ Foundations Unrestricted	Churches Restricted	Churches Unrestricted	Business Restricted	Business Unrestricted	Supporters Restricted	Supporters Unrestricted	Total
2021/22	£31,749	£16,860	£6,345	£10,801	£3,000	£1,200	£13,176	£59,221	£142,352
2020/21	£39,250	£12,610	£3,822	£11,143	£3,952	£2,325	£15,181	£79,815	£168,098

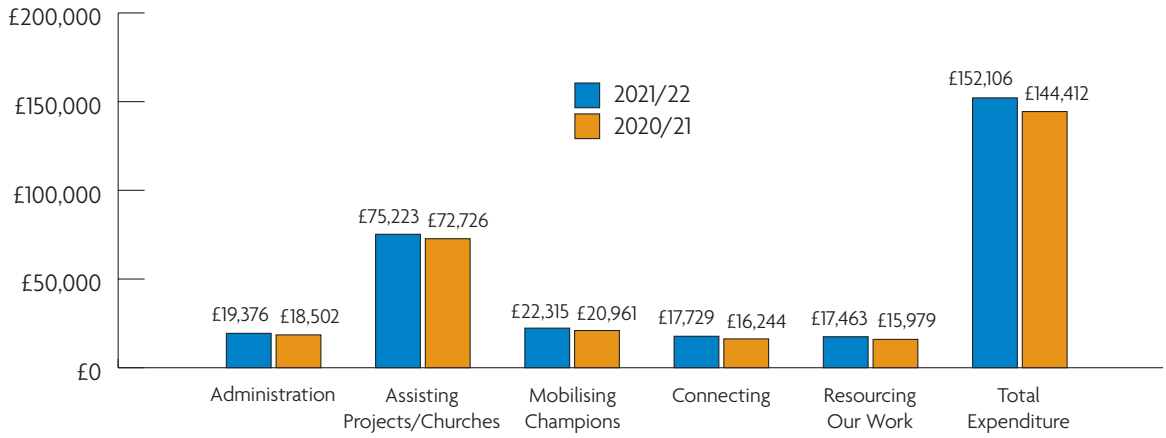


Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2021/22 was £152,106, an increase of £7,694 (+5.33%) from 2020/21. Of that increase, £6,818 came from unrestricted funds and included spend on the improvement and upgrade of our website. Restricted spend remained relatively steady, rising by £876. This year, our funding of our partner projects' many key activities included disbursements sent as part of BCT's efforts to address food scarcity in our partners' communities, and organising Tanari Trust to deliver invaluable training to APRECOM staff and volunteers in creating positive relationships, to strengthen and inform their work with children and teenagers.

We take very careful consideration of our fund levels when making decisions on disbursements and spending on core costs. We continue our direct participation in, and giving financial support towards vital work for the ultimate benefit of some of the most marginalised children. Our biggest expenditure area continues to be the assisting and training of BCT's partner projects and churches to meet the needs of children at risk in their communities. Spend on this in 2021/22 reached £75,223, i.e. 49.45% of the overall total. Across the other expenditure categories there was a net year-on-year increase of £5,197.

	Administration	Assisting Projects/ Churches	Mobilising Champions	Connecting	Resourcing Our Work	Total Expenditure
2021/22	£19,376	£75,223	£22,315	£17,729	£17,463	£152,106
2020/21	£18,502	£72,726	£20,961	£16,244	£15,979	£144,412



Looking forwards

An often-quoted bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'. We know God has plans for BCT's future, and we are fixed on hearing and fulfilling them. We praise Him for the team He has put together, each of us being in the right place to serve and to nurture the gifts God has given for this time.
We and our partners are excited by the resumption of our project visits, starting with APRECOM and LVLE in June/July 2023. It will be wonderful to meet face to face again. We and all those with whom we collaborate know that, through our collective efforts and an incredible strength of desire to reach out to the most marginalised of children, lives are changing and will continue to change. We realise our earthly eyes can never 'see' the full impact of the work we are called to focus on as God's plan is interwoven in so many seen and unseen ways. But as we all hear and follow His plans we know He is giving hope and a future to many, and His heart is to prosper them.

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on 16th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Ejvet
Chair of Trustees

The Bethany Children's Trust Report and Accounts

year ended 31 August 2022

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 on pages 28 to 37 following which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 30 and 31.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirements under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

(1) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;

(2) follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011;

(3) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement

This report is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 a review of the accounts and making such enquiries as are necessary for the purpose of this report. 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.

Examiner's Statement

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records, or comply with the accounting requirement of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my notice in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Archie McDowall BA, CA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

22 June 2023

The Bethany Children's Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	88,070	54,270	142,340	168,081
Investments	3	12	0	12	17
Total income and endowments		88,082	54,270	142,352	168,098
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	73,821	60,822	134,643	128,433
Raising funds	5	17,463	0	17,463	15,979
Total expenditure		91,284	60,822	152,106	144,412
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,202)	(6,552)	(9,754)	23,686
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
		(3,202)	(6,552)	(9,754)	23,686
Net movement in funds		(3,202)	(6,552)	(9,754)	23,686
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		69,312	50,828	120,140	96,454
Total funds carried forward		66,110	44,276	110,386	120,140

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	7	957	0	957	2,872
Tangible assets	7	514	0	514	1,826
		1,471	0	1,471	4,698
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	14,360	0	14,360	13,454
Cash at bank	9	53,639	44,276	97,915	105,611
		67,999	44,276	112,275	119,065
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Liabilities falling due within one year	10	3,360	0	3,360	3,623
Net Current Assets		64,639	44,276	108,915	115,442
NET ASSETS		66,110	44,276	110,386	120,140
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted funds	12				
General Funds		66,110	–	66,110	69,312
Restricted Funds	12	–	44,276	44,276	50,828
		66,110	44,276	110,386	120,140

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 16th June 2023 by:

Ruth Ejvet

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2022

1 Statutory Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page of the trustees' annual report.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. In making this assessment the trustees have considered how Covid-19 might affect projections.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

ii) The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly those involving connection with our project partners, connection with other organisations and individuals in the furtherance of our aims, and the writing and provision of training resources. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

iii) Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be reliably measured.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) Intangible fixed assets

The cost of software is capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, which is expected to be 3 years.

f) Tangible fixed assets

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £100 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Equipment	Over 2 to 3 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

g) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 Voluntary income	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
General donations and legacies	83,144	52,935	136,079	162,517
Tax recoverable	4,926	1,335	6,261	5,564
	88,070	54,270	142,340	168,081
Other income				
Bank interest	12	–	12	17
Total Incoming Resources	88,082	54,270	142,352	168,098

4 Charitable activity		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
a Direct Charitable Costs					
Assisting Churches	*Note 4c*	14,618	60,605	75,223	72,726
Connecting		17,729		17,729	16,244
Mobilising Champions		22,315		22,315	20,961
		54,662	60,605	115,267	109,931
		£	£	£	£
b Support & Administration					
Governance costs		1,583		1,583	1,785
GDPR compliance		40		40	40
Salaries and pension costs		11,210		11,210	10,661
Office rent & services		127		127	124
I.T., telephone and postage		2,362		2,362	1,506
Office supplies		30		30	41
Travel costs		72		72	132
Insurance		219		219	133
Professional Fees		230		230	500
Recruitment		58		58	0
Depreciation		3,009	217	3,226	3,350
Sundry		219		219	230
		19,159	217	19,376	18,502
Combined charitable activity cost		73,821	60,822	134,643	128,433

The fee payable to the independent examiner for examining the accounts was £1,824 (2021: £1,714); in addition the charity paid £635 (2021: £628) to Stewardship for payroll bureau services.

c Grants	Institutions £	Individuals £	2022 £	2021 £
Analysis by receiving project/appeal				
APRECOM	11,511		11,511	9,259
Transformation Resources	7,982		7,982	10,460
Stop Child Witch Accusation	7,992		7,992	6,194
Wukwashi	17,405		17,405	21,815
LVLE	12,749		12,749	10,015
Food Security campaign	3,027		3,027	0
Nyiragongo appeal	3		3	2,000
	60,669	0	60,669	59,743

4 Charitable activity *(continued)*	Institutions £	Individuals £	2022 £	2021 £
Analysis by key purpose				
Awareness raising	1,868		1,868	1,732
Training	25,553		25,553	19,323
Medical	10,950		10,950	6,079
Covid response	5,400		5,400	6,631
Transport	518		518	498
Parent/Family support	48		48	3,996
Child/Young person support & empowerment	4,090		4,090	5,860
Enterprise	335		335	991
School Fees	1,927		1,927	3,653
Administration	9,980		9,980	10,980
	60,669	0	60,669	59,743

Within 'Assisting Churches' are grants made to projects. The main features of the grants made were to provide practical support and finance to children's projects in Africa in three locations with the key purposes being as allocated above.

5 Fundraising costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Salaries and pension costs	11,210		11,210	10,660
Communication services	3,264		3,264	3,195
Travel costs	72		72	132
Printing and stationery	30		30	41
IT Costs	2,051		2,051	1,252
Telephone	278		278	217
Storage	55		55	52
Insurance	218		218	133
Training, Conferences & meetings	43		43	70
Postage & mailbox hire	105		105	109
Governance	0		0	21
Recruitment	58		58	0
Miscellaneous	79		79	97
	17,463	0	17,463	15,979

6 Staff & Trustees	2022 £	2021 £
Gross wages, salaries & benefits in kind	53,801	51,138
Employer's National Insurance costs	3,858	3,418
Employer's Allowance	(3,858)	(3,418)
Employer's Pension Contributions	1,614	1,534
Total staff costs	55,415	52,672

During the year the charity had 3 full time equivalent employed staff (2021: 3). No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum (2021: none).

Remuneration payable to key management (excluding trustees) amounted to £39,603 in the year (2021: £37,756). Currently, following changes to certain role responsibilities, key management is considered to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance Manager.

6 Staff & Trustees *(continued)*

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year. No trustee received reimbursement for expenses incurred on BCT's behalf (2021: Nil). Simeon Whiting, the son of trustee Hazel Whiting, invoiced BCT a total of £9,890 during the year for communication services provided to the charity (2021: £9,797).

The total amount of donations funded by trustees [and connected parties] and key management was £521 (2021: £422).

7 Fixed Assets

Intangible Fixed Assets	**Website**	**Total 2022**
	£	**£**
Cost		
At 1st September 2021	5,744	5,744
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2022	5,744	5,744
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1st September 2021	2,872	2,872
Charge for the year	1,915	1,915
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2022	4,787	4,787
Net book value		
At 31st August 2022	957	957
At 1st September 2021	2,872	2,872

Tangible Fixed Assets	**Computer & Software**	**Furniture & Equipment**	**Total 2022**
	£	**£**	**£**
At 1st September 2021	4,943	120	5,063
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st August 2022	4,943	120	5,063
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1st September 2021	3,184	53	3,237
Charge for the year	1,272	40	1,312
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st August 2022	4,456	93	4,549
Net book value			
At 31st August 2022	487	27	514
At 1st September 2021	1,759	67	1,826

8 Debtors and Prepayments

	2022 £	2021 £
Income tax receivable	10,586	8,014
Sundry Debtors	7	1,675
Prepayments	3,767	3,765
	14,360	13,454

9 Cash at Bank and in Hand

Co-operative Bank	81,936	90,029
NatWest Bank	15,879	15,433
Petty cash	100	149
	97,915	105,611

10 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

Trade Creditors	752	717
Accruals	2,608	2,906
	3,360	3,623

11 Multi-year contract commitments

The charity has a five year contract with Academia Ltd for the provision of cloud services which commenced on 1 May 2020. It has an option to terminate the contract after three years. £5,027 was paid in the year in respect of this contract (2021: £5,027). (See also note 13 below).

	2022 £	2021 £
Payments falling due:		
Within one year	5,027	5,027
Between one and five years	5,027	10,054
After five years	–	–
	10,054	15,081

12 Funds

a The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year are as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,545	0	(217)		1,328
APRECOM	7,878	9,739	(11,511)		6,107
LVLE	10,528	6,935	(12,722)		4,741
Stop Child Witch Accusation	5,946	11,543	(7,992)		9,497
Transformation Resources	11,193	4,595	(7,945)		7,843
Wukwashi (Zambia)	13,486	17,007	(17,405)		13,088
Food Security campaign	0	4,450	(3,027)		1,423
Nyiragongo appeal	253	0	(3)		250
	50,828	54,270	(60,822)	0	44,276

12 Funds *(continued)*

With the exception of Administration, the movement on each of the above funds reflects donations received and disbursements and expenditures made in the financial year in respect of activities carried out by the named project or in accordance with the named appeal or campaign. Funds unused at the end of the year are carried forward. A description of the purpose of the other funds and the nature of the restriction can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

The Administration fund is solely in respect of donations received for non project-related and non appeal or campaign-related purposes. The movement on this fund in the year concerned one item: in financial year 2019/20 a donation of £650 was received towards the cost of incorporating a specific facility in our website.

The website is being depreciated over a period of 3 years and £217 is this year's depreciation charge for the facility in question. £1,220 of the Administration fund's opening and closing balances are unused funds carried forward from previous years and are specifically restricted to cover the cost of BCT staff team social activities as and when incurred. The closing balance is again carried forward.

For comparison, movements in restricted funds in the year to 31st August 2021 are reproduced below:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,762	0	(217)		1,545
APRECOM	7,328	9,806	(9,256)		7,878
LVLE	6,574	13,958	(10,004)		10,528
Stop Child Witch Accusation	3,980	8,160	(6,194)		5,946
Transformation Resources	11,644	10,009	(10,460)		11,193
Wukwashi (Zambia)	17,282	18,019	(21,815)		13,486
Nyiragongo appeal	0	2,253	(2,000)		253
	48,569	62,205	(59,946)	0	50,828

b The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	44,276	–	44,276
Unrestricted funds	1,471	53,639	11,000	66,110
	1,471	97,915	11,000	110,386

For comparison, the assets and liabilities represented by the various funds as at 31st August 2021 are reproduced below:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	50,828	–	50,828
Unrestricted funds	4,698	54,783	9,831	69,312
	4,698	105,611	9,831	120,140

13 Events since the year end

Lyn Edwards, formerly Operations Manager for the charity, was appointed Chief Exectutive Officer with effect from 1st January 2023.

As stated in note 11 above, on 1 May 2020 the charity commenced a five year contract with Academia Ltd for the provision of cloud services, with the option to terminate the contract after three years. In the period since the year-end the charity decided to take up that option, and the contract ended on 30th April 2023.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	88,070	105,876	54,270	62,205	142,340	168,081
Investments	3	12	17	0	0	12	17
Total income and endowments		88,082	105,893	54,270	62,205	142,352	168,098
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	4	73,821	68,487	60,822	59,946	134,643	128,433
Raising funds	5	17,463	15,979	0	0	17,463	15,979
Total expenditure		91,284	84,466	60,822	59,946	152,106	144,412
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,202)	21,427	(6,552)	2,259	(9,754)	23,686
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0	0
		(3,202)	21,427	(6,552)	2,259	(9,754)	23,686
Net movement in funds		(3,202)	21,427	(6,552)	2,259	(9,754)	23,686
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		69,312	47,885	50,828	48,569	120,140	96,454
Total funds carried forward		66,110	69,312	44,276	50,828	110,386	120,140

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on page 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

APPENDIX 1

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the day-to-day running of BCT. In collaboration with her team, the CEO draws up BCT's annual goals and objectives, taking into account the charity commission's Public Benefit Requirement and BCT's vision and mission, and annual budget. These are then passed to BCT's trustees for discussion, revision and final approval. The CEO makes recommendations to the trustees at their quarterly meetings, in respect of BCT's policies, procedures, disbursement of monies to BCT's project partners and selection of new project partners.

The trustees are responsible for final decision-making in respect of the above. In all aspects of decisions related to BCT's objectives and activities, they take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

BCT's Administrator and Finance Manager are accountable to the CEO, as are the team members responsible for project development, resources and our links with the SCWA coalition .

Appointment of BCT Trustees

Potential candidates for BCT trusteeship are given a job description and are required to complete and submit an application form and two references. Suitable candidates are then invited for an initial interview. At least two BCT trustees, one of whom must be the BCT Chair, are present at this interview. A proposal is then made to the board of trustees to appoint the successful candidate. This appointment must be ratified at a meeting of the board of trustees, according to Article 14 of the Declaration of Trust.

Successful candidates are given a full set of all BCT's policies, procedures and foundational documents, as well as a copy of the governing Deed of Trust document. They are also given the minutes of the four previous meetings of the board of trustees, a copy of the Charity Commission's guide, 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know' and a copy of the 'Charities and Public Benefit' document. All trustees are required to read BCT's Safeguarding Policy and sign a commitment to upholding it. All new trustees are required to spend an induction day, meeting all members of staff and discussing their roles, and are also required to enhance their knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to children at risk through the reading materials provided to them, and by attending study days or conferences from time to time. Pertinent reports and best practice papers are forwarded to BCT trustees, so that they maintain an awareness of issues that may affect their decision-making.

Appraisal of BCT Trustees

All trustees are required to fulfil a six-month probationary period followed by a review.

Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the term of office is for three years, followed by an appraisal. Trustees can then stand for a further term of office if the appraisal is satisfactory. BCT trustees are also required to undergo an appraisal after 18 months in office. The reviews are facilitated by the Chair and one other trustee. The term of office for the Chair of Trustees is 3 years, with an appraisal at 18 months.

None of BCT's trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work with BCT.

Risk Management

BCT recognises the need, as well as responsibility, to assess all of its activities against risk, in line with the Charity Commission's 'Statement Of Recommended Practice 2005' (SORP 2005). BCT's Risk Management Policy demonstrates potential risks, the steps taken to mitigate or remove them, and BCT's commitment to on-going monitoring and assessment. BCT has also drawn up a Business Continuity Plan as part of its Risk Management Policy. The greatest current risk is economic sustainability in light of the global economic climate, but BCT's trustees confirm that they have reviewed BCT's accounts on a monthly basis and put in place a strategy for on-going fundraising and increasing income for sustainability.

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They 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.

APPENDIX 2

Reserves Policy

(Based on Article 19 of a meeting of BCT trustees, dated 2nd March 2002. Latest amendment by agreement of BCT trustees, 7th December 2022.)

At any one time, BCT will, as a minimum, maintain an unrestricted fund reserve of at least £39,578. Funds pertaining to any reserve may be retained in one or more BCT accounts. The purpose of the unrestricted fund reserve is to:

- Maintain an adequate level of unrestricted funds to provide security against unforeseen liabilities and funding changes, and;
- For a period of at least three months, meet BCT's running costs if it experiences unforeseen financial difficulties or is in a position where it will soon cease to operate as a charity.

BCT will endeavour to have appropriately disbursed restricted donations no later than six months after the end of the previous financial year.

Grant-making Policy

(Based on Article 18 of the minutes of a meeting of the BCT trustees on 2nd March 2002).

BCT has a Grant Making Policy that outlines criteria for issuing grants to projects and or individuals, the procedure for issuing grants and the review of grants. This policy is reviewed at set intervals, as are all BCT's policies.

Registered Office:
Office 214, Hill House,
210 Upper Richmond Road,
London SW15 6NP
www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1073817

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1073817

Accounts

The Bethany Children's Trust

Annual Report to 31 August 2021

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

Charity information

Trustees of The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT)

Mrs Gill Bradley
Mrs Ruth Ejvet
Ms Rose Ndolo (from January 2022)
Mr Jonathan Smith (until April 2021)
Mr Geoff Walls
Mrs Hazel Whiting

Operations Manager

Lyn Edwards

Governing Document

Trust Deed dated 23 December 1998, as amended 5 December 2003
Charity Registration Number 1073817

Registered Office

Office 214, Hill House, 210 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 6NP

Website

www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall, BA, CA, Stewardship, 1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
Head Office
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Natwest
Wokingham Branch
5 Broad Street
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1AX

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

BCT is dedicated to mobilising Christians to respond to the needs of children at risk.
Our vision is to see the Christian church leading the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, safe, valued, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential. Through teaching, training, advice, networking and financial support, BCT equips project partners to help restore the lives of marginalised and vulnerable children and to bring about changes in the attitudes, practices and situations that harm them. These marginalised children include those affected by abuse, exploitation, HIV, homelessness, disability and poverty.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Annual Report to 31 August 2021

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Letter from the Chair of Trustees

As Chair of BCT's trustees, I am proud of what we and our overseas partners have accomplished this year. I am all the more proud because of what we have overcome together in order to make this positive impact in the lives of children and their communities. COVID has continued to make it more difficult for our partners to carry out their planned activities, and has also created food supply problems, exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We have even seen a volcanic eruption, devastating an area of Goma where our local partner operates. The needs of marginalised children have never been more acute, nor the context of our work more challenging.

And yet, I also look back on this year with gratitude. I am grateful to our partners, who persevere in doing extraordinary work in the hardest of circumstances. I am grateful to our supporters who play such a crucial role within BCT by praying, encouraging us and giving financially. And I am profoundly grateful to God, who has guided us, sustained us and provided for us. Through his faithfulness, lives are being changed. God's promise in Isaiah 43:2-3 says: 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned... For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.' We have certainly been through trials this year, but God has indeed been faithful.

The very fact that huge and complex issues exist reminds me that we are exactly where God wants us, doing exactly what he would have us do. So, we are determined to continue unthwarted, depending on God for strength, wisdom and provision, and to persevere in serving the most marginalised of children. This is what we are called to do: to see what the Lord is doing and to follow where he leads.

Gill Bradley

BCT Chair of Trustees

BCT's Approach to Fundraising

BCT is just as committed to 'friend-raising' as to fundraising. We see building relationships with supporters and potential supporters as an integral part of raising funds to resource our own and our partners' work. Therefore, we take a no-pressure approach to fundraising. Our focus is on sharing stories of transformation, highlighting how we are making a difference to individual children and entire communities, then presenting opportunities for members of the public to support this work, if they wish to. We use printed communications, social media channels and presentations at events in order to share these stories, and leave it to the public to decide what their response may be, if any. If an existing supporter wishes to cease receiving communications from BCT, they can contact either our own office or the Fundraising Preference Service and we will ensure that they no longer receive such communications.

Our policy means that we value the supporter and their wellbeing as an individual as much as any support they may be able to offer BCT. It means that we offer a range of opportunities to engage with BCT's work beyond financial support and take time and care to nurture positive relationships with them.

A small number of supporters choose to go beyond giving funds to BCT's work and become BCT Ambassadors. These Ambassadors give of their time, expertise and resources to promote BCT's work in their churches and communities, mobilising prayer and even organising their own fundraising events. We maintain close relationships with our Ambassadors, ensuring they are equipped for their efforts, up to date with good practice in fundraising, and fully aware of how grateful we are for their efforts on our behalf.

We also write fundraising applications to grant-making trusts that exist to disburse grants as they see fit.

Currently, funding is provided from a variety of sources:

Grant-making Trusts – We have a small but committed group of grant-making trusts who support us on a regular basis. Other grant-making trusts support us with occasional one-off gifts.

Supporters – We receive ongoing monthly support from many supporters, usually by standing order and direct debit, and also one-off donations. We also have long-standing relationships with many churches and some schools, which include their supporting us financially.

Events – As a small charity that lacks the capacity to organise its own fundraising events, BCT encourages our supporters to join us in taking part in fundraising events which meet our ethical standards and faith values, and are arranged by other organisations (such as sponsored walks and runs). We receive funding from supporters who have raised sponsorship by taking part in these types of events.

Legacy Funding – We receive occasional funding by legacy donations.

Media – BCT also encourages fundraising through the promotion of its charitable activities via its communications media: print publications, online presence and social media.

BCT's vision and mission

Commitment to Public Benefit

BCT's trustees confirm that they have paid due attention to public benefit in their role of overseeing the work of BCT and are satisfied that all BCT activities meet public benefit requirements as defined by the Charity Commission's general guidelines. Everything BCT has done in the period covered by this report has been to bring benefit to the lives of our key beneficiaries – children at risk – by influencing, equipping and enabling churches, Christian projects and individuals to respond to their needs and to address root issues, beliefs and practices that harm them.

Summary of BCT's objects, as set out in its Declaration of Trust

a) To relieve persons, particularly children who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are sick, and to relieve the distress caused thereby in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

b) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with BCT's Statement of Beliefs in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

c) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate.

BCT's Vision...

...is to see the Christian Church leading the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, valued, safe, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential.

BCT's Mission...

...is to mobilise a Christian response to the needs of the most marginalised children. We work wherever God leads us, strengthening the capacity of churches to lead their communities in caring for children and addressing the roots of beliefs, practices and circumstances that harm them. We work with churches directly, through local project partners and by networking and collaborating with other organisations.

How BCT has benefited marginalised children

We assisted churches and Christian organisations to develop initiatives to bring about holistic transformation in the lives of vulnerable children

BCT exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children. We believe wholeheartedly that every child is created in God's image and therefore inherently precious. And we believe that every child should be loved, cared for and enabled to fulfil their God-given potential. Therefore, we actively seek out the most marginalised of children – the ones who slip through the net, who are neglected by their communities and whose suffering goes unnoticed because they are hidden away or overlooked – and we act to see their lives changed, practically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We believe in the Church. We believe churches are uniquely placed to influence change on a local basis, and that they understand their communities, their children and the most important local issues far better than we do. So, local churches are our focus. We seek to equip churches to reach their own communities, rather than doing it for them, so that they will continue to influence godly transformation even many years into the future. We connect with and equip churches directly through our *Transformation Resources*, and indirectly through our project partners.

Note: It is our longstanding habit to visit each project partner every two years. Unfortunately, our ability to carry out overseas visits has been severely hampered by COVID-19. However, since the beginning of the pandemic, we have redoubled our efforts to support our partners by phone, email, Zoom and WhatsApp, while in-person contact has been impossible. Our partners have continued to provide quarterly narrative and financial reports throughout this period, so we have a firm understanding of the work they have been carrying out.

Enabling projects to develop strategically and according to good practice

Our partners do amazing things with scant resources and, often, in incredibly difficult circumstances. But we believe their already excellent work can always be strengthened. So, drawing on over 20 years' experience, we work alongside our partners to help them in formulating strategies which will enable them to meet their communities' most acute needs. We help them to make the most of the resources and personnel available to them, and to operate in line with best practice in safeguarding and project management, in order to maximise their impact on marginalised children.

Enabling projects to monitor and evaluate their work and to be accountable

Monitoring and evaluation are vital in ensuring our partners' work is as effective as possible. So we equip our partners with tools to help them record the measurable outcomes from each of their activities, and we work with them to refine their annual plans so as to emphasise the most effective areas of their work. These steps also enable our UK team to better understand the contexts in which our partners are operating.

Creating resources to challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs

The abuse and neglect of children is very often underpinned by misguided beliefs. For example, the belief that death, sickness and financial loss are the results of witchcraft often leads to children being called 'witches' and subjected to extreme physical and emotional abuse.

Our *Transformation Resources* address child abuse by unpacking the attitudes and beliefs which cause it. 'Transform Disability' addresses misconceptions about disability and disabled children, 'Transform Families' encourages positive parenting by discussing common views on family life, and 'Let's Grow!' tackles food insecurity through addressing lack of knowledge about nutrition and agriculture.

All of the completed *Transformation Resources* material is available for download, absolutely free, through our website. And each element of the resources is piloted through trusted churches and Christian agencies – including our project partners – before being released for general use. The latest developments on *Transformation Resources* are outlined on page 17 of this report.

Provision of training

We love what our partners do, and we marvel at what they achieve in bringing God-inspired transformation into children's lives. But we always aim to strengthen our partners' work further and to help them become even more effective.

Under normal circumstances, we help our partners to identify areas in which they would benefit from training, and we then enable them to access training which meets their needs. This either involves delivering the training ourselves or, where the training requires a specialism we do not have within the organisation, helping our partners to access training from an alternative provider.

This year, COVID has made face-to-face training very difficult, and overseas travel has been all but impossible. However, we have still been able to provide our partners with standalone training materials which we have created (most notably on COVID, health and healing, and mental health issues). We have also provided forums to share expertise and good practice through the two SCWA online forums, and have connected EPAM with LVLE (who operate in the same city) for training on addressing witchcraft accusations.

Enabling networking

There is often valuable wisdom to be gained from other organisations and individuals. So we are always on the look out for other people doing good work to serve marginalised children, either in the same geographical areas as our partners or focusing on the same issues. When we identify groups like these, we encourage our partners to connect with them. Sharing ideas and experience can often be beneficial for both sides.

This also applies to new sources of funding: we help our partners to identify potential new financial backers, so that they will be better resourced. In the end, we aim for all of our partners to reach a stage where they no longer need BCT's support and are able to operate independently.

Enabling projects to access information resources

Our UK team often has access to professional networks and information which our project partners do not. Therefore, we ensure that our partners can access important and useful resources by emailing them electronic documents or links to websites where such documents are available.

Provision of finances, encouragement and prayer support

Reliable regular income is clearly essential to enable our partners to continue and extend their work. We provide targeted financial support for each of our partners, resourcing the most strategically significant areas of their work. We indicate at the start of the year which activities we hope to fund and at what level, to enable our partners to plan. Although this funding is subject to fundraising, we are invariably able to meet our commitments in this way.

Alongside the provision of funds, we also support our partners in regular prayer and in ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice through email and WhatsApp contact.

BCT supports and partners with projects that are:

- Community-based, church-led or parachurch, if working significantly with churches.
- Working with the most marginalised children, who are significantly at risk in the context within which they live, due to abuse and prevailing circumstances.
- Addressing roots of harmful beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- Equipping local people to meet their own needs.
- Working with replicable and sustainable models or who desire to.
- Working with locally appropriate solutions to local problems.
- Focussing on Child Protection and Children's Rights.
- Emphasising the empowerment and support of parents/guardians and young people.
- Willing to collaborate and network with others.
- Willing to be accountable through monitoring and evaluation and impact measurement of their work; good financial reporting and good, open communication.
- Actively raising awareness within churches and communities of issues or an issue that is harmful to children, or desire to do so.
- Willing to progress and develop.
- Willing to be a voice on behalf of marginalised children or those at risk of abuse and/or to enable the children's voices to be heard directly.
- In under-resourced, neglected or isolated areas where marginalised children are exceptionally vulnerable and where there is little service provision.

Case study: Deborah

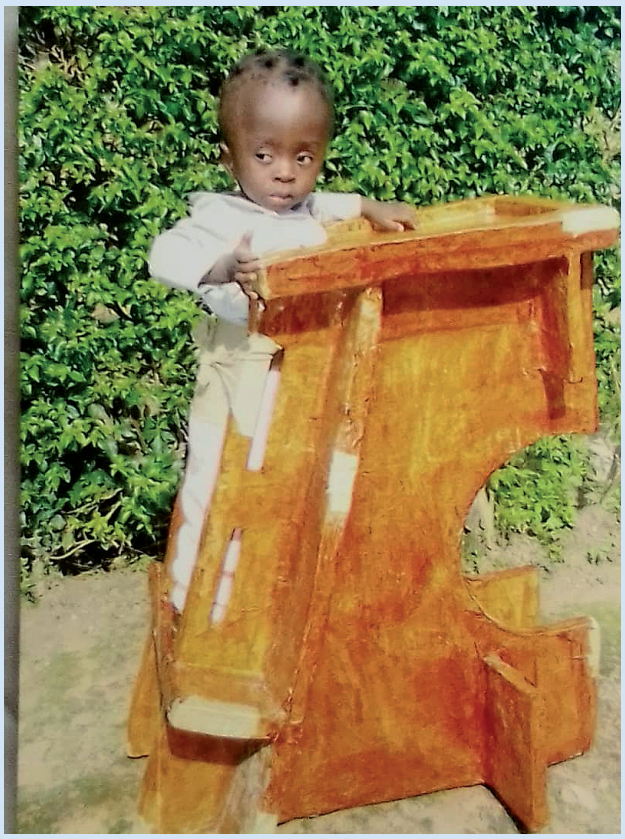


Photo: Deborah is thriving through Wukwashi's support and the grace of God.

Born with hydrocephalus, Deborah had been unable to sit or crawl and, at four, she was far off her development targets – even after corrective surgery. When Deborah met the team at Wukwashi wa Nzambi (our Zambian partner), they knew they could make a difference for her. The team arranged transport so she could have hospital treatment, then enabled her to receive physiotherapy and mobility aids through one of its support groups.

Consequently, Deborah is now able to speak, feed herself and walk with support. Her mother, who has also come to Christ through Wukwashi, is using her newfound physiotherapy skills to encourage other families.

'The help I have received from Wukwashi wa Nzambi has helped me to know a lot of things and I have learnt skills which I am able to help other parents who have children in similar situations as my child,' she says. 'I used to be ashamed of my child, but now I am a happy mother through interaction with other mothers and children, and encouragements from Wukwashi. I am very thankful.'

Deborah is one of 26 children whom Wukwashi helped to access hospital services between April and June this year. Zambia's weak health system means that children born with a disability generally have limited prospects, but Wukwashi are determined to help disabled children fulfil their potential.

BCT by numbers

8 volunteers from churches in Gatsibo (Rwanda) are reaching out to disabled children in their community.

30 marginalised teenage girls have been provided with mentoring and life skills training.

2,000 pounds were raised in an emergency appeal in response to a volcanic eruption in DR Congo.

48 more church leaders in Goma (DR Congo) have been trained to address and prevent child abuse.

6 street-living children per quarter have been enabled to return to their families.

400 children with disabilities attend support groups in Zambia, every quarter.

90 phone calls from listeners during and after each radio programme on COVID, hosted by LVLE.

3 physiotherapists attended support groups to assess children with disabilities and devise bespoke physiotherapy programmes for parents to carry out at home.

15 modules of 'Transform Families' have been created and are now ready for formatting.

600 Zambian families received soap and bleach to help protect themselves against COVID.

APRECOM (AIDS Prevention Care and Outreach Ministry)

Based in:	Kigali, Rwanda
Run by:	Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Rwanda
Partnered with BCT since:	2002
Supports:	• Children affected by HIV/AIDS • Children living with disabilities

Context

APRECOM's work has two distinct strands: support for children and families affected by HIV, and equipping churches to reach and serve disabled children in their communities. At APRECOM's inception, there was an acute need for advice and support relating to HIV, in the wake of a huge and sudden increase in infection rates. APRECOM was established to meet this need and continues in this vital work, supporting children, teenagers and parents affected by the virus. In recent years, it has also become increasingly clear that many of Rwanda's children have disabilities and that many of these are without any meaningful support or therapeutic interventions. Realising the extent of this issue, APRECOM has responded by training church leaders in disability advocacy, and equipping them to provide the support and services families with disabled children most need.

APRECOM has previously worked extensively in Kigali, but the initiatives there are now self-sustaining, allowing the team to focus its resources in other areas of the country, especially Bukora and Bugesera.

Key activities

- **Changing attitudes towards children** – Church leaders who have attended APRECOM's training are advocating for children's rights, ensuring their churches have child protection policies and challenging attitudes which lead to children being abused.
- **Releasing churches to find and support children with disabilities** – Inspired by APRECOM, churches in the Gahanga area of Kigali have connected with 11 children who had previously been hidden at home. 8 volunteers from churches in Gatsibo are continuing to work together to the same end, and the same thing is happening in Bugesera.
- **Equipping children to report abuse** – 10 churches in Bugesera and 6 churches in Kajera have been provided with copies of 'Touch Talk', which empowers children to recognise and report abuse. These churches have trained children and parents, using this resource.
- **Mentoring teenagers affected by HIV** – APRECOM's Inshuti Nziza Troop offers encouragement, life advice and access to vocational training to 25 teenagers in Bugesera and 40 in Bukora.
- **Supporting children affected by HIV or poverty** – COVID has made it impossible for APRECOM's Inshuti Nziza children's clubs to meet this year, but the club leaders have carried out regular visits to the children and their parents, to maintain relationships and encourage positive parenting.
- **Support groups for adults affected by HIV** – The support groups in Bukora and Kajera have not been able to meet, due to COVID, but group members have still received encouragement from the group leaders and from one another.
- **Provision of food supplies and sanitary products** – APRECOM has provided the most vulnerable families in their network with essential supplies, in response to the shortages brought about by COVID. 35 families have been supported in this way, in Bukora alone.
- **Support and advice for marginalised teenage girls** – APRECOM's Queens group has welcomed 30 teenage girls and provided them with mentoring, advice and access to vocational skills. 11 of the girls will attend the sewing school in Bukora, when it opens next.
- **Equipping families to address child malnutrition** – APRECOM's community gardens in Bukora and Kajera have modelled the principles of effective gardening and good nutrition. Along with training in 'Let's Grow!', these gardens have helped 47 people to provide their children with balanced diets.

Impact

- **Direct support for disabled children** – Sixteen disabled children are out of isolation and developing, physically, mentally and socially, through their support group. Church volunteers are also providing food supplements and helping to source wheelchairs and mobility aids, which transform the children's independence.

Photo: With food supplies affected by the pandemic, APRECOM's distribution program has been a lifeline for many families.

- **Children out of isolation** – It is very common for disabled children to be hidden away at home and to receive no support with their conditions. APRECOM are connecting with children just like these, helping them to access mobility aids and therapeutic interventions, and equipping their parents to meet their needs.
- **Child abuse challenged** – We have seen several examples of children reporting abuse against them, and this abuse being directly addressed. These reports have arisen from children who have learned about how to handle abuse from 'Touch Talk'.
- **Hopeful teenagers** – Young people who attend the Inshuti Nziza Troop have a clearer sense of purpose and self-esteem. 19 have returned to school and 6 will attend vocational training next year. 'Let's Grow!' training has equipped them with good principles for gardening and nutrition.
- **Stronger families** – The visits to members of the Inshuti Nziza clubs have resulted in parents caring for their children more effectively, and developing closer relationships within their families.
- **Practical support for vulnerable adults** – Members of APRECOM's support groups accessed vital food supplies and medical treatments, despite the support groups not meeting formally.
- **Brighter prospects for teenage girls** – The girls who attend the Queens group would otherwise have been vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and unwanted pregnancies. Instead, they have increased in their confidence and self-esteem, gained wisdom to make positive life choices, and have access to vocational skills. Despite high teenage pregnancy rates in the community during extended lockdowns, not one of the Queens group have become pregnant.
- **Improved child nutrition** – Families who have received training in gardening are better equipped to ensure their children eat healthily. Those on regular medication (including HIV treatment) have reliable food supplies to enable them to take this medication safely and effectively.

Figures

In any given quarter, APRECOM offers support to around 225 children and 190 adults.

How BCT has benefited APRECOM this year

- Ongoing support and advice, by email and WhatsApp.
- Detailed guidance on formulating annual plans and evaluating and developing the work.
- Information resources.
- Funding for:
  - Quarterly training seminars in 11 churches in Bugesera, on child protection and disability awareness.
  - Training for 20 pastors in Nyamata.
  - Review visits to church leaders in Kajera and Bukora (who have previously received training).
  - Training 50 church leaders in Gahanga in how to identify and support children with disabilities, and how to set up a support group.
  - Quarterly life skills seminars for 25 young people in Bugesera (Inshuti Nziza Troop).
  - Quarterly training for 6 churches in Kajera (37 leaders) on care for children with disabilities and how to set up a support group.
  - Provision of the 'Touch Talk' resource to churches in Kajera, and use of the resource to equip children in those churches.

- Running the Queens Group for 30 teenage girls in Bukora, including providing soap and sanitary pads.
- Emergency food and hygiene products for vulnerable families.
- Gardening projects in Bukora and Kajera.
- Staff training, administration and travel expenses.
- Networking with other organisations, including Peace Plan and Bible Society of Rwanda.

Photo: Church leaders like Pastor Emmanuel are integral to APRECOM's work.

Bridgette's story

Pastor Sophone has learnt to see beyond disability. He is one of the church leaders in Nyamata, Bugesera, who now understands the value and potential of children living with disabilities and HIV, thanks to APRECOM's training. And he is passionate about the role of the Church in helping them thrive.

Ten-year-old Bridgette is testament to this transformation in people's attitudes. Her mental and physical disabilities used to mean she was hidden away in the house, unable to walk and struggling to eat. She was fading away.

Sophone alerted APRECOM. They provided food for Bridgette and trained her parents to feed and care for her, even giving the family a goat. With APRECOM and Sophone's loving support, Bridgette is now a healthy child, enjoying friendships like any other girl.

'Before, churches in Bugesera were so blind and thought it was the government or NGOs' responsibility to care for vulnerable children,' says Odeth, APRECOM's Coordinator. 'No one encouraged or prayed for their parents. Now the whole community is benefiting!'

BCT donated £9,258.64 to **APRECOM** this year

LVLE (Laissez Vivre Les Enfants)

Based in:	Goma, eastern DRC
Run by:	A church pastor and members of other local churches
Partnered with BCT since:	January 2017
Supports:	Children living in poverty, on the streets and/or accused of witchcraft

Context

Goma is an incredibly difficult place to grow up. Poverty is endemic, violence and civil unrest are common, and child abuse is so widespread that it is often simply ignored. What's more, there is a widespread belief in and around Goma that sickness, death and misfortune can be attributed to witchcraft, and that children are often responsible for this witchcraft. So, abuse arising from witchcraft accusations is disturbingly common too.

LVLE are determined that Goma's children should be allowed to thrive, despite the many challenges that stand in their way. The team reach out to the most marginalised of the local children. They spend time befriending children and young people who live on the streets of Goma, helping them, advising them and, whenever possible, reconciling them to their families so they can return home. And they train pastors and school leaders to recognise and prevent child abuse, and to address attitudes which lead to witchcraft accusations against children.

Key activities

- **Child protection training** – 48 church leaders in Goma have received training on the prevention of child abuse, using 'Touch Talk'. These leaders have also been encouraged to pass on 'Touch Talk' teaching to children in their congregations, to empower them to report abuse against them.

- **Follow up** – Each of the church leaders who had received training was visited later, to ensure they understood what they had been taught and were able to take steps to put their learning into practice.

- **Building networks to address accusations of witchcraft** – LVLE's two 'Synergies' are networks of church leaders, police officers and civic authorities, based in Masisi and Monigi. The members of the Synergies work together to address accusations of witchcraft against children and to intervene on behalf of children at risk of abuse.

- **Training around the issue of witchcraft accusations** – Members of the Synergies receive thorough training to address witchcraft accusations and related abuse, using the SCWA* resource 'The Heart of the Matter'. And they are then encouraged to pass on their understanding to other local leaders, especially church pastors.

- **Addressing nutrition and food scarcity** – Malnutrition and food scarcity are significant problems, especially in the Monigi and Nyiragongo areas, and these problems have been exacerbated by COVID-19. 59 pastors and civic leaders have attended 'Let's Grow!' training and learned principles and techniques to grow nutritious plants. They have been released to pass on their learning to their communities.

- **Outreach to street-living children** – LVLE's outreach to street-living children continues, seeking to develop significant relationships. This work focuses on 'listening points' in two areas of Goma where there are the highest concentrations of street-living children. LVLE's goal is to eventually help the children to return home; they contact the parents of any children who express the desire to go home, and begin a process of mediation to prepare both the child and the parents to be reunited.

- **Handwashing project** – In response to COVID-19, LVLE have formed a ground-breaking collaboration between their own team, local residents, civic authorities and street-living children, setting up 10 handwashing stations around Goma. These stations have been crucial in enabling local people to protect themselves against COVID, and have also made a dramatic difference in building trusting relationships between LVLE and street-living children.

- **Provision of masks** – The team have provided face masks which have helped the children limit the spread of COVID, and prevented them from being arrested and often abused at the hands of police officers.

- **Radio and TV broadcasts** – Rev Jean-Paul appears weekly on local radio and once a month on local television, to share insight on child protection and positive parenting. This year, his broadcasts have been particularly focused on COVID-19: answering important questions and countering common myths around the virus.

  *(*Stop Child Witch Accusations – see 'Connecting with others' section, p21.)*

Impact

- **Prevention of abuse** – Through their church leaders' use of 'Touch Talk', children have been enabled to report abuse whenever they see it or experience it. Children who might have been vulnerable to being accused of witchcraft (and abused as a result) are now better protected because of the improved understanding of the issue among their church and school leaders.

- **Leaders mobilised** – Through the Synergies, local leaders have committed to addressing abuse carried out against children accused of witchcraft. They have drawn up an action plan, which has included mapping 32 'prayer rooms' in Goma, in order to contact the leaders and offer them advice and training.

- **Children leaving the streets** – LVLE has engaged with between 60 and 100 street-living children per quarter, specifically to discuss the possibility of returning home. On average, 6 or 7 children per quarter are successfully reunited with their families, following LVLE's mediation between the children and their parents.

- **Limiting the spread of COVID** – In the midst of the COVID crisis, LVLE's handwashing stations have helped to meet the acute need for cleanliness. These stations may have literally saved lives, especially for street-living children who would otherwise have had no adequate washing facilities. And Rev Jean-Paul's radio and TV broadcasts have met a pressing need for reliable information about COVID and how to limit its spread.

- **Changing attitudes** – Rev Jean-Paul's weekly radio shows frequently lead to lively discussions with listeners on how best to care for children. The programme content gently challenges any negative attitudes towards children among the audience.

- **Understanding of agriculture** – The 20 local leaders who attended 'Let's Grow!' training have gained a new understanding of nutrition and of agriculture, which will enable them to ensure that families in their communities have better diets. And these leaders are committed to passing on their learning: 56 people have already benefitted from this training.

Photo: A LVLE listening post at Briere, Goma.

Figures

The numbers of adults LVLE reaches vary from quarter to quarter. The team provide training for several cohorts of 50 pastors and 40 school leaders during the year, and also conduct follow-up visits to cohorts who have already received training.

In an average quarter, LVLE directly supports around 150 street-living children. Many more will have benefited from the handwashing stations in Goma.

NB: Several members of the LVLE team were subjected to a violent robbery in October 2020, in which their laptop, phones, passports and training materials were stolen. In response to this, we arranged an emergency appeal and sent the team a gift of £2,405.03 to help them replace the stolen equipment. This figure is in addition to the regular project funding.

Also, May 2021 saw a huge volcanic eruption in Nyiragongo, near Goma. The eruption had a catastrophic effect on the local community. We therefore arranged another emergency appeal, to fund essential food supplies and disaster relief, with donations totalling £2,000. We shared these funds equally between LVLE and EPAM (with whom we sometimes collaborate in Goma), specifically to enable them to respond to the most vulnerable children and families affected by the eruption. Once again, this figure is separate from LVLE's regular project funding.

How BCT has benefited LVLE this year

- Ongoing support, advice and encouragement from BCT staff, through email and WhatsApp.
- Guidance on developing strategic plans and measuring the impact of their work.
- Information resources, including:
  - 'The Heart of the Matter', which helps train church and community leaders to address child witch accusations.
  - 'Touch Talk', which empowers children to recognise and report abuse.
  - 'Let's Grow!', which addresses nutrition and food security.
- Funding for:
  - Two listening posts to connect with street-living children: six sessions per quarter.
  - Raising awareness among street-living children of COVID-19 and how to protect themselves from the virus.
  - Installation of hand-washing stations in Sake, to limit the spread of COVID-19.
  - Mediation visits to the families of street-living children who wish to return home.
  - 'Let's Grow!' training:
    - Piloting 'Let's Grow!' in three areas of Masisi.
    - Training 50 key leaders in Masisi and providing copies of the resource to enable them to train their congregations.
  - 'Touch Talk' training:
    - One-day training of 50 pastors in Birere.
    - Follow-up training with the same 50 pastors, six months later.

Photo: Training church and community leaders is a key component of LVLE's work.

    - Refresher day with 30 pastors in Goma, already trained in 'Touch Talk'.
    - One-day training of 50 school leaders in Goma.
    - Evaluation of 'Touch Talk' training with pastors and school leaders.
  - Training for members of the Synergies:
    - Five-day refresher training in 'The Heart of the Matter' for the Synergies in Masisi and Monigi.
    - Five-day 'Heart of the Matter' training for 40 new pastors in Masisi.
  - Weekly radio shows to raise awareness of child protection issues and witchcraft-related abuse.
  - Monthly TV broadcasts to address the same issues.
  - Staff training, administration and travel expenses.
  - Emergency funding to replace equipment lost in a robbery.

BCT donated £10,015.07 to **LVLE** this year

Mathieu's story

Mathieu is ten and has lived on the streets of Sake for two years. After his father died, his mother re-married and her new husband took an instant dislike to Mathieu. He regularly beat Mathieu and things came to a head when he tried to burn his hands in the fire. A friend persuaded Mathieu that taking his chances on the streets would be preferable to enduring more abuse at home. But life on the streets is a fight for survival, and Mathieu has had to resort to theft to keep body and soul together. The scars on his face are testament to the occasions when he has been caught and punished.

Despite his struggles to get by, Mathieu claims to be happy on the streets and has no desire to go home. LVLE's outreach workers are getting to know Mathieu and they've found he is a friendly and gentle soul. He seems to enjoy spending time with them too, especially when they have a film he can watch on one of their phones. Mathieu's future is uncertain, but LVLE have begun the tricky process of contacting his mother and trying to reconcile her to her son. And in the meantime, they are supporting him with advice and practical help.

Transformation Resources

BCT donated £10,460.16 to **Transformation Resources** this year

Run by:	BCT's UK-based team, with advice and input from our overseas partners
A project since:	August 2017
Addresses:	Harmful attitudes and beliefs

Transformation Resources are a vital strand of BCT's work. Through this material, we aim to enable leaders in remote and deprived communities to address harmful beliefs and attitudes which lead to children being abused, neglected and exploited. Each of the individual resources is Bible-based, contextualised to ensure it is relevant to the communities we seek to reach, and rigorously tested by our project partners and other Christian workers on the ground. By producing and disseminating the *Transformation Resources*, we serve communities we would otherwise never reach, and increase our impact exponentially.

Our suite of resources includes material which addresses: issues around family relationships and parenting; disability inclusion; hunger, nutrition and food scarcity, and preventing the spread of COVID-19. As a member organisation of the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition, BCT has also taken the lead in creating resources which offer biblical perspectives on sickness and on mental health: issues which are important in themselves and which often underpin accusations of witchcraft.

Key activities

- **Writing and creation** – 'Let's Grow!', our resource to address hunger and food scarcity, has been completed and circulated to our partners and selected other contacts. This year, we also created 'Sickness, Health & Healing' and 'Mental Health Matters', which were released with SCWA branding and address issues which are relevant to accusations of witchcraft. However, questions around physical and mental health are clearly extremely important in their own right, and both titles work well as standalone resources.
- **Piloting** – 'Let's Grow!' has been piloted by our partners in Rwanda and Zambia, as well as contacts in Zimbabwe and Burundi.
- **Translation** – 'Let's Grow!' and the SCWA health resources have been translated into French. Our COVID-19 resources are now available in French and Swahili. These measures make the resource material more widely accessible.
- **Feedback and editing** – 'Let's Grow!' is now widely available through our website, after being formatted. The first 15 modules of 'Transform Families' have been reviewed internally and are ready for formatting.
- **Building relationships with collaborators** – We have connected with organisations in Kenya and DR Congo, both of which are using 'Transform Disability' to train leaders within their networks. EPAM, our contact in DR Congo, is also using 'Let's Grow!' with local church and community leaders.
- **Refining the web platform** – The content of the website has been tweaked to make it easier for visitors to find the resource material they need.

Impact

- **Healthier children** – Through 'Let's Grow!', churches and communities have gained a better understanding of agriculture and nutrition, and have learned ways of improving their children's diet.
- **Improved support for disabled children** – Through 'Transform Disability', churches have increased their knowledge of disability and been equipped to support disabled children and adults. As a result, children (and adults) with disabilities are better supported and more empowered to play an active part in their communities.
- **Protection from COVID-19** – Our COVID-19 resources have been available for over a year now and have helped numerous communities to protect themselves against the virus.
- **Increased reach** – Translating the resource material into additional languages and refining the website to make the material more easily accessible have made the material available to new audiences and increased its reach.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi

Based in:	Copperbelt region, Zambia
Run by:	Local volunteers
Partnered with BCT since:	2005
Supports:	Children living with disabilities

Context

Wukwashi wa Nzambi ('God's help') does extraordinary work in supporting children with disabilities and advocating for their needs and rights. Zambian children who live with disabilities must frequently overcome prejudice, stigma and institutional barriers to education and services, as well as their own physical or mental challenges. Wukwashi are determined that this situation should change.

Through their network of support groups – run by teams of volunteers from local churches – Wukwashi offers physiotherapy and play therapy to disabled children, helping them to become stronger and develop social and motor skills. They also provide access to mobility aids, artificial limbs and medical interventions, not to mention advice and encouragement for parents, and refer children to specialist schools when appropriate. Stigma against disability is still a common problem, but the Wukwashi team address this through their programme of training for church leaders, and through their presence in local media.

Key activities

- **Support groups** – Wukwashi runs 16 support groups for children with disabilities, and their parents. These groups are the backbone of Wukwashi's work. They provide disabled children with physiotherapy, play therapy, assessment for mobility aids and medical treatment, and moreover a sense of acceptance and belonging.
- **Mentoring** – For several months of this year, the support groups have not convened because of COVID restrictions. At these times, volunteers from Wukwashi and local churches have stayed in contact with parents of disabled children, through phone calls and home visits. In this way, they have mentored these parents, encouraging them and giving them specific advice on caring for their children.
- **Physiotherapy** – Three physiotherapists visit Wukwashi's support groups. Their treatments improve the children's strength, muscle tone and range of movement, and they teach parents simple exercises to perform with their children at home.
- **Providing mobility aids** – The team source and provide wheelchairs, walking frames and support shoes for children with mobility problems. As many as 8 children per quarter receive wheelchairs. Wukwashi also has a workshop to build supportive chairs, which help children sit upright and improve their posture.
- **Referrals to hospital** – Children who need medical or surgical intervention are referred on to local hospitals for treatment. Wukwashi covers the costs of travel to hospital for families who cannot afford it. Around 25 children are supported in this way, in most quarters.
- **Transport to school** – Children with limited mobility often struggle to make the journey to school. Wukwashi helps by simply providing transport, and by providing school fees for children attending Mambilima Special School.
- **Training workshops for church leaders** – Wukwashi addresses negative attitudes towards disability by training church leaders on the biblical mandate and important principles for caring for people with disabilities. 89 church leaders have complete 'Transform Disability' training this year.
- **Review meetings** – The team regularly meet with church leaders who have previously taken part in training, to build relationships with them and monitor their progress in including children with disabilities. COVID has made these meetings difficult this year, but 8 church leaders have still been visited.
- **Wider advocacy** – Joyce and Henry regularly visit other churches and appear on TV and radio broadcasts, to advocate for children with disabilities and share insights on how best to meet their needs.

Impact

- **Dramatic improvements in children's conditions** – Typically, over 400 children per quarter attend Wukwashi's support groups. The majority of them make great improvements, both in their physical conditions and in their capacity for social interactions. Their parents also benefit from increased confidence in supporting their children and in a renewed appreciation for them. These benefits were made possible by Wukwashi's mentoring programme, while the support groups were unable to meet.

- **Improved movement** – Around 200 children receive physiotherapy in an average quarter. Those who receive this therapy almost all show dramatic improvements in their abilities to sit, stand or walk. These are vital steps towards independence.

- **Independence and integration** – Children with mobility problems are often stranded at home, unable to attend school or interact with their peers. Wheelchairs and standing frames transform their ability to move, and therefore offer them opportunities to attend school, play with friends and play a full part in their communities.

- **Life-saving treatment** – Access to medical treatments always makes a tangible difference to a child with a disability and is, in some cases, literally life-saving.

- **Prospects for the future** – Education is essential in improving children's life prospects. Enabling children with mobility issues to access education is hugely significant in helping them build a bright future for themselves.

- **Church leaders inspired** – Wukwashi's training for church leaders has not just challenged common attitudes which lead to disabled children being overlooked and abused, but also inspired these leaders to actively seek out and welcome children with disabilities. 14 new volunteers for support groups have come forward as a result of this training. Review meetings and ongoing relationships spur on the church leaders to take tangible steps to make their churches accessible to disabled people.

- **Influencing societal beliefs** – Wukwashi's advocacy for children with disabilities is changing attitudes towards them. Gradually, children with disabilities are being seen and treated differently, within individual communities and wider Zambian society.

Photo: Wukwashi's Co-Director, Joyce Mutembu, speaks at a conference for over 3,000 women.

Figures

Wukwashi typically engages over 500 children per quarter, with many families benefiting from more than one aspect of their work. The team also reaches between 200 and 300 adults per quarter, through its training, support groups and advocacy initiatives.

How BCT has benefited Wukwashi this year

- Ongoing support, advice and guidance from BCT staff, by email, phone, Zoom and WhatsApp.

- Focused guidance in formulating strategy and annual plans.

- Provision of resource material, including 'Transform Disability' and 'Let's Grow!'.

- Funding for:

    - 16 weekly support groups for children with disabilities and their families.

    - 'Transform Disability' workshops in Mpika, Kabompo and Kitwe.

    - Review of 'Transform Disability' training with groups from Solwezi and Copperbelt.

    - Home visits and phone calls to families connected with Wukwashi, as part of the mentoring programme.

    - Organising quarterly visits from medical professionals, to assess children at support groups for medical and surgical treatment needs.

Photo: A Wukwashi support group in Kapombo.

- Medical and transport costs for children to receive necessary treatment (including operations and artificial limbs) at nearby hospitals.
- Three physiotherapists to visit four support groups each, per month, to treat children and give instruction to parents and volunteers.
- Assessing children's mobility needs and distributing mobility aids as needed.
- Providing therapy toys for support groups.
- The provision of soap and bleach to 600 families and 110 volunteers.
- Provision of food supplies for families who have lost income in lockdown.
- Supporting 30 children with disabilities to attend Mambilima Special School.
- Week-long residential training for 60 parents (and their children), to teach physiotherapy and play therapy activities, and principles for supporting children with disabilities.
- Training workshops and review meetings for 60 church leaders, based on 'Transform Disability'.
- Advocacy on behalf of disabled children in churches and schools, and through local radio.
- Recruitment of 30 new volunteers for support groups, from local churches.
- Training new volunteers to assess needs of children with disabilities.
- Volunteers to visit children in their homes, following operations.
- Transport for staff to visit distant support groups, to deliver training and monitor activities.
- Staff training, administration and travel expenses.

BCT donated £21,815.35 to **Wukwashi** this year

Julian's story

Until recently, Julian spent much of the day alone and looking at the ceiling. Our partner project in Zambia has given him wheels and opened up a world of opportunity for him.

The seven-year-old who has cerebral palsy could not even sit unaided, let alone walk. The older he became, the harder it was for his mother to carry him. So he became trapped, unable to socialise or go to school.

After intensive physiotherapy at the support group set up by Wukwashi in Kitwe, he can now not only stand but also walk. The new wheelchair he's been given means he can get to church, to school, even go on the bus.

Julian is one of about 100 children whom Wukwashi's physiotherapist, Emmanuel, has seen at some of the 13 support groups which have been able to meet more recently. Emmanuel trains parents to replicate the exercises he demonstrates for them, and those who have done physio at home have seen real improvement in their children. Wukwashi is exploring the possibility of a parent-to-parent mentoring scheme to encourage those who are more reluctant or less confident to have a go.

Connecting with others

Connecting with others around the issue of children accused of witchcraft

Witchcraft accusations against children are still a huge issue, leading to the abuse and neglect of thousands of children worldwide. So BCT is proud to continue its commitment to the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition. Carolyn Gent has assumed the role of Chair of the coalition and Lyn Edwards joined the steering group this year, and BCT as an organisation is integral to SCWA's activities.

The past year has seen several important milestones for SCWA. In July, the UN published a resolution on Harmful Practices: Accusations of Witchcraft and Ritual Attacks. This is a hugely significant step as it adds international weight to national legislation against witchcraft accusations and holds governments accountable for taking action against witchcraft-related abuse. The resolution marks the culmination of four years of work on the part of SCWA and numerous other organisations and individuals, since the issue of witchcraft-related abuse was first raised with the UN at a workshop in September 2017. We are now looking forward to seeing meaningful change in nations where witchcraft-related abuse has, until now, been commonplace.

We are also delighted to report that a 'Heart of the Matter' training-of-trainers event took place in Calabar, Nigeria in August. (COVID restrictions made travel to Nigeria impossible, but UK-based members of SCWA were able to help facilitate the training through Zoom.) Nigeria is a hotbed of witchcraft accusations against children, and SCWA has been making plans for several years to work with local church leaders to address the issue. At last, SCWA has connected with quality people on the ground and is supporting them to provide clear, authoritative training. The delegates at the August training have since gone on to deliver a training workshop for 30 local church leaders, described by one pastor as 'mind-blowing'. These church leaders will now pass on what they have learned to their churches and develop action plans to address witchcraft accusations in their communities. It is so encouraging to see such progress.

As Chair of SCWA, Carolyn was given the opportunity to present at a virtual conference hosted in Papua New Guinea in June. The theme of the conference was 'Sorcery Accusations and Related Violence', and Carolyn spoke about issues around handling confessions from perpetrators of abuse, given in the context of training events. The importance of collaboration between agencies was mentioned repeatedly, throughout the conference, and Carolyn was able to highlight LVLE's Synergies as an example of how fruitful this kind of collaboration can be.

SCWA has also hosted two multi-agency Forums – in October 2020 and May 2021 – to provide an opportunity to connect for organisations and individuals who are working with the issues of child abuse linked to faith and belief, specifically that of accusations of witchcraft made against children. Hosted on Zoom, the Forums have attracted delegates from a range of Christian agencies and organisations from the statutory sector, and from nations including Nigeria, DR Congo, Canada and the UK.

The impact of witchcraft accusations against children – and of SCWA's work – can be illustrated by these brief case studies:

Sandrine

Sandrine is 14 years old. She lost both her parents and her two brothers in an armed attack on her village. Left alone to fend for herself, she had no choice but to move to a larger town and look for work. Abused and accused of witchcraft by her new boss, she faced even harsher punishment until our local partner stepped in to help her.

Odeth

Little Odeth was accused of witchcraft by her parents, because of her tendency to scream in her sleep, brought on by night terrors. Facing the prospect of appalling abuse, Odeth ran away to the streets. There, our Congolese partner is supporting and advising her, but she is adamant that nothing could make her return home.

Katarina

After Katarina's father died, her mother remarried. Her stepfather had little time for her and, because she was mute and sometimes wet the bed, accused her of being a witch. His abuse of Katarina went as far as burning her face so, not surprisingly, she chose to run away. Katarina's story ends more happily than the others, as she is now safe and being fostered by a trustworthy church leader.

Connecting with others around the issue of disability

This year, we have built on our working relationship with EPAM in Goma, DR Congo, focusing on care for children with disabilities. Using a collaboration model (rather than a formal partnership), we have provided EPAM with training resources and with funding to deliver training to local church leaders. EPAM's 'Transform Disability' training has reached 50 local church leaders, and has resulted in practical help for disabled people, including providing a wheelchair and a sewing machine for two individuals.

This year, EPAM have also used 'The Heart of the Matter' to train church leaders to address witchcraft accusations against children – especially because it is so common for these accusations to be targeted at children with disabilities. EPAM also plan to use 'Sickness, Health & Healing' and 'Mental Health Matters' in the coming year. (These new SCWA resources are valuable because of the frequent connection between health issues and accusations of witchcraft.)

We have also begun collaborating with Hub of Hope in Kenya, who have used 'Transform Disability' to mobilise church leaders in supporting disabled children and their families. We are excited to see how Hub of Hope are influencing the thinking in local communities and look forward to seeing how the prospects improve for children with disabilities as a result.

Mobilising resources

Our project partners are nothing short of heroic in the lengths they go to meet the needs of marginalised children, and they are incredibly shrewd in how they make the most of the limited financial resources available to them. However, our partners do still need financial investment in order to continue and expand their work. So, we provide our partners with funding for specific activities, focusing on the areas on work which are most strategically important and make the greatest impact. Each of our partners completes an annual plan and budget, and the funding we provide is in line with the costs and likely impact outlined in these documents.

BCT must, in turn, raise funding from a variety of sources. This funding comes from individuals, from churches and from a few grant-making trusts. We also welcome income from fundraising events, as and when they occur. This year, we were amazed with the efforts of BCT Ambassador Phil Edwards, who walked the length of the South West Coast Path (643 miles), raising £6,635.94 for BCT in the process!

Effective communication is essential in encouraging members of the public to give to BCT – and to support us through prayer and advocacy. Our website, print publications and social media channels all enable us to showcase BCT's work, engage a wider audience and encourage new supporters to get involved.

BCT's approach to fundraising is outlined in detail on p5 of this report.

Prayer support

Prayer is integral to everything we and our partners do. So, we always prioritise prayer within our team meetings, and we conclude any phone conversations with our partners by praying with them. We also rely on the prayers of our supporters to undergird our work. To enable this, we produce a quarterly prayer diary (circulated electronically and by post) and we maintain a network of prayer partners, to whom we send particularly urgent and important prayer requests, as and when they arise. 277 of our supporters pray for us regularly, using our prayer diary, and we have 107 prayer partners.

Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors are an elite band of BCT supporters. They represent us and raise awareness of the issues affecting marginalised children, in their churches and communities. Many of them also organise and undertake ambitious fundraising events on our behalf. (For example, one of our Ambassadors completed a huge sponsored walk this summer. See 'Mobilising resources' above.)

2020/21 Income and Expenditure

General

Each year, BCT endeavours to set a realistic income and expenditure budget, in line with its goals and objectives. BCT is prudent with its financial management and knows that it cannot achieve its goals and objectives in supporting projects, raising awareness and networking with churches and other agencies, without the generosity and loyal commitment of its supporters in their various forms: trusts and foundations, businesses, churches and individuals.

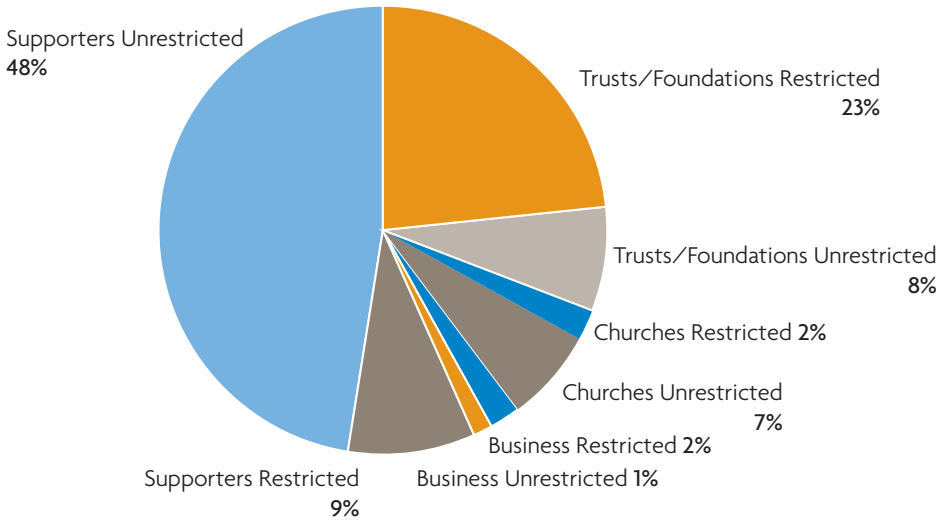
Income

BCT's total income in 2020/21 was £168,098, its highest level for 7 years and a year-on-year increase of £33,030 (24.45%). Of that increase, £23,840 was unrestricted and £9,190 restricted. After last year's dip in total income and despite the ongoing Covid pandemic, to say this year's increase in receipts of over 24% has been unexpected would be quite an understatement. However, it should be noted that while this is extremely welcome this year's level is high largely due to significantly increased one-off receipts, including a sum left to us in the will of a long-time supporter. As a consequence, while we are obviously happy that our funds levels have improved as much as they have, we cannot realistically expect to benefit from one-offs to the same extent next year. Therefore we have allowed for this in our budget for 2021/22.

With regard to the primary sources of income in 2020/21, donations from Trusts and Foundations rose from £40,745 to £51,860, an increase of 27.28%, and those from supporters increased from £69,282 to £94,996, a rise of 37.11%. Conversely, donations from businesses fell from £8,842 to £6,277, a reduction of 29.01% and those from churches fell from £16,199 to £14,965, a drop of 7.62%

An analysis of income by primary source and fund is given below:

	Trusts/ Foundations Restricted	Trusts/ Foundations Unrestricted	Churches Restricted	Churches Unrestricted	Business Restricted	Business Unrestricted	Supporters Restricted	Supporters Unrestricted	Total
2020/21	£39,250	£12,610	£3,822	£11,143	£3,952	£2,325	£15,181	£79,815	£168,098
2019/20	£32,385	£8,360	£4,646	£11,553	£4,952	£3,890	£11,032	£58,250	£135,068

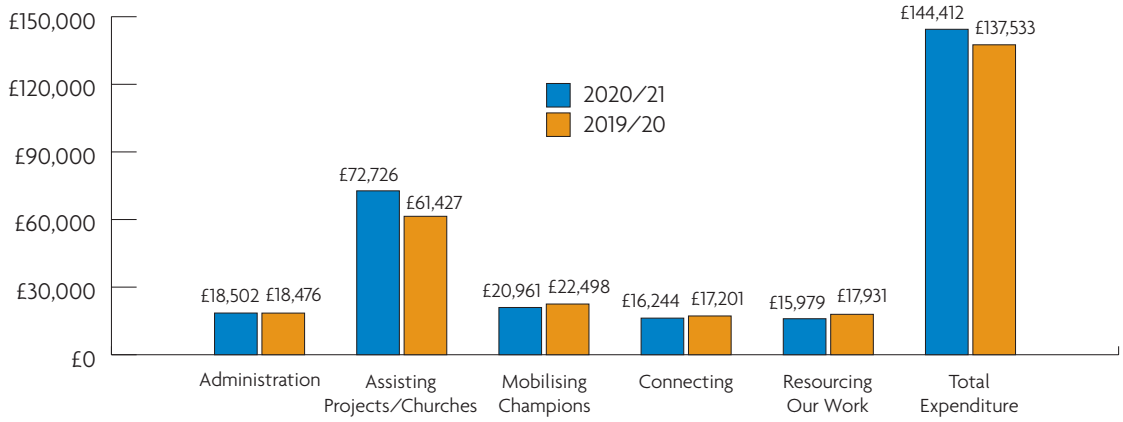


Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2020/21 was £144,412, an increase of £6,879 (5.00%) from 2019/20. Year-on-year spending from restricted funds rose by £16,497, while that from unrestricted funds dropped by £9,618. The former reflects an increase in disbursements to all our projects but also includes some emergency funding following our appeal in the immediate aftermath of the Mount Nyiragongo eruption in DRC in May 2021. Additionally, an element of the increased funding to the projects this year was a response to emergency needs resulting from the impact of Covid. With regard to unrestricted spend, we have continued to benefit from certain Covid-related cost savings. The primary saving is on UK travel cost as the team continues to keep its meetings online rather than face-to-face, but others include travel insurance and events and fundraising activities. Other savings achieved against budget were in respect of depreciation charges, the production and circulation of our quarterly publications, and printing and stationery costs.

We take very careful consideration of our fund levels when making decisions on disbursements and spending on core costs. We continue our direct participation in, and giving financial support towards vital work for the ultimate benefit of some of the most marginalised children. Our biggest expenditure area continues to be the assisting and training of BCT's partner projects and churches to meet the needs of children at risk in their communities. Spend on this in 2020/21 reached £72,726, i.e. 50.36% of the overall total. Across the other expenditure categories there was a net year-on-year decrease of £4,420.

	Administration	Assisting Projects/ Churches	Mobilising Champions	Connecting	Resourcing Our Work	Total Expenditure
2020/21	£18,502	£72,726	£20,961	£16,244	£15,979	£144,412
2019/20	£18,476	£61,427	£22,498	£17,201	£17,931	£137,533



Looking forwards

Over the last year, even in incredibly tough circumstances, good things have happened. By the grace of God, the lives of marginalised children have been changed for the better, through the dedication, skill and ingenuity of our project partners, and because of those who give BCT their time, skills, prayers and financial support. So, we have faith that God will continue to prosper our work and transform children and even whole communities. We look forward to the coming year with expectation. The circumstances in which our partners work are hard and might get even harder, but we are ready to meet the challenges ahead. We press on into the next year, not expecting an easier job, but in full assurance of God's faithfulness and of the vital importance of the work we are doing. The task is hard, the resources few, the risks many. But we do not lose heart. Far from it: we are full of hope. And we remember, along with the Apostle Paul, that 'our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all' (2 Corinthians 4:17).

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on 25th June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Gill Bradley
Chair of Trustees

The Bethany Children's Trust Report and Accounts

year ended 31 August 2021

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage, LONDON, EC1Y 8AB
t: 0208 502 5600
e: enquiries@stewardship.org.uk
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 on pages 28 to 37 following which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 30 and 31.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirements under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

(1) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;

(2) follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011;

(3) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement

This report is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 a review of the accounts and making such enquiries as are necessary for the purpose of this report. 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.

Examiner's Statement

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records, or comply with the accounting requirement of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my notice in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Archie McDowall BA, CA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

27 June 2022

The Bethany Children's Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	105,876	62,205	168,081	135,030
Investments	3	17	0	17	38
Total income and endowments		105,893	62,205	168,098	135,068
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	68,487	59,946	128,433	119,602
Raising funds	5	15,979	0	15,979	17,931
Total expenditure		84,466	59,946	144,412	137,533
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		21,427	2,259	23,686	(2,465)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
		21,427	2,259	23,686	(2,465)
Net movement in funds		21,427	2,259	23,686	(2,465)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		47,885	48,569	96,454	98,919
Total funds carried forward		69,312	50,828	120,140	96,454

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	7	2,872	0	2,872	4,787
Tangible assets	7	1,826	0	1,826	1,315
		4,698	0	4,698	6,102
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	13,454	0	13,454	26,860
Cash at bank	9	54,783	50,828	105,611	72,673
		68,237	50,828	119,065	99,533
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Liabilities falling due within one year	10	3,623	0	3,623	9,181
Net Current Assets		64,614	50,828	115,442	90,352
NET ASSETS		69,312	50,828	120,140	96,454
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted funds	12				
General Funds		69,312	–	69,312	47,885
Restricted Funds	12	–	50,828	50,828	48,569
		69,312	50,828	120,140	96,454

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 25th June 2022 by:

Gill Bradley

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.s.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2021

1 Statutory Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page of the trustees' annual report.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. In making this assessment the trustees have considered how Covid-19 might affect projections.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

ii) The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly those involving connection with our project partners, connection with other organisations and individuals in the furtherance of our aims, and the writing and provision of training resources. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

iii) Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be reliably measured.

c) **Expenditure**

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) **Intangible fixed assets**

The cost of software is capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, which is expected to be 3 years.

f) **Tangible fixed assets**

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £100 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Equipment	Over 2 to 3 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

g) **Pension scheme arrangements**

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) **Taxation**

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) **Financial instruments**

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 **Voluntary income**	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
General donations and legacies	101,330	61,187	162,517	129,322
Tax recoverable	4,546	1,018	5,564	5,708
	105,876	62,205	168,081	135,030
Other income				
Bank interest	17	–	17	38
Total Incoming Resources	105,893	62,205	168,098	135,068

4 **Charitable activity**		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
a Direct Charitable Costs					
Assisting Churches	*Note 4c*	12,997	59,729	72,726	61,427
Connecting		16,244		16,244	17,201
Mobilising Champions		20,961		20,961	22,498
		50,202	59,729	109,931	101,126
		£	£	£	£
b Support & Administration					
Governance costs		1,785		1,785	1,680
GDPR compliance		40		40	40
Salaries and pension costs		10,661		10,661	10,562
Office rent & services		124		124	187
I.T., telephone and postage		1,506		1,506	1,937
Office supplies		41		41	116
Travel costs		132		132	433
Equipment not capitalised		0		0	0
Insurance		133		133	501
Professional Fees		500		500	520
Recruitment		0		0	47
Depreciation		3,133	217	3,350	2,018
Sundry		230		230	436
		18,285	217	18,502	18,477
Combined charitable activity cost		68,487	59,946	128,433	119,602

The fee payable to the independent examiner for examining the accounts was £1,714 (2020: £1,680); in addition the charity paid £628 (2020: £623) to Stewardship for payroll bureau services.

c **Grants**	Institutions £	Individuals £	2021 £	2020 £
Analysis by receiving project				
APRECOM	9,259		9,259	8,291
Transformation Resources	10,460		10,460	5,545
Stop Child Witch Accusation	6,194		6,194	3,844
Wukwashi	21,815		21,815	18,176
LVLE	10,015		10,015	7,602
Nyiragongo appeal	2,000		2,000	0
	59,743	0	59,743	43,458

4 **Charitable activity** *(continued)*	Institutions	Individuals	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Analysis by key purpose				
Awareness raising	1,732		1,732	1,253
Training	19,323		19,323	10,947
Medical	6,079		6,079	4,753
Covid response	6,631		6,631	5,895
Transport	498		498	401
Parent/Family support	3,996		3,996	1,648
Child/Young person support & empowerment	5,860		5,860	7,723
Enterprise	991		991	2,400
School Fees	3,653		3,653	1,384
Administration	10,980		10,980	7,054
	59,743	0	59,743	43,458

Within 'Assisting Churches' are grants made to projects. The main features of the grants made were to provide practical support and finance to children's projects in Africa in three locations with the key purposes being as allocated above.

5 **Fundraising costs**	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Salaries and pension costs	13,855		13,855	13,756
Events	0		0	1,021
Travel costs	132		132	549
Printing and stationery	41		41	116
IT Costs	1,252		1,252	1,575
Telephone	217		217	298
Office rent	0		0	44
Storage	52		52	71
Insurance	133		133	132
Room Hire	0		0	0
Training, Conferences & meetings	70		70	45
Postage & mailbox hire	109		109	137
Professional Fees	0		0	50
Governance	21		21	0
Miscellaneous	97		97	137
	15,979	0	15,979	17,931

6 **Staff & Trustees**	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries & benefits in kind	51,138	50,658
Employer's National Insurance costs	3,418	3,392
Employer's Allowance	(3,418)	(3,106)
Employer's Pension Contributions	1,534	1,242
Total staff costs	52,672	52,186

During the year the charity had 3 full time equivalent employed staff (2020: 3). No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum (2020: none).

Remuneration payable to key management (excluding trustees) amounted to £37,756 in the year (2020: £50,658). Currently, key management is considered to comprise the Operations Manager, Finance Manager and Training and Project Development Coordinator.

6 Staff & Trustees *(continued)*

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year. Mrs G Bradley received no reimbursement for travel fares incurred on BCT's behalf (2020: £48). Simeon Whiting, the son of trustee Hazel Whiting, invoiced BCT a total of £9,797 during the year for communication services provided to the charity (2020: £10,340).

The total amount of donations funded by trustees [and connected parties] and key management was £422 (2020: £816).

7 Fixed Assets

Intangible Fixed Assets	**Website**	**Total 2021**
	£	**£**
Cost		
At 1st September 2020	5,744	5,744
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2021	5,744	5,744
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1st September 2020	957	957
Charge for the year	1,915	1,915
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2021	2,872	2,872
Net book value		
At 31st August 2021	2,872	2,872
At 1st September 2020	4,787	4,787

Tangible Fixed Assets	**Computer & Software**	**Furniture & Equipment**	**Total 2021**
	£	**£**	**£**
Cost			
At 1st September 2020	2,996	120	3,116
Additions	1,947	0	1,947
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st August 2021	4,943	120	5,063
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1st September 2020	1,788	13	1,801
Charge for the year	1,396	40	1,436
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st August 2021	3,184	53	3,237
Net book value			
At 31st August 2021	1,759	67	1,826
At 1st September 2020	1,208	107	1,315

8 Debtors and Prepayments

	2021 £	2020 £
Income tax receivable	8,014	8,395
Sundry Debtors	1,675	14,674
Prepayments	3,765	3,791
	13,454	26,860

9 Cash at Bank and in Hand

Co-operative Bank	90,029	56,743
NatWest Bank	15,433	14,917
Petty cash	149	1,013
	105,611	72,673

10 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

Trade Creditors	717	1,016
Accruals	2,906	2,733
Deferred Income	0	5,432
	3,623	9,181

11 Multi-year contract commitments

The charity has a five year contract with Academia Ltd to provide cloud services that commenced on 1 May 2020. The charity has an option to terminate the contract after three years. The charity paid £5,027 in the year in respect of this contract (2020: £5,027)

	2021 £	2020 £
Payments falling due:		
Within one year	5,027	5,027
Between one and five years	10,054	15,081
After five years	–	–
	15,081	20,108

12 Funds

a. The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year are as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,762	0	(217)		1,545
APRECOM	7,328	9,806	(9,256)		7,878
LVLE	6,574	13,958	(10,004)		10,528
Stop Child Witch Accusation	3,980	8,160	(6,194)		5,946
Transformation Resources	11,644	10,009	(10,460)		11,193
Wukwashi (Zambia)	17,282	18,019	(21,815)		13,486
Nyiragongo appeal	0	2,253	(2,000)		253
	48,569	62,205	(59,946)	0	50,828

12 Funds *(continued)*

With the exception of Administration, the movement on each of the above funds reflects donations received and disbursements and expenditures made in the financial year in respect of activities carried out by the named project or in accordance with the named appeal. Funds unused at the end of the year are carried forward. A description of the purpose of the other funds and the nature of the restriction can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

The Administration fund is solely in respect of donations received for non project-related and non appeal-related purposes. The movement on this fund in the year concerned one item: in financial year 2019/20 a donation of £650 was received towards the cost of incorporating a specific facility in our website. The website is being depreciated over a period of 3 years and £217 is this year's depreciation charge for the facility in question. £1,220 of the Administration fund's opening and closing balances are unused funds carried forward from previous years and are specifically restricted to cover the cost of BCT staff team social activities as and when incurred. The closing balance is again carried forward.

For comparison, movements in restricted funds in the year to 31st August 2020 are reproduced below:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,220	650	(108)		1,762
APRECOM	7,232	8,293	(8,197)		7,328
LVLE	6,277	6,872	(7,589)	1,014	6,574
Stop Child Witch Accusation	5,397	3,441	(3,844)	(1,014)	3,980
Transformation Resources	4,859	12,319	(5,534)		11,644
Wukwashi (Zambia)	14,018	21,440	(18,176)		17,282
	39,003	53,015	(43,449)	0	48,569

b. The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	50,828	–	50,828
Unrestricted funds	4,698	54,783	9,831	69,312
	4,698	105,611	9,831	120,140

For comparison, the assets and liabilities represented by the various funds as at 31st August 2020 are reproduced below:

	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	0	48,569	–	48,569
Unrestricted funds	6,102	24,104	17,679	47,885
	6,102	72,673	17,679	96,454

13 Events since the year end

Ms Rose Ndolo joined BCT as a trustee on 15th January 2022.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	105,876	82,015	62,205	53,015	168,081	135,030
Investments	3	17	38	0	0	17	38
Total income and endowments		105,893	82,053	62,205	53,015	168,098	135,068
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	4	68,487	76,153	59,946	43,449	128,433	119,602
Raising funds	5	15,979	17,931	0	0	15,979	17,931
Total expenditure		84,466	94,084	59,946	43,449	144,412	137,533
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		21,427	(12,031)	2,259	9,566	23,686	(2,465)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0	0
		21,427	(12,031)	2,259	9,566	23,686	(2,465)
Net movement in funds		21,427	(12,031)	2,259	9,566	23,686	(2,465)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		47,885	59,916	48,569	39,003	96,454	98,919
Total funds carried forward		69,312	47,885	50,828	48,569	120,140	96,454

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on page 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

APPENDIX 1

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Operations Manager is responsible for the day-to-day running of BCT. In collaboration with her team, the Operations Manager draws up BCT's annual goals and objectives, taking into account the charity commission's Public Benefit Requirement and BCT's vision and mission, and annual budget. These are then passed to BCT's trustees for discussion, revision and final approval. The Operations Manager makes recommendations to the trustees at their quarterly meetings, in respect of BCT's policies, procedures, disbursement of monies to BCT's project partners and selection of new project partners.

The trustees are responsible for final decision-making in respect of the above. In all aspects of decisions related to BCT's objectives and activities, they take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

BCT's Administrator, Finance Manager and Communications Coordinator are accountable to the Operations Manager, as are the members of staff responsible for training, project development and resources.

Appointment of BCT Trustees

Potential candidates for BCT trusteeship are given a job description and are required to complete and submit an application form and two references. Suitable candidates are then invited for an initial interview. At least two BCT trustees, one of whom must be the BCT Chair, are present at this interview. A proposal is then made to the board of trustees to appoint the successful candidate. This appointment must be ratified at a meeting of the board of trustees, according to Article 14 of the Declaration of Trust.

Successful candidates are given a full set of all BCT's policies, procedures and foundational documents, as well as a copy of the governing Deed of Trust document. They are also given the minutes of the four previous meetings of the board of trustees, a copy of the Charity Commission's guide, 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know' and a copy of the 'Charities and Public Benefit' document. All trustees are required to read BCT's Safeguarding Policy and sign a commitment to upholding it. All new trustees are required to spend an induction day, meeting all members of staff and discussing their roles, and are also required to enhance their knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to children at risk through the reading materials provided to them, and by attending study days or conferences from time to time. Pertinent reports and best practice papers are forwarded to BCT trustees, so that they maintain an awareness of issues that may affect their decision-making.

Appraisal of BCT Trustees

All trustees are required to fulfil a six-month probationary period followed by a review.

Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the term of office is for three years, followed by an appraisal. Trustees can then stand for a further term of office if the appraisal is satisfactory. BCT trustees are also required to undergo an appraisal after 18 months in office. The reviews are facilitated by the Chair and one other trustee. The term of office for the Chair of Trustees is 3 years, with an appraisal at 18 months.

None of BCT's trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work with BCT.

Risk Management

BCT recognises the need, as well as responsibility, to assess all of its activities against risk, in line with the Charity Commission's 'Statement Of Recommended Practice 2005' (SORP 2005). BCT's Risk Management Policy demonstrates potential risks, the steps taken to mitigate or remove them, and BCT's commitment to on-going monitoring and assessment. BCT has also drawn up a Business Continuity Plan as part of its Risk Management Policy. The greatest current risk is economic sustainability in light of the global economic climate, but BCT's trustees confirm that they have reviewed BCT's accounts on a monthly basis and put in place a strategy for on-going fundraising and increasing income for sustainability.

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They 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.

APPENDIX 2

Reserves Policy

(Based on Article 19 of a meeting of BCT trustees, dated 2nd March 2002. Latest amendment by agreement of BCT trustees, 24th May 2021.)

At any one time, BCT will, as a minimum, maintain an unrestricted fund reserve of at least £40,624. Funds pertaining to any reserve may be retained in one or more BCT accounts. The purpose of the unrestricted fund reserve is to:

- Maintain an adequate level of unrestricted funds to provide security against unforeseen liabilities and funding changes, and;
- For a period of at least three months, meet BCT's running costs if it experiences unforeseen financial difficulties or is in a position where it will soon cease to operate as a charity.

BCT will endeavour to have appropriately disbursed restricted donations no later than six months after the end of the previous financial year.

Grant-making Policy

(Based on Article 18 of the minutes of a meeting of the BCT trustees on 2nd March 2002).

BCT has a Grant Making Policy that outlines criteria for issuing grants to projects and/or individuals, the procedure for issuing grants and the review of grants. This policy is reviewed at set intervals, as are all BCT's policies.

Registered Office:
Office 214, Hill House,
210 Upper Richmond Road,
London SW15 6NP
www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1073817

THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1073817

Accounts

The Bethany Children's Trust

Annual Report to August 2020

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

Charity information

Trustees of The Bethany Children's Trust (BCT)

Mrs Gill Bradley
Mrs Ruth Ejvet (from September 2019)
Mr Andrew Forsyth (until September 2019)
Mr Jonathan Smith
Mr Geoff Walls (from September 2019)
Mrs Hazel Whiting

Director

Susie Howe (until June 2020)

Governing Document

Trust Deed dated 23 December 1998, as amended 5 December 2003
Charity Registration Number 1073817

Registered Office

Office 214, Hill House, 210 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 6NP

Website

www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall, BA, CA, Stewardship, 1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
Head Office
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Natwest
Wokingham Branch
5 Broad Street
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1AX

The Bethany Children's Trust
Influencing Equipping Transforming

BCT is dedicated to mobilising Christians to respond to the needs of children at risk.
Our vision is to see the Christian church leading the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, safe, valued, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential. Through teaching, training, advice, networking and financial support, BCT equips project partners to help restore the lives of marginalised and vulnerable children and to bring about changes in the attitudes, practices and situations that harm them. These marginalised children include those affected by abuse, exploitation, HIV, homelessness, disability and poverty.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Annual Report to August 2020

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Letter from the Chair of Trustees

COVID-19 has obviously had a dramatic impact on our activities. Our activity plans for the year have had to be altered very quickly and quite radically, in order to keep serving the communities where our partners are based, while operating in a COVID-secure way.

And there has been a significant change within our UK team as Susie Howe has stepped down as Director, to take on a part-time consultancy role. BCT is now being headed up by Lyn Edwards (Operations Manager) with the support and advice of the trustees.

The new opportunities we have discovered include exciting developments for our project partners. For instance, APRECOM is diversifying its work to address disability and support children affected by it, alongside its existing work with children affected by HIV. SCWA has grown, using its increasing influence to further the conversation around child witch accusations, and producing a new resource to enable church leaders to address the issue in their communities.

I'm also delighted to see how God has breathed his life into our *Transformation Resources*. 'Transform Disability' has been through extensive piloting and is really taking shape. It has huge potential to change how communities treat disabled children. I'm looking forward to telling you more about that next year!

And God has also provided us with a small army of supporters. With their faithful prayer, encouragement and giving, they have helped make all this possible and we will not forget how much they have done for us. So we look back over the past year with gratitude. But we also look forward to the next with expectation.

Gill Bradley

BCT Chair of Trustees

BCT's Approach to Fundraising

BCT is just as committed to 'friend-raising' as to fundraising. We see building relationships with supporters and potential supporters as an integral part of raising funds to resource our own and our partners' work. Therefore, we take a no-pressure approach to fundraising. Our focus is on sharing stories of transformation, highlighting how we are making a difference to individual children and entire communities, then presenting opportunities for members of the public to support this work, if they wish to. We use printed communications, social media channels and presentations at events in order to share these stories, and leave it to the public to decide what their response may be, if any. If an existing supporter wishes to cease receiving communications from BCT, they can contact either our own office or the Fundraising Preference Service and we will ensure that they no longer receive such communications.

Our policy means that we value the supporter and their wellbeing as an individual as much as any support they may be able to offer BCT. It means that we offer a range of opportunities to engage with BCT's work beyond financial support and take time and care to nurture positive relationships with them.

A small number of supporters choose to go beyond giving funds to BCT's work and become BCT Ambassadors (previously known as 'Champions'). These Ambassadors give of their time, expertise and resources to promote BCT's work in their churches and communities, mobilising prayer and even organising their own fundraising events. We maintain close relationships with our Ambassadors, ensuring they are equipped for their efforts, up to date with good practice in fundraising, and fully aware of how grateful we are for their efforts on our behalf.

We also write fundraising applications to grant-making trusts that exist to disburse grants as they see fit.

Currently, funding is provided from a variety of sources:

Grant-making Trusts – We have a small but committed group of grant-making trusts who support us on a regular basis. Other grant-making trusts support us with occasional one-off gifts.

Supporters – We receive ongoing monthly support from many supporters, usually by standing order and direct debit, and also one-off donations.

Events – As a small charity that lacks the capacity to organise its own fundraising events, BCT encourages our supporters to join us in taking part in fundraising events which meet our ethical standards and faith values, and are arranged by other organisations (such as sponsored walks and runs). We receive funding from supporters who have raised sponsorship by taking part in these types of events.

Legacy Funding – We receive occasional funding by legacy donations.

Publications – BCT also encourages fundraising through the promotion of its charitable activities via its print publications, online presence and the use of social media.

BCT's vision and mission

Commitment to Public Benefit

BCT's trustees confirm that they have paid due attention to public benefit in their role of overseeing the work of BCT and are satisfied that all BCT activities meet public benefit requirements as defined by the Charity Commission's general guidelines. Everything BCT has done in the period covered by this report has been to bring benefit to the lives of our key beneficiaries – children at risk – by influencing, equipping and enabling churches, Christian projects and individuals to respond to their needs and to address root issues, beliefs and practices that harm them.

Summary of BCT's objects, as set out in its Declaration of Trust

a) To relieve persons, particularly children who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are sick, and to relieve the distress caused thereby in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

b) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with BCT's Statement of Beliefs in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

c) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate.

BCT's Vision...

...is to see the Christian Church leading the way in building a local and global society where every child is loved, safe, nurtured and free to reach their God-given potential.

BCT's Mission...

...is to use its skills, experience, resources and influence as we have opportunity, to mobilise and enable local churches in different nations to develop and replicate sustainable models of response that change the way that communities value and care for their children.

How BCT has benefited marginalised children

We assisted churches and Christian organisations to develop initiatives to bring about holistic transformation in the lives of vulnerable children

BCT exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children. We believe children are created and loved by God, and therefore inherently precious, so we should never accept a world where children are abused, exploited or neglected. Therefore, we dedicate ourselves to addressing the root issues which lead to children being mistreated, as well as taking practical action to improve individual children's lives.

We also believe that local people are best placed to understand the needs of their communities and the most effective ways to meet these needs. So, we always begin by listening to what our partners on the ground have to say. We then provide them with the support, advice and resources which will best enable them to serve their communities' most vulnerable children. And because churches are often uniquely placed to help and influence the people around them, churches are usually our preferred partners. Through these partnerships, we have seen – and are seeing – the lives of marginalised children transformed.

Note: It is our longstanding habit to visit each project partner every two years. Unfortunately, our ability to carry out overseas visits has been severely hampered this year by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have redoubled our efforts to support our partners by phone, email, Zoom and WhatsApp, while in-person contact has been impossible.

Enabling projects to develop strategically and according to good practice

Our 20 years of operating have brought us hard-won insights into how a project can best develop, and some potential pitfalls which should be avoided. We take every opportunity to share our experience with our partners, aiming to help them work strategically and in line with good practice. When coupled with our partners' deep understanding of their communities and the issues which are most relevant to their neighbours, this approach results in work which is robust, effective, contextualised and life-giving.

Enabling projects to monitor and evaluate their work and to be accountable

Monitoring and evaluation may not seem exciting, but they are vital in ensuring our partners' work is as effective as possible. By measuring the impact of their activities against their strategies, our partners discover which areas of their work are most fruitful. Together, we can then hone their activity plans to help their work develop, expand and become increasingly effective. These measures help our UK team understand our overseas partners' activities, but also help our partners strengthen their work.

Creating resources to challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs

The neglect and mistreatment of children is often underpinned by harmful attitudes and beliefs, prevalent within communities. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, there are widespread beliefs that children with disabilities are 'defective', 'cursed' or even 'witches'. These beliefs create a sense of shame in the parents of such children, and often lead to disabled children being abused or hidden away.

Our *Transformation Resources* help tackle child abuse by addressing the attitudes which cause it. 'Transform Disability' is now being used in several communities in Africa. 'Transform Families' is complete in draft form, has been piloted and is being refined and formatted ahead of release (scheduled for mid-2021). This year, we have expanded the suite of resources to include material on preventing the spread of COVID-19. And several more titles are in the pipeline. We will share further details in next year's report.

All of the completed *Transformation Resources* material is available for download, absolutely free, through our website. And each element of the resources is piloted through trusted churches and Christian agencies – including our project partners – before being released for general use.

Provision of training

We love what our partners do, and we marvel at what they achieve in bringing God-inspired transformation into children's lives. But we always aim to strengthen our partners' work further and to help them become even more effective. So, in the context of our partnerships, we encourage our partners to identify areas in which they would benefit from training, and we then help them to access training which meets their needs. For example, this training might include skills in treating particular disabilities, best practice in safeguarding, or guidance in administration or monitoring and evaluating progress.

Where we have the appropriate expertise, we deliver this training ourselves. Where the training requires a specialism we do not have within the organisation, we help our partners to access training from an alternative provider. And we always favour a 'training the trainers' model. That is, we urge our partners to pass on their learning to other leaders within their networks, so that entire communities will benefit.

Enabling networking

A good, strategic collaboration can sometimes add significant value to a project. So, when we become aware of another high-quality project working in the same area or on the same issue as one of our partners, we will try to broker a strong relationship between the two teams. Sharing of ideas and expertise – or even directly working together – can benefit both sides.

This also applies to new sources of funding: we help our partners to identify potential new financial backers, so that they will be better resourced. In the end, we aim for all of our partners to reach a stage where they no longer need BCT's support and are able to operate independently.

Enabling projects to access information resources

In many of the contexts where our partners operate, power supply and internet connection are unreliable. It is therefore very difficult for our partners to access electronic resources. BCT helps in a very simple way; by identifying useful resources and either finding or printing hard copies, which we then supply to our overseas partners, as appropriate.

Provision of finances, encouragement and prayer support

Our partners do extraordinary work, in very difficult circumstances and often on a shoestring budget. They make money go a long way, but regular income is still essential to sustain their work. We therefore provide targeted funding, supporting the most strategically significant elements of our partner projects.

Alongside this provision of funds, we also support our partners in regular prayer and in ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice through email and WhatsApp contact.

BCT supports and partners with projects that are:

- Community-based, church-led or parachurch, if working significantly with churches.
- Working with the most marginalised children, who are significantly at risk in the context within which they live, due to abuse and prevailing circumstances.
- Addressing roots of harmful beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- Equipping local people to meet their own needs.
- Working with replicable and sustainable models or who desire to.
- Working with locally appropriate solutions to local problems.
- Focussing on Child Protection and Children's Rights.
- Emphasising the empowerment and support of parents/guardians and young people.
- Willing to collaborate and network with others.
- Willing to be accountable through monitoring and evaluation and impact measurement of their work; good financial reporting and good, open communication.
- Actively raising awareness within churches and communities of issues or an issue that is harmful to children, or desire to do so.
- Willing to progress, develop and replicate.
- Willing to be a voice on behalf of marginalised children or those at risk of abuse.
- In under-resourced, neglected or isolated areas where marginalised children are exceptionally vulnerable and where there is little service provision.

Case study: Melissa

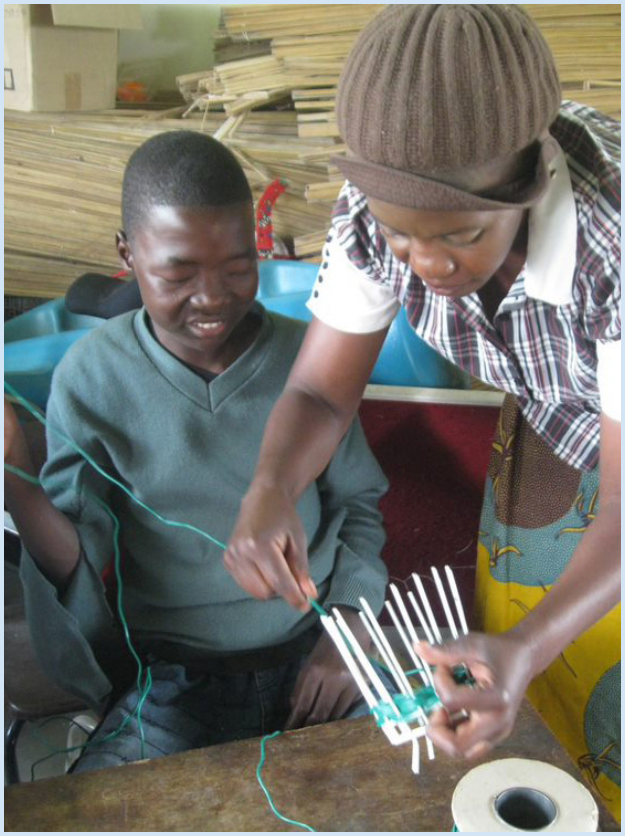


Photo credit: Wukwashi's school equips children with disabilities (like Melissa) with vital life skills.

Melissa's life changed with ferocious speed. Up to the age of seven, she was a healthy, happy child. Then, three years ago, she contracted meningitis. She lost her sight and suffered brain damage.

Suddenly, her parents had to adapt to a hyperactive child prone to violent outbursts. Three years on, at the end of their tether, they met Joyce and Henry, who head up our partner project Wukwashi Wa Nzambi. They arranged for Melissa to have tests at a specialist hospital where she was prescribed medication that Wukwashi has continued to fund. Melissa was also enrolled in Wukwashi's school for children with special needs, to help her gain some social skills. She's learnt how to communicate her needs and regained some mobility.

'Melissa is now calm and can stay quiet and in one place for more than an hour!' says Joyce.

Wukwashi's multi-faceted work is vital in communities where stigma and harmful beliefs tend to leave children with disabilities isolated and marginalised. Many are rejected by their families. Teaching communities to help children step into their God-given potential is the cornerstone of their work. And sometimes, families find an even greater freedom through their involvement with Wukwashi: Melissa's mother and her uncle have come to know Christ.

BCT and COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has had a dramatic effect on ours and our partners' work this year. Limitations on movement and meetings imposed because of the virus have made several elements of the year's project plans impossible. For example:

- Wukwashi's support groups for children with disabilities and their parents have been unable to meet in person.
- APRECOM's Inshuti Nziza children's clubs have been suspended.
- LVLE's planned training events for church- and school leaders have been limited, with only a few of the scheduled events taking place.
- Our plans to visit Nigeria to facilitate a workshop on child witch accusations (with SCWA) have been postponed until next year.

However, our partners have responded to these difficulties with great determination and flexibility:

- Wukwashi have stayed in contact with families in their network by phone and have had extremely valuable conversations with parents about how best to support their disabled children. They have also provided soap and bleach to some 700 families, to help them protect themselves against COVID.
- APRECOM have carried out socially distanced visits to the most vulnerable families in their communities, bringing encouragement and vital food parcels.
- LVLE have launched a network of ten hand-washing stations in Goma, to enable local people (especially street-living children) to maintain personal hygiene and limit the spread of the virus. Wonderfully, this initiative has led to a previously inconceivable collaboration between LVLE, local residents, civic authorities and street-living children.
- SCWA arranged an online forum in October, addressing child abuse linked to faith and belief. It was attended by delegates from Kenya and DR Congo, as well as from all over the UK.

Neither we nor our partners would have chosen to live and work through a global pandemic. But we are satisfied that we have done everything possible to continue serving marginalised children, while adhering to COVID safety guidelines, and we are grateful to God for continuing to transform young lives in the midst of it all.

APRECOM (AIDS Prevention Care and Outreach Ministry)

Based in:	Kigali, Rwanda
Run by:	Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Rwanda
Partnered with BCT since:	2002
Supports:	• Children affected by HIV/AIDS • Children living with disabilities

Context

APRECOM was established in the wake of the 1994 genocide, when systematic rape had left huge numbers of women infected with HIV, and many pregnant with HIV+ children. So, at APRECOM's inception, there was a desperate need for help and support for children affected by HIV. APRECOM stepped up to help meet this need.

Nearly 20 years since our partnership began, APRECOM remains committed to supporting children and families affected by HIV and to dispelling the stigma around the virus. But the team's work has also diversified to find, support and resource children living with disabilities. Alongside visits to disabled children in their own community, APRECOM have worked strategically to train church leaders in disability inclusion, in order to release them to care for disabled children in their communities.

APRECOM has previously worked extensively in Kigali, but the initiatives there are now self-sustaining, allowing the team to focus its resources in other areas of the country, especially Bukora and Bugesera.

Key activities

- **Outreach to disabled children** – Volunteers from five key churches in Bugesera have set up a twice-weekly support group for disabled children. Sixteen children are already benefitting from this support.
- **Child protection training** – The team has trained 83 leaders and elders from eleven churches in child protection. Face to face training was not possible in the second half of the year, but the team maintained regular contact with church leaders by phone, to ensure they were equipped to support vulnerable families.
- **Advocacy** – The team have met with 35 church leaders in Bukora and Kajera, to discuss the important of child protection.
- **Supporting disadvantaged young people** – 25 young people in Bugesera have benefitted from monthly meetings, to help them gain a sense of purpose and develop life skills. Most of these young people are affected by HIV.
- **Creating safe environments for children** – APRECOM has circulated the 'Touch Talk' resource to volunteers from five churches in Bugesera, equipping them to help children recognise and report abuse. These volunteers are also using the resource to train other adults in child protection. A further six churches in Kajera have used 'Touch Talk' with groups of children.
- **Enabling children to report abuse** – APRECOM is using 'Touch Talk' with groups of children themselves – especially in its Inshuti Nziza children's clubs – to equip them to report abuse. Thanks to APRECOM's work in this area, Inshuti Nziza clubs and churches have child protection policies and processes in place to follow up on any such report.
- **HIV support groups** – APRECOM's support groups offer a regular forum for adults affected by HIV to share their experiences, gain practical advice and support one another emotionally and spiritually. The 3 support groups in Kajera each have 15 members, and the group in Bukora has between 37 and 48.
- **Positive parenting** – 52 parents in Kajera have received training in building good relationships with their children.
- **Queens** – The Queens Group in Bukora has welcomed 35 teenage girls. The group helps them gain vocational skills, greater self-worth and increased hope for the future. During the pandemic, many teenage girls in the wider community have become pregnant, but none of the Queens have done.
- **Sewing school** – 40 teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds have graduated from APRECOM's sewing school, having learned valuable vocational skills.

- **Essential provisions** – In response to the pandemic, APRECOM have provided soap, bleach and food parcels to families in their network. This is vital in a context where food supply lines are often unreliable and many people have had their income dramatically reduced because of COVID.

Impact

- **Direct support for disabled children** – Sixteen disabled children are out of isolation and developing, physically, mentally and socially, through their support group. Church volunteers are also providing food supplements and helping to source wheelchairs and mobility aids, which transform the children's independence.
- **Churches equipped** – Following training seminars, church leaders are better aware of issues around safeguarding, can train others in child protection and are formulating child protection policies.
- **Greater awareness of abuse** – Church leaders and parents have a greater understanding of abuse and child protection and are better equipped to prevent abuse in their churches and communities.
- **Young people inspired** – The young people connected with APRECOM in Bugesera have a greater sense of hope and purpose, despite their HIV+ status.
- **Children happy and maturing** – The children who attend Inshuti Nziza clubs are growing, physically, socially and spiritually. Their behaviour is improving and they are playing an active part in their churches.
- **Reporting abuse** – As a result of churches and parents receiving training in child protection, their children are equipped to recognise and report abuse.
- **Vocational skills** – 22 members of the Queens Group are attending sewing classes and gaining useful vocational skills, as well as growing in self-confidence.
- **Support group members encouraged** – The members of HIV support groups benefit from mutual support, prayer and encouragement and feel less isolated and more hopeful about their situations.
- **Protection from COVID** – The soap and bleach deliveries have enabled families to wash and to clean their homes thoroughly, protecting themselves from COVID-19. And the food supplies have been literally a lifeline. 22 families have been helped in this way in Kajera alone.
- **Communities mobilised** – Churches and communities have been mobilised to continue the work on the ground during the pandemic, when lockdown restrictions have prevented the APRECOM team from travelling. Local volunteers have maintained the support of the most vulnerable members of their communities.

Figures

In any given quarter, APRECOM offers support to around 215 children and 170 adults.

How BCT has benefited APRECOM this year

- Ongoing support and advice, by email and WhatsApp.
- Detailed guidance on formulating annual plans and evaluating and developing the work.
- Information resources.

- Funding for:
  - Quarterly training seminars in 11 churches, on child protection and disability awareness.
  - Quarterly training seminars for young people affected by HIV.
  - Training for 30 church leaders in Gahanga in how to find and support children with disabilities.
  - Support for adults affected by HIV. (This would normally have taken the form of in-person support groups, but has taken place by phone during lockdown.)
  - Home visits to families affected by HIV, including practical support. (The focus has shifted during the pandemic to providing emergency food and hygiene supplies.)
  - Running the Queens Group for teenage girls in Bukora.
  - Running a sewing school for 40 disadvantaged young people.
  - Soap and bleach for 100 of the most vulnerable families in Bukora, Bugesera, Kajera and Kigali.
  - Gardening projects in Bukora and Kajera.
  - Staff training, administration and travel expenses.

Photo credit: Henri (centre) with his mum and his sister

Henri's story

Henri and his family had to move on after their old landlord took exception to the teenager's increasingly obvious disability.

'He told us to leave, because he didn't want a child like Henri in one of his houses,' says Henri's mum, Mary.

Henri was able to walk as a young child but has gradually lost that ability. His legs are now permanently contracted at right angles because he has not received the care and physiotherapy he needed.

It costs Mary all her strength to lift her 13-year-old onto a mat when APRECOM's Odeth and Emma visit their home in Gahanga. But these visits are precious – and a sign that things are shifting in attitudes towards disability, in the Church at least.

In February, APRECOM met with leaders from five churches in Gahanga and shared their passion for disability inclusion; immediately, the pastors identified seven local children with multiple impairments and started visiting them – including Henri.

Being part of an APRECOM support group now is a huge comfort to Mary. She weeps as Odeth and Emma pray for her – but it's partly relief. 'It means a lot to have people who care,' she whispers.

BCT donated £8,291 to **APRECOM** this year

LVLE (Laissez Vivre Les Enfants)

Based in:	Goma, eastern DRC
Run by	A church pastor and members of other local churches
Partnered with BCT since:	January 2017
Supports:	Children living in poverty, on the streets and/or accused of witchcraft

Context

LVLE do remarkable work in extremely difficult circumstances. In Goma, where the team is based, poverty is endemic, child abuse is common-place and violence is always lurking beneath the surface. Life is hard here and many children end up on the streets, either because their parents cannot afford to keep them or because abuse at home makes living on the streets a more attractive option.

LVLE want to change this. They spend time with street-living children and young people, providing practical support and working towards either reconciling the children to their relatives or finding them other safe homes, away from the streets. This year, the team's relationships with Goma's street-living children have grown further and faster than they could have imagined possible, through their collaboration on a hand-washing project. (See below for more.)

Goma (and the surrounding areas of Masisi and Monigi) is also an epicentre of child witch accusations. So, Rev Jean-Paul and his team prioritise training workshops for church and community leaders, communicating essential principles of child protection, as well as specific guidance on how to address accusations of witchcraft against children in their communities.

Note: Visiting Goma has been a challenge for several years – even before the pandemic – due to the difficulties involved in obtaining a visa for DRC. However, we make extensive use of email and WhatsApp in order to maintain a strong working relationship with LVLE and keep abreast of their activities.

Key activities

- **Child protection training** – A cohort of 30 church leaders in Goma has received training in the fundamentals of child protection. Another 30, already grounded in the principles of child protection, have received further training in 'Touch Talk', a resource which empowers children to recognise and report abuse.
- **Follow up** – Each of the church leaders who had received training was visited later, to ensure they understood what they had been taught and were able to take steps to put their learning into practice.
- **Training in handling witchcraft accusations** – LVLE has trained 56 church leaders in Masisi and 20 school leaders in Karisimbi to handle accusations of witchcraft against children, using 'The Heart of the Matter'. Such accusations are very common in this area of DRC but LVLE aim to make Masisi and Karisimbi safe places for children.
- **Refresher training in positive parenting** – A group of school leaders in Karisimbi, previously trained in positive parenting, attended a refresher session to recap on this training and share their experiences. These leaders have also been encouraged to pass on their knowledge to other school leaders in their networks.
- **Outreach to street-living children** – LVLE's outreach to street-living children continues, seeking to develop significant relationships. This work focuses on 'listening points' in two areas of Goma where there are the highest concentrations of street-living children.
- **Handwashing project** – In response to COVID-19, LVLE set up ten handwashing stations around Goma, to enable local people to protect themselves against the virus. The team collaborated with street-living children to set up and look after the stations, and with local residents and civic authorities to ensure there were ample water supplies.
- **Weekly radio shows** – Rev Jean-Paul is a highly compelling speaker and has a weekly show on a local radio station, through which he highlights issues relating to parenting, child protection and child witch accusations.

Impact

- **Empowered children** – Through their church leaders' use of 'Touch Talk', children have been enabled to report abuse whenever they see it or experience it. Children who might have been vulnerable to being accused of witchcraft (and abused as a result) are now better protected because of the improved understanding of the issue among their church and school leaders.
- **Changing churches** – Church leaders who were previously dismissive of child protection have grasped why it is important and have committed to take steps to safeguard the children in their congregations. Those who had already received training were strengthened in their efforts through follow-up visits.
- **Changing schools** – School leaders are better equipped to actively listen to children, to understand their needs and meet those needs. They are also better informed on accusations of witchcraft against children and how to address such accusations.
- **Exponential influence** – The pastors and school leaders who have attended LVLE training workshops are passing on their understanding to others, thus greatly increasing LVLE's influence and creating potential for greater numbers of children to benefit from safe environments. The local authorities are now engaging with the issue of child protection, and particularly the harm caused by accusations of witchcraft. Two collaborative groups have been formed, with LVLE working together with the local civic authorities and police to enforce child protection and reduce abuse in Masisi and Monigi.
- **Growing relationships** – The team's relationships with street-living children have been taken to the next level by their collaboration on the handwashing stations. There is now a greater-than-ever mutual trust and respect, and scope to work more intentionally in helping the children leave the streets.
- **Public health** – In the midst of the COVID crisis, LVLE's handwashing stations have helped to meet the acute need for cleanliness. These stations may have literally saved lives, especially for street-living children who would otherwise have had no adequate washing facilities.
- **Changing attitudes** – Rev Jean-Paul's weekly radio shows frequently lead to lively discussions with listeners on how best to care for children. The programme content gently challenges any negative attitudes towards children among the audience.

Figures

In an average quarter, LVLE works with the leaders of around 90 churches and 50 schools. And they directly support around 40 street-living children.

How BCT has benefited LVLE this year

- Ongoing support, advice and encouragement from BCT staff, through email and WhatsApp.
- Guidance on developing strategic plans and measuring the impact of their work.
- Information resources, including:
  - 'The Heart of the Matter', which helps train church and community leaders to address child witch accusations.
  - 'Touch Talk', which empowers children to recognise and report abuse.
- Funding for:
  - Training for a new cohort of 30 pastors, in children's rights and child protection.
  - Training for 60 church leaders in Goma, in child protection.
  - Seminars for 56 pastors in Masisi, and for 20 school leaders in Karisimbi, to train them in addressing child witch accusations.
  - Refresher training in positive parenting for a group of school leaders in Karisimbi.
  - Developing relationships with street-living children, including two listening posts for regular meetings.
  - Training team members to reach and support street-living children.
  - Setting up and maintaining 10 handwashing stations, to help street-living children protect themselves against COVID-19.
  - Weekly radio shows to raise awareness of child protection issues.
  - Staff training, administration and travel expenses.

BCT donated £7,602 to **LVLE** this year

Testimonials from street-living young people

The 10 handwashing stations set up by LVLE, in collaboration with civic authorities, local residents and street-living young people have had a clear impact. The project has promoted positive relationships between the youth, LVLE, local residents and the municipal authorities: a near unique example of such cooperation. The stations themselves have been used by between 180 and 220 people a day, and the project has been hugely beneficial to the young people themselves, as these testimonials make clear:

'We have all fully understood that water is really important and that to win the fight against coronavirus, we must regularly wash our hands regularly. We are also really happy that disinfectant is added to our water. God bless LVLE.' Benedicte, 22

'I have twice been raped when fetching water early in the morning. Now those risks are much less because I have water nearby.' Sandrine, 16

'We will make sure that our washing stations are protected.' Michel, 19

'For us girls, regular use of washing stations is very necessary. We only had dirty water lying in the streets and we were exposed to different illnesses. I thank LVLE very much for these water stations.' Jeanne, 12

Transformation Resources

BCT donated £5,545 to **Transformation Resources** this year

Run by:	BCT's UK-based team, with advice and input from our overseas partners
A project since:	August 2017
Addresses:	Harmful attitudes and beliefs

BCT's *Transformation Resources* are the fruit of twenty years' hard-won experience and understanding in serving marginalised children. This growing collection of resources is designed to help church and community leaders to address the harmful attitudes and beliefs which keep children on the margins and make them vulnerable to abuse. The material is created by our UK-based team but informed, tested and refined by our friends and partners overseas. And the completed resources are available through our website, free of charge.

This year's work on *Transformation Resources* has been dominated by COVID-19. BCT is a small but well-informed and well-connected charity. As such, we were uniquely placed to respond quickly and strategically to help resource-poor communities respond to the pandemic. Our immediate response was to assemble a suite of resources directly relating to COVID: communicating essential information about the virus, dispelling myths and giving guidance on how to promote hygiene in areas where water is scarce. As the pandemic continued, it became clear that it was affecting food supply lines in many African countries, and that countless people were unable to work and hence unable to earn. Food scarcity had become an urgent issue. To address this issue, we have created 'Let's Grow!', to help communities recognise and make the most of the sources of nutrition available to them.

Key activities

- **Writing and creation** – This year, we have invested time and energy in creating new resources. 'Let's Grow!' is designed to address food scarcity and malnutrition in resource-poor communities. We have also assembled a suite of resources to help community leaders in the global south to respond to COVID-19. These resources represent BCT's response to a need for resources for grassroot churches and communities, which are fully contextualised and which work in a low-resource environment.
- **Online resource portal** – BCT's new website features a 'resources' area, where 'Transform Disability' is available to download. The COVID-19 resources were also uploaded to this portal in March, and 'Transform Families' will be added in due course. All resource downloads are completely free to the user.
- **Piloting** – Pilot workshops for 'Let's Grow!' have taken place in DR Congo, with two different cohorts. Further pilots are imminent in Zambia, Rwanda and Burundi.
- **Feedback and editing** – Content creation has been suspended on 'Transform Families' as we prioritise more pressing needs. But the existing content has been sent to LVLE (our Congolese partner) for feedback, which has helped to shape the resource material.

Impact

- **Protection from COVID-19** – People living in remote communities have been enabled to protect themselves and one-another from coronavirus. It is extremely difficult to quantify exactly how many people have benefitted and in what ways, but it is possible that our COVID resources have literally saved lives. Other organisations have also made use of these materials, including World Vision in India.
- **Healthier children** – Children in communities affected by food scarcity are now more likely to access a balanced diet and sufficient calories. (Naturally, this applies to adults too, but children tend to be at greater risk of malnutrition.)
- **Changing attitudes** – 'Transform Disability' continues to be used by several churches in Africa to spread awareness of issues affecting disabled children, and the importance of helping them play a full part in church life. Common negative attitudes towards disability are changing and more churches are becoming places where children with disabilities can belong and thrive.
- **Greater reach** – The online resources portal has made it possible for BCT to circulate the Transformation Resources to church and community leaders all over the world, free of charge. Since the site was launched in March, the resource material has been viewed 104 times.

Wukwashi wa Nzambi

Based in:	Copperbelt region, Zambia
Run by:	Local volunteers
Partnered with BCT since:	2005
Supports:	Children living with disabilities

Context

Wukwashi wa Nzambi ('God's help') has helped literally thousands of children with disabilities to grow, develop and fulfil their potential. Time and again, we see and hear how children's lives are being transformed through Wukwashi's efforts and by the grace of God. It is an honour to partner with them in this work.

The cornerstone of Wukwashi's ministry is their network of 16 support groups. It is through these groups that children with disabilities access physiotherapy, play therapy, and assessment for mobility aids and medical interventions. The support groups are also a vital source of advice, encouragement and understanding for parents.

Since the onset of COVID-19, it has obviously been impossible for the support groups to meet. (Opportunities for training volunteers and church leaders have also been severely limited.) But the Wukwashi team have made sure their connections with the families in their network have remained strong, or even become stronger than ever. With regular phone calls, text messages and socially distanced home visits, the workload has been intense, but children and parents alike have felt valued and supported, despite being confined to their homes. And Wukwashi have augmented this support with deliveries of soap, bleach and food parcels.

Key activities

- **Support groups** – Wukwashi runs 16 support groups for children with disabilities, and their parents. Two of these groups are newly established since last year's report. These groups reach around 450 children per quarter, giving them access to physiotherapy, play therapy and assessment for mobility aids and medical interventions. The groups are also a vital source of emotional and spiritual encouragement for children and parents alike.
- **Support in lockdown** – The team's support for families in their network continued in lockdown, through regular phone calls, text messages and socially-distanced visits. This support also included meeting practical needs for cleaning products and essential food items. Around 150 families received soap, bleach and food parcels, and nearly 700 have benefited from support and advice.
- **Physiotherapy** – Physiotherapy is often crucial in helping children with physical disabilities to progress. Wukwashi teaches parents helpful exercises for their own children, so that they give therapy at home. All of this is supported by professional physiotherapists.
- **Mobility aids** – Children at Wukwashi's support groups are assessed for their need for mobility aids. When necessary, the team will then source a mobility aid to meet the child's specification. This year, 37 children have received wheelchairs, standing frames or mobility aids of other kinds.
- **Medical referrals** – Many of the children Wukwashi meet have conditions which can only be treated effectively through specialist medical interventions. Team members assess children's medical needs and refer them for any medical treatments they need. This year, 67 children were referred for treatment, for conditions including club feet and hydrocephalus. When hospital treatment is necessary, Wukwashi subsidise the travel costs for the families in question and fund operations that would otherwise not be possible.
- **Education** – Children with disabilities often struggle to access education, however academically able they might be. Wukwashi therefore offers transport and financial support to enable children to attend several local schools. And the most significantly disabled children are welcomed into Wukwashi's own school, which caters to their unique needs. Over 80 children are now able to attend school, when they might otherwise have been unable to do so.

- **Training for churches** – Myths and misconceptions about disability remain common in Zambia, and these myths often lead to children with disabilities being overlooked, stigmatised or abused. Wukwashi therefore prioritise advocating for the rights of disabled children and outlining how to meet their needs, especially through training events for churches. Once again, COVID has limited this activity this year, but 44 church leaders have still been able to attend in-person training events.

- **Training for volunteers** – Wukwashi arranges regular training for its volunteers, to ensure they are equipped with the skills to handle disabled children. This year's training has included input on ergonomics and on identifying and managing several common disabilities.

Impact

- **Protection from COVID** – Wukwashi's soap and bleach deliveries have been vital in helping families protect their vulnerable children from the virus. And the food supplies have literally been a lifeline to families left in poverty by COVID.

- **Real connections** – The parents of disabled children often feel isolated; not knowing how to access the help they need and carrying an undeserved sense of shame because of the stigma around disability. Wukwashi's support groups bring parents and children alike out of isolation, help them develop real connections, and provide crucial practical help.

- **Deeper relationships** – Despite the lockdown, the team's relationships with families in their network have only deepened. Around 150 children and their parents have benefitted from socially distanced support and mentoring, and many parents have expressed their struggles more freely than ever and found real, meaningful help and encouragement.

- **Physical improvements** – Medical interventions (including surgery) have dramatically improved the conditions of several children. Some have seen their physical impairments completely rectified. And at least half of the children who have received physiotherapy have made progress in their mobility, motor skills and physical strength.

- **Greater independence** – The children who have received wheelchairs and mobility aids no longer have to rely on family members to help them move around. They are better able to leave their homes and access education, and their prospects for future life are much improved.

- **Changed attitudes** – Wukwashi's training for church leaders has not only challenged common negative attitudes towards disabled people, but inspired delegates to act as advocates for children with disabilities and to make their churches and communities more accessible. For example, one church in Kalulushi has begun referring disabled children to their local Wukwashi support group and recruiting volunteers to help, and has installed a ramp to make the church building accessible to wheelchair users.

Figures

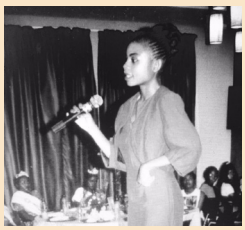
Wukwashi typically engages between 400 and 500 children per quarter, with many families benefiting from more than one aspect of their work. The team also reaches hundreds of adults per quarter, through its training and advocacy initiatives.

How BCT has benefited Wukwashi this year

- Ongoing support, advice and guidance from BCT staff, by email, phone, Zoom and WhatsApp.
- Focused guidance in formulating strategy and annual plans.
- Funding for:
  - 16 weekly support groups for children with disabilities and their families.
  - Organising quarterly visits from medical professionals, to assess children at support groups for medical and surgical treatment needs.
  - Medical costs for children to receive necessary treatment (including operations and artificial limbs) at Beit Cure Hospital.
  - 2 physiotherapists to visit 4 support groups each, per month, to treat children and give instruction to parents and volunteers.
  - Assessing children's mobility needs and distributing mobility aids as needed.
  - Support and mentoring for parents of disabled children, through phone calls and socially distanced visits.
  - The provision of soap and bleach to 700 families and food parcels to the parents of 150 particularly vulnerable children.
  - A training workshop for 44 church leaders, to equip them to care for children with disabilities.
  - Advocacy on behalf of disabled children in churches and schools, and through local radio.
  - Recruitment of 30 new volunteers for support groups.
  - Training new volunteers to assess needs of children with disabilities.
  - Volunteers to visit children in their homes, following operations.
  - Transport for staff to visit distant support groups, to deliver training and monitor activities.
  - Staff training, administration and travel expenses.

BCT donated £18,176 to **Wukwashi** this year

Tamara's story



Tamara was born with cerebral palsy... and in Zambia, where people living with disability are routinely written off. Her mobility is limited and her mental ability meant she couldn't attend mainstream school. Her own mother thought she'd never amount to anything.

And yet today, at 18, Tamara is living a fulfilled and happy life. She's learning how to make doormats, aprons and hats so she can earn a living. She is confident and has good self-esteem. And all because someone saw her as God does, bursting with potential, even if not in the way the world defines it.

When Tamara first came to our partner Wukwashi's Kabala support group, she could barely walk or use her hands. But there, she received physiotherapy and orthopaedic shoes, friendship and encouragement in spades. Wukwashi linked her with a Cheshire Homes school, where she excelled and even won awards; the vocational skills training she's receiving in Ndola is also through Cheshire Homes

Her mother recognises this is God at work through Wukwashi and she's thrilled. Her eyes have been opened to God's perfect plan for Tamara.

Tamara's community is looking on and learning too. The same is true for all 16 of Wukwashi's support groups, including the newest one in Twatasha, Kitwe. They're microcosms of God's kingdom where families and communities learn to see children's lives as precious and purposeful, rather than limited by human definitions of 'disability'.

Connecting with others

Connecting with others around the issue of children accused of witchcraft

Witchcraft accusations against children are still a huge issue, leading to the abuse and neglect of thousands of children worldwide. So BCT is proud to continue its commitment to the Stop Child Witch Accusations coalition. Susie Howe acts as the Chair of the coalition and Carolyn Gent as its Vice Chair[1], and we are enthusiastic participants in all of the movement's activities.

As with BCT's overseas partners, SCWA's activities this year have been limited by COVID-19. SCWA had been looking forward to leading a workshop on child witch accusations in Nigeria. Sadly, it was not to be. But focus group research did take place there and has provided additional insights into the causes and consequences of accusations in a nation where witchcraft-related abuse is endemic. SCWA will be looking to follow this up either online or as international travel becomes possible.

Similarly, a planned conference in Papua New Guinea on child witch accusations and public health had to be postponed, and will instead take place online in summer 2021. The forum planned for London in October 2020 did take place, albeit virtually, with encouraging outcomes. We will share these outcomes at greater length in next year's report.

SCWA has also created a new resource and a set of audio material to address common misconceptions about sickness which often lead to accusations of witchcraft, especially in the global south. The resource (entitled *Sickness, Health and Healing*) works on a standalone basis or as an addition to *The Heart of the Matter*, and is almost complete and ready to pilot. Work on the audio material is also well under way.

SCWA's experience and expertise has been sought by groups including a research project team from Trinity Western University (Canada), an NGO called Sparkle Malawi and a joint UNICEF/ faith-based initiative called Faith and Positive Change for Children Global Initiative on Social and Behaviour Change, which aims to get faith groups to surface and tackle underlying beliefs that harm children and to take up their responsibility to protect them. SCWA also contributed to the academic publication *On Knowing Humanity*, Issue 4(1) of January 2020 which was dedicated to the topic of witchcraft beliefs and accusations.

Finally, SCWA has this year followed up with participants from *Heart of the Matter* pilots in Togo and DRC in 2017 and 2018, using surveys to establish what concrete impact there has been. Their feedback suggests there is already significant impact on people's attitudes and beliefs – and not just within the churches:

Kananga, in DRC's Kasaï province: 12 pastors trained by Rev Sylvain Kazadi of the Presbyterian Church

They have gone on to share their learning with 3,278 other people in churches and communities. They have raised awareness among 22 congregations in five different localities – and will continue with new initiatives such as community debates.

'Some members of our church were accusing children of being witches. Our explanations helped [them] understand that children are created in the image of God, and that we should love them.'

Goma, DRC: 17 church leaders trained by our partner project LVLE

Participants are sharing their learning with their churches and the wider community, including targeting so-called 'prophets' in the churches who are often associated with abusive deliverance rituals. Churches are introducing child protection policies, and community children's clubs are springing up to inform children of their rights. Local authorities are requesting training for their staff.

'One mother suspected her daughter was a witch, simply because she was having nightmares. I discovered they were caused by the games she was playing. The girl stopped playing with those friends, and the nightmares stopped.'

Yokoe, Togo: 18 Pentecostal church leaders trained by MECI

They have already shared their learning with other church leaders, children's workers and church members, as well as with parents and children in the community. The Council of Churches in Togo is planning a systematic roll-out of this programme nationally across member churches.

'One church member went to the defence of a neighbour's child who was accused of being a witch because he was aggressive. [He helped] the parents see that the child's behaviour could be because of trauma, and they changed their behaviour towards him.'

[1] Susie Howe stepped down as Chair on 13th June 2020, and has been succeeded by Carolyn Gent.'

Connecting with others around the issue of disability

During this year, we have developed a close working relationship with Patrick Musafiri and his organisation EPAM in Goma, DR Congo. We first met Patrick in 2017, when he was working as a physiotherapist at Itetero School in Rwanda, a school for children with disabilities, connected with APRECOM. Patrick is Congolese and has now returned to Goma, determined to help children with disabilities in his own city and to mobilise churches to do the same.

We have begun working with EPAM, giving them advice and resources to help them train church leaders to welcome and support disabled people. For example, EPAM have used our *Transform Disability* material within their disability awareness training for local pastors. The results have been very encouraging. As a direct result of the EPAM training, one church has provided a sewing machine to help a disabled woman earn a living; another has given a wheelchair to a man who previously could only drag himself on the ground.

We currently have no plans to create a formal partnership between BCT and EPAM, as we are not convinced this is necessary. But we are glad to be able to add value to EPAM's work and we are delighted to see tangible results in the lives of disabled people.

Mobilising resources

We never cease to be amazed by what our partners achieve with minimal funds. Nevertheless, financial resources are vital in enabling them to continue reaching marginalised children and to develop their work further. Financial support is therefore a core element of what BCT offers our project partners.

That is not to say that we give out money indiscriminately. Our financial support for our partners is always strategic; given to meet specific needs and to enable specific initiatives, in order to maximise the potential impact of our partners' work on their communities. Each of our partners completes an annual plan and budget, and we resource them in line with these budgets and according to the funds we have available.

BCT must, in turn, raise funding from a variety of sources. These sources include regular donations from individuals and churches, and grants from several trusts. And the high point of the year – in terms of fundraising – came in September, when ten of our supporters completed a 25km trek through London, raising money for our partners' work with disabled children. We are so thankful for those supporters, who literally went the extra mile for BCT and for the children we serve.

Effective communication is vital in mobilising financial support. To this end, our Communications Coordinator ensures our existing and potential supporters are kept abreast of BCT's latest news, and opportunities to get involved with us.

BCT's approach to fundraising is outlined in detail on p5 of this report.

Prayer support

We see prayer as absolutely essential to our collective life and work. So, prayer always features in our visits and WhatsApp conversations with our partners, and in our UK team's meetings. We also believe that the prayers of our friends and supporter are immensely valuable, and we do all we can to inform and encourage these prayers. 286 of our supporters pray for us regularly, using our quarterly prayer diary, and our 110 prayer partners play a vital role in praying for urgent and important issues, as and when they arise.

Ambassadors

BCT's Ambassadors (previously 'Champions for Children') represent us in their churches and communities, raising awareness of the needs of marginalised children and of what BCT is doing to meet those needs. Some of our Ambassadors arrange awareness-raising and fundraising events in their churches. Some share BCT news updates in Sunday services or midweek prayer groups. We support these efforts by providing regular information packs, including prayer points and case studies of individual children. And we have plans to initiate regular meetings with our Ambassadors in the coming year, to enable idea-sharing and feedback. We are so thankful for all our Ambassadors and their commitment, enthusiasm and passion.

2019/20 Income and Expenditure

Each year, BCT endeavours to set a realistic income and expenditure budget, in line with its goals and objectives. BCT is prudent with its financial management and knows that it cannot achieve its goals and objectives in supporting projects, raising awareness and networking with churches and other agencies, without the generosity and loyal commitment of its supporters in their various forms: trusts, businesses, churches and individuals.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been global and, for huge numbers of people, catastrophic. Sadly, the fight against it rages on. There has not only been a cost in terms of lives and freedoms lost but also economic upheaval, taking its toll on employment levels and the financial stability of organisations and individuals. Consequently, as BCT's income is in the form of donations it may come as no surprise that we have experienced a year-on-year drop in total income of almost 13%. However, we and our project partners have adapted well to the effects of the pandemic, getting to grips with changed priorities, additional needs and challenges faced while complying with the respective Covid regulations in the UK, Rwanda, Zambia and DRC. In addition to their practical, human impact these adaptations have contributed to an overall year-on-year drop in total expenditure of over 11%.

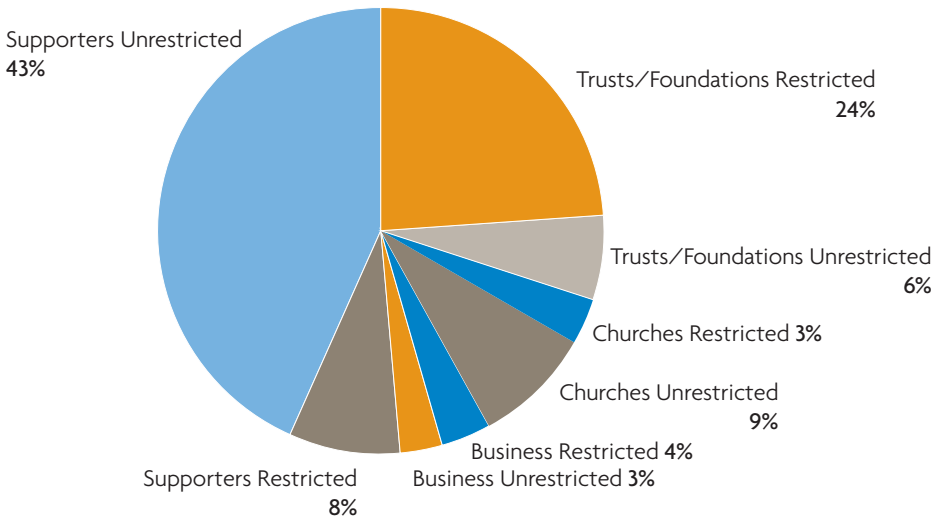
Income

BCT's total income in 2019/20 was £135,068, a year-on-year decrease of £19,879 (12.83%). When we budgeted for 2019/20 in what were pre-Covid-19 days we took a cautious view of forecasted total income, anticipating a small drop from that achieved the year before, but the actual drop proved much bigger. The year-on-year reduction was entirely in unrestricted income, as restricted income saw a small increase, rising £761 to £53,015. £13,000 of the drop in unrestricted income was in respect of two items received last year but not repeated this year, and which were not covered by new donations: monthly gifts from a specific donor which came to an end in June 2019, and a legacy left to BCT in the will of a supporter.

With regard to the primary sources of income, donations from Trusts and Foundations rose from £28,104 to £40,745, an increase of 44.98%. Conversely, income from supporters dipped year-on-year from £99,667 to £69,282, a reduction of 30.49%. Donations from businesses held steady, yielding an increase of £17 (0.19%) while income from churches fell by £2,152 (11.73%)

An analysis of income by primary source and fund is given below:

	Trusts/ Foundations Restricted	Trusts/ Foundations Unrestricted	Churches Restricted	Churches Unrestricted	Business Restricted	Business Unrestricted	Supporters Restricted	Supporters Unrestricted	Total
2019/20	£32,385	£8,360	£4,646	£11,553	£4,952	£3,890	£11,032	£58,250	£135,068
2018/19	£26,494	£1,610	£4,295	£14,056	£4,500	£4,325	£16,965	£82,702	£154,947

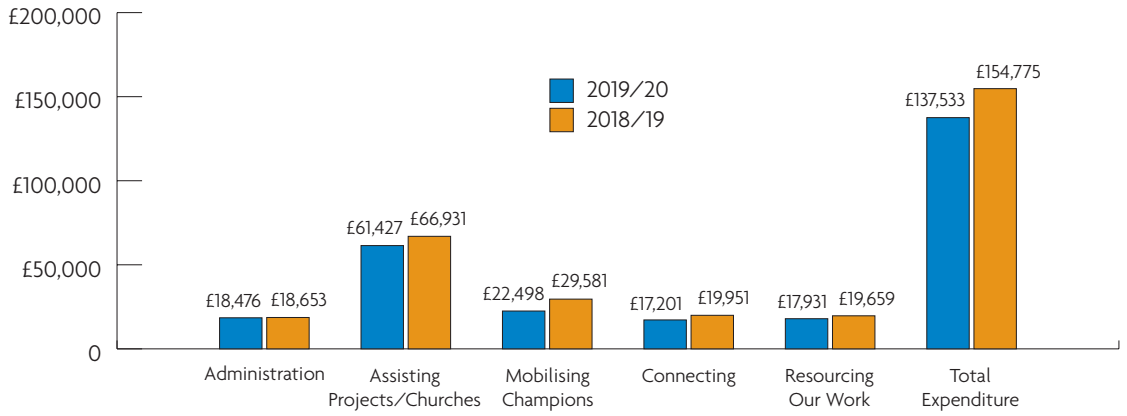


Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2019/20 was £137,533, a reduction of £17,242 (11.14%) from 2018/19. Year-on-year spending from restricted funds dropped by £3,941, while spending from unrestricted funds dropped by £13,301. The drop in restricted spend reflects a combination of two things: unexpected but necessary variations in levels and timings of disbursements to our partners following mandatory changes to their planned activities (to ensure Covid compliance), and the fact no disbursements were made to EPED in 2019/20 following the end of our partnership in December 2018. In terms of unrestricted spend, Covid regulations in the UK resulted in certain cost savings. One was due to an enforced change to how the BCT team meets; face-to-face team meetings have, for now, been replaced by online meetings with a consequent drop in travel costs. Another saving, though less welcome, was through spending less than intended on events and fundraising activities. Outside of these 'Covid savings' other year-on-year decreases in cost included payroll costs, office rent, and the production and circulation of our quarterly publications.

As always, we take very careful consideration of our fund levels when making decisions on disbursements and spending on core costs. Although income has reduced from last year's level it has not changed our direct participation in, and giving financial support towards vital work for the ultimate benefit of some of the most marginalised children. Consequently, our biggest expenditure area continues to be the assisting and training of BCT's partner projects and churches to meet the needs of children at risk in their communities. Spend on this in 2019/20 reached £61,427, i.e. 44.66% of the overall total. Across the other expenditure categories there was a net year-on-year decrease of £11,738 (13.36%).

	Administration	Assisting Projects/ Churches	Mobilising Champions	Connecting	Resourcing Our Work	Total Expenditure
2019/20	£18,476	£61,427	£22,498	£17,201	£17,931	£137,533
2018/19	£18,653	£66,931	£29,581	£19,951	£19,659	£154,775



Looking forwards

We cannot pretend that this year has been easy. This is demanding work at the best of times, and COVID has limited our activities and made it harder than ever to foster close relationships with our partners – and even within the UK team. And yet, as we look back on the year, we have a lot to be thankful for. It is a joy and a privilege to serve some of the world's most marginalised children, and to partner with such amazing people in doing so. What's more, even in the midst of a global pandemic, children's lives are being changed for the better. It is wonderful to hear stories from our partners of children with physical disabilities making such progress that they can now walk and attend school; of churches and schools taking significant steps to safeguard their children; of children on the streets protecting themselves from COVID and learning to trust the adults helping them.

As our thoughts turn to the coming year, we have hope. We believe we can strengthen our work further. We believe we can build on the successes of this year. And we believe our God is faithful to guide us and provide for us as we seek to play our part in establishing his kingdom.

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on 26th June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Gill Bradley
Chair of Trustees

The Bethany Children's Trust Report and Accounts

year ended 31 August 2020

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage, LONDON, EC1Y 8AB
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S TRUST

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 on pages 28 to 37 following which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 30 and 31.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirements under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

(1) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;

(2) follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011;

(3) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement

This report is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 a review of the accounts and making such enquiries as are necessary for the purpose of this report. 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.

Examiner's Statement

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records, or comply with the accounting requirement of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my notice in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Archie McDowall BA, CA

For and on behalf of:

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

29th June 2021

The Bethany Children's Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	82,015	53,015	135,030	154,940
Investments	3	38	0	38	7
Total income and endowments		82,053	53,015	135,068	154,947
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	76,153	43,449	119,602	135,116
Raising funds	5	17,931	0	17,931	19,659
Total expenditure		94,084	43,449	137,533	154,775
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(12,031)	9,566	(2,465)	172
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
		(12,031)	9,566	(2,465)	172
Net movement in funds		(12,031)	9,566	(2,465)	172
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		59,916	39,003	98,919	98,747
Total funds carried forward		47,885	48,569	96,454	98,919

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	7	4,787	0	4,787	0
Tangible assets	7	1,315	0	1,315	587
		6,102	0	6,102	587
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	26,860	0	26,860	19,055
Cash at bank	9	24,104	48,569	72,673	83,937
		50,964	48,569	99,533	102,992
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Liabilities falling due within one year	10	9,181	0	9,181	4,660
Net Current Assets		41,783	48,569	90,352	98,332
NET ASSETS		47,885	48,569	96,454	98,919
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted funds	12				
General Funds		47,885	–	47,885	59,916
Restricted Funds	12	–	48,569	48,569	39,003
		47,885	48,569	96,454	98,919

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 26th June 2021 by:

Gill Bradley

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2020

1 Statutory Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page of the trustees' annual report.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. In making this assessment the trustees have considered how Covid-19 might affect projections.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

ii) The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly those involving connection with our project partners, connection with other organisations and individuals in the furtherance of our aims, and the writing and provision of training resources. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

iii) Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be reliably measured.

c) **Expenditure**

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) **Intangible fixed assets**

The cost of software is capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, which is expected to be 3 years.

f) **Tangible fixed assets**

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £100 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Equipment	Over 2 to 3 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

g) **Pension scheme arrangements**

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) **Taxation**

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) **Financial instruments**

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3	**Voluntary income**	**Unrestricted Funds £**	**Restricted Funds £**	**Total 2020 £**	**Total 2019 £**
	General donations	76,805	52,517	129,322	148,795
	Tax recoverable	5,210	498	5,708	6,145
		82,015	53,015	135,030	154,940
	Other income				
	Bank interest	38	–	38	7
	Total Incoming Resources	82,053	53,015	135,068	154,947

4	**Charitable activity**		**Unrestricted Funds £**	**Restricted Funds £**	**Total 2020 £**	**Total 2019 £**
a	**Direct Charitable Costs**					
	Assisting Churches	*Note 4c*	18,086	43,341	61,427	66,931
	Connecting		17,201	0	17,201	19,951
	Mobilising Champions		22,498	0	22,498	29,581
	Training		0	–	0	0
			57,785	43,341	101,126	116,463
			£	**£**	**£**	**£**
b	**Support & Administration**					
	Governance costs		1,680	–	1,680	1,672
	GDPR compliance		40	–	40	694
	Salaries and pension costs		10,562	–	10,562	9,963
	Office rent & services		187	–	187	716
	I.T., telephone and postage		1,937	–	1,937	1,462
	Office supplies		116	–	116	182
	Travel costs		433	–	433	1,228
	Equipment not capitalised		0	–	0	126
	Insurance		501	–	501	522
	Professional Fees		520	–	520	600
	Recruitment		47	–	47	8
	Depreciation		1,910	108	2,018	466
	Sundry		436	–	436	1,013
			18,369	108	18,477	18,653
	Combined charitable activity cost		76,153	43,449	119,602	135,116

c	**Grants**	**Institutions £**	**Individuals £**	**2020 £**	**2019 £**
	Analysis by receiving project				
	APRECOM	8,291		8,291	7,986
	EPED	0		0	2,925
	Transformation Resources	5,545		5,545	3,775
	Stop Child Witch Accusation	3,844		3,844	1,869
	Wukwashi	18,176		18,176	23,907
	LVLE	7,602		7,602	4,723
		43,458	0	43,458	45,185

4 **Charitable activity** *(continued)*	Institutions £	Individuals £	2020 £	2019 £
Analysis by key purpose				
Awareness raising	1,253		1,253	1,475
Training	10,947		10,947	8,927
Medical	4,753		4,753	6,966
Covid response	5,895		5,895	0
Transport	401		401	451
Parent/Family support	1,648		1,648	1,848
Child/Young person support & empowerment	7,723		7,723	11,599
Enterprise	2,400		2,400	2,571
School Fees	1,384		1,384	3,978
Administration	7,054		7,054	7,370
	43,458	0	43,458	45,185

Within 'Assisting Churches' are grants made to projects. The main features of the grants made were to provide practical support and finance to children's projects in Africa in three locations with the key purposes being as allocated above.

5 **Fundraising costs**	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Salaries and pension costs	13,756	–	13,756	15,034
Events	1,021	–	1,021	311
Travel costs	549	–	549	1,383
Printing and stationery	116	–	116	258
IT Costs	1,575	–	1,575	1,134
Telephone	298	–	298	352
Office rent	44	–	44	489
Storage	71	–	71	45
Insurance	132	–	132	147
Room Hire	0	–	0	20
Training, Conferences & meetings	45	–	45	64
Postage & mailbox hire	137	–	137	256
Professional Fees	50	–	50	50
Miscellaneous	137	–	137	116
	17,931	0	17,931	19,659

6 **Staff & Trustees**	2020 £	2019 £
Gross wages, salaries & benefits in kind	50,658	52,860
Employer's National Insurance costs	3,392	3,578
Employer's Allowance	(3,106)	(2,748)
Employer's Pension Contributions	1,242	1,255
Total staff costs	52,186	54,945

During the year the charity had 3 full time equivalent employed staff (2019: 3). No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum (2019: none).

Remuneration payable to key management (excluding trustees) amounted to £50,658 in the year (2019: £52,860). Currently, following changes to team composition and to certain responsibilities, key management is considered to comprise the Operations Manager, Finance Manager and Training and Project Development Coordinator.

6 Staff & Trustees *(continued)*

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year. Mr A Forsyth incurred no expenses on BCT business (2019: £100). Mrs G Bradley received reimbursement totalling £48 for travel fares incurred on BCT's behalf (2019: £91) but incurred no other expenses (2019: £153). Simeon Whiting, the son of trustee Hazel Whiting, invoiced BCT a total of £10,340 during the year for communication services provided to the charity (2019: £10,419).

The total amount of donations funded by trustees [and connected parties] and key management was £816 (2019: £1,137).

7 Fixed Assets

Intangible Fixed Assets	**Website**	**Total 2020**
	£	**£**
Cost		
At 1st September 2019	0	0
Additions	5,744	5,744
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2020	5,744	5,744
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1st September 2019	0	0
Charge for the year	957	957
Disposals	0	0
At 31st August 2020	957	957
Net book value		
At 31st August 2020	4,787	4,787
At 1st September 2019	0	0

Tangible Fixed Assets	**Computer & Software**	**Furniture & Equipment**	**Total 2020**
	£	**£**	**£**
Cost			
At 1st September 2019	1,923	119	2,042
Additions	1,668	120	1,788
Disposals	(595)	(119)	(714)
At 31st August 2020	2,996	120	3,116
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1st September 2019	1,336	119	1,455
Charge for the year	1,047	13	1,060
Disposals	(595)	(119)	(714)
At 31st August 2020	1,788	13	1,801
Net book value			
At 31st August 2020	1,208	107	1,315
At 1st September 2019	587	0	587

8 Debtors and Prepayments

	2020 £	2019 £
Income tax receivable	8,395	9,501
Sundry Debtors	14,674	8,010
Prepayments	3,791	1,544
	26,860	19,055

9 Cash at Bank and in Hand

Co-operative Bank	56,743	68,829
NatWest Bank	14,917	14,401
Petty cash	1,013	707
	72,673	83,937

10 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

Trade Creditors	1,016	1,152
Accruals	2,733	3,417
Deferred Income	5,432	91
	9,181	4,660

11 Multi-year contract commitments

The charity has a five year contract with Academia Ltd to provide cloud services that commenced on 1 May 2020. The charity has an option to terminate the contract after three years. The charity paid £5,027 in the year in respect of this contract (2019: nil)

	2020 £	2019 £
Payments falling due:		
Within one year	5,027	–
Between one and five years	15,081	–
After five years	–	–
	20,108	–

12 Funds

a. The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year are as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Administration	1,220	650	(108)		1,762
APRECOM	7,232	8,293	(8,197)		7,328
LVLE	6,277	6,872	(7,589)	1,014	6,574
Stop Child Witch Accusation	5,397	3,441	(3,844)	(1,014)	3,980
Transformation Resources	4,859	12,319	(5,534)		11,644
Wukwashi (Zambia)	14,018	21,440	(18,176)		17,282
	39,003	53,015	(43,449)	0	48,569

12 Funds *(continued)*

With the exception of Administration, the movement on each of the above funds reflects donations received and disbursements and expenditures made in the financial year in respect of activities carried out by the named project. Funds unused at the end of the year are carried forward. A description of the purpose of the other funds and the nature of the restriction can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

The Administration fund is solely in respect of donations received for non project-related purposes. The movement on this fund in the year concerned one item: a donation of £650 was received towards the cost of incorporating a specific facility in our new website. The website is being depreciated over a period of 3 years and £108 of the £650 donated is this year's depreciation charge for the facility in question. The Administration fund's opening and closing balances are unused funds carried forward from previous years and are specifically restricted to cover the cost of BCT staff team social activities as and when incurred. The closing balance is again carried forward.

For comparison, movements in restricted funds in the year to 31st August 2019 are reproduced below:

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers in the year	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Administration	1,506	720	(1,006)		1,220
APRECOM	10,070	7,128	(9,966)		7,232
EPED	1,035	157	(392)	(800)	0
LVLE	3,269	8,516	(6,308)	800	6,277
Stop Child Witch Accusation	3,200	4,016	(1,819)		5,397
Transformation Resources	3,053	5,581	(3,775)		4,859
Wukwashi (Zambia)	12,006	26,136	(24,124)		14,018
	34,139	52,254	(47,390)	0	39,003

b. The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	Fixed assets	Bank & cash balances	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	0	48,569	–	48,569
Unrestricted funds	6,102	24,104	17,679	47,885
	6,102	72,673	17,679	96,454

For comparison, the assets and liabilities represented by the various funds as at 31st August 2019 are reproduced below:

	Fixed assets	Bank & cash balances	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds		39,003	–	39,003
Unrestricted funds	587	44,934	14,395	59,916
	587	83,937	14,395	98,919

13 Events since the year end

On 30th April 2021 Mr Jonathan Smith stepped down as trustee after nine years on the Board.

The Bethany Children's Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	82,015	102,686	53,015	52,254	135,030	154,940
Investments	3	38	7	0	0	38	7
Total income and endowments		82,053	102,693	53,015	52,254	135,068	154,947
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	4	76,153	87,783	43,449	47,333	119,602	135,116
Raising funds	5	17,931	19,602	0	57	17,931	19,659
Total expenditure		94,084	107,385	43,449	47,390	137,533	154,775
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		(12,031)	(4,692)	9,566	4,864	(2,465)	172
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0	0
		(12,031)	(4,692)	9,566	4,864	(2,465)	172
Net movement in funds		(12,031)	(4,692)	9,566	4,864	(2,465)	172
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		59,916	64,608	39,003	34,139	98,919	98,747
Total funds carried forward		47,885	59,916	48,569	39,003	96,454	98,919

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.

APPENDIX 1

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Operations Manager (OM) is responsible for the day-to-day running of BCT and reports to the trustees. All employed staff, volunteers and any engaged contractors report to the OM.

In collaboration with her team, the OM draws up BCT's annual goals and objectives, taking into account the charity commission's Public Benefit Requirement, BCT's vision and mission and its annual budget. These are then passed to the trustees for discussion, revision and final approval. Additionally, the OM makes recommendations to the trustees at their quarterly meetings on aspects including BCT's policies, procedures, the disbursement of monies to BCT's project partners and the selection of new project partners. Again, in all their decisions the trustees take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

Appointment of BCT Trustees

Potential candidates for BCT trusteeship are given a job description and are required to complete and submit an application form and two references. Suitable candidates are then invited for an initial interview. At least two BCT trustees, one of whom must be the BCT Chair, are present at this interview. A proposal is then made to the board of trustees to appoint the successful candidate. This appointment must be ratified at a meeting of the board of trustees, according to Article 14 of the Declaration of Trust.

Successful candidates are given a full set of all BCT's policies, procedures and foundational documents, as well as a copy of the governing Deed of Trust document. They are also given the minutes of the four previous meetings of the board of trustees, a copy of the Charity Commission's guide, 'The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know' and a copy of the 'Charities and Public Benefit' document. All trustees are required to read BCT's Safeguarding Policy and sign a commitment to upholding it. All new trustees are required to spend an induction day, meeting all members of staff and discussing their roles, and are also required to enhance their knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to children at risk through the reading materials provided to them, and by attending study days or conferences from time to time. Pertinent reports and best practice papers are forwarded to BCT trustees, so that they maintain an awareness of issues that may affect their decision-making.

Appraisal of BCT Trustees

All trustees are required to fulfil a six-month probationary period followed by a review.

Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the term of office is for three years, followed by an appraisal. Trustees can then stand for a further term of office if the appraisal is satisfactory. BCT trustees are also required to undergo an appraisal after 18 months in office. The reviews are facilitated by the Chair and one other trustee. The term of office for the Chair of Trustees is 3 years, with an appraisal at 18 months.

None of BCT's trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work with BCT.

Risk Management

BCT recognises the need, as well as responsibility, to assess all of its activities against risk, in line with the Charity Commission's 'Statement Of Recommended Practice 2005' (SORP 2005). BCT's Risk Management Policy demonstrates potential risks, the steps taken to mitigate or remove them, and BCT's commitment to on-going monitoring and assessment. BCT has also drawn up a Business Continuity Plan as part of its Risk Management Policy. The greatest current risk is economic sustainability in light of the global economic climate, but BCT's trustees confirm that they have reviewed BCT's accounts on a monthly basis and put in place a strategy for on-going fundraising and increasing income for sustainability.

APPENDIX 2

Reserves Policy

(Based on Article 19 of a meeting of BCT trustees, dated 2nd March 2002. Latest amendment by agreement of BCT trustees, 24th May 2021.)

At any one time, BCT will, as a minimum, maintain an unrestricted fund reserve of at least £40,624. Funds pertaining to any reserve may be retained in one or more BCT accounts. The purpose of the unrestricted fund reserve is to:

- Maintain an adequate level of unrestricted funds to provide security against unforeseen liabilities and funding changes, and;
- For a period of at least three months, meet BCT's running costs if it experiences unforeseen financial difficulties or is in a position where it will soon cease to operate as a charity.

BCT will endeavour to have appropriately disbursed restricted donations no later than six months after the end of the previous financial year.

Grant-making Policy

(Based on Article 18 of the minutes of a meeting of the BCT trustees on 2nd March 2002).

BCT has a Grant Making Policy that outlines criteria for issuing grants to projects and/or individuals, the procedure for issuing grants and the review of grants. This policy is reviewed at set intervals, as are all BCT's policies.

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Charity Registration Number 1073817