

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY 1079399

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees

Claire Longley
Gill Norris
Nelson Brany
John Horseman
Anna Maimi
Julie Robinson
Liz Challis
Tom Morris

Registered Office

9 Byng Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 8EG

Independent Examiner

BSR Bespoke Chartered Accountants
Linden House
Linden Close
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN4 8HH

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
73/75 Calverley Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent

Charity Registration Number

1079399

Website

www.ghanaeducationproject.org.uk

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

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GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

The trustees of Ghana Education Project present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Ghana Education Project (GEP) was established under deed in 2000, aiming to support education, equality and development in Northern Ghana. Its principal objective is the education of school children in the Nkwanta district of the Oti Region, with a specific focus on educating girls and young women.

GEP achieves this through the operation of its own girls school, the provision of teaching materials, training and support to other mixed-gender schools in the region – often working in partnership with other NGOs – and the development of complementary infrastructure for the wider community.

In the UK, GEP has in the past partnered in the personal development of girls from Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School (TWGGS) and had previously sent a small team of pupils to Ghana every two years. It is not known when these trips will resume, following cancellations due to Covid, but the school continues to play a role in the charity's fundraising activities, albeit on a much smaller scale than in the past.

The trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance in setting its plans and objectives.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The charity's flagship initiative is the Kyabobo Girls School (KGS), which opened as a Junior High School (JHS) in September 2013 and then launched its first Senior High School (SHS) year in September 2016 with an intake of 90 girls. At the start of the 2022/23 academic year KGS had 416 girls enrolled, 211 in JHS and 205 in SHS. GEP operates in partnership with the Ghana Education Service (GES) who provide most of KGS's teaching staff.

Following discussions with the Deputy Director of GES in early 2019, KGS was designated an experimental school with final confirmation of this being announced in July 2019. KGS now officially operates as one school comprised of Junior and Senior levels on one site. GES's intention is that the school will have an overall head teacher and two deputies, currently we have a Headteacher and one Deputy Head. GES is hoping that, as well as staffing and building cost savings, the experiment will see better outcomes for pupils as degree qualified teachers will teach across the whole age range. This year, we have again received more graduate teachers.

It has been another challenging year for the charity with fundraising activities curtailed by the absence of a school trip from our main sponsor, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar.

School closures in Ghana during Covid continue to have an impact on educational standards. The 2022 cohort were severely impacted by a year out of school, but we have done our best to facilitate catch up teaching for them and we were pleased with their results. We have not yet received full results for the 2023 cohort.

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (continued)

Our KGS leavers continue to thrive at university studying subjects including Nursing, Engineering, Physics, Tourism Management, Journalism and Teacher Training. We have been gratified to receive photographs of pupils who have graduated this year, all achieving degree grades of 2ii or above. It is normal in Ghana for many girls to work after leaving school to save money for fees, so we hope that more of our first five cohorts will go on to further education. The charity supports a small number of past pupils with the cost of university via our limited scholarship fund.

The charity continues to support other projects in the wider community including a conservation programme which is run in conjunction with staff from the local Wildlife Department to develop youth understanding of the environment, teamwork and social responsibility.

FUTURE PLANS

The trustees are continuing with plans to expand enrolment at KGS and have agreed with Ghana Education Service (GES) that the school enrolment will increase to a maximum of 570 girls. Construction of a new administration and teaching block is underway, funded by Ghana Education Service. Thanks to a generous individual donation the construction of a school boarding house was completed in 2024 and KGS has now been recognised by GES as a boarding school. We hope that the provision of boarding accommodation and food, funded by GES, will encourage more of our students to stay at KGS for their senior schooling.

GEP is relishing the challenge of implementing the experimental school status of KGS, which it hopes will become a model for the future in Ghanaian schools. Our new headteacher is making an impact and has started an initiative for pupils to grow crops on some of our land to raise money for the school. We continue to appreciate the commitment of our deputy head and other staff.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial statements show net incoming resources for the year of £37,814, a small decrease from the previous year of 2.8%. The trustees confirm that the capital costs to complete the construction of the new boarding hostel at KGS are fully covered by the restricted funds received from a generous donor during 2022/23. All other approved capital projects were completed in prior years and all future income will be allocated to maintaining and running operations at KGS and the other activities of GEP in Nkwanta, as well as providing bursaries to selected students progressing to university or college. The trustees consider that the current level of fund raising, and built-up reserves, will enable the charity to maintain a basic level of operations in Nkwanta but additional sustainable sources of funds will be necessary if KGS operations are to be maintained at the current high level in future years. Near term fund raising is particularly challenging as all visits to Nkwanta by TWGGS students have been cancelled until at least 2024.

The Kyabobo Guest House and Centre in Nkwanta operated at a small loss of £852 for the year (2021/22 - £203 loss). The trustees consider this level of loss acceptable. The financial viability of the guest house and the Kyabobo Centre continues to be monitored, but the trustees recognise the social benefit the facility provides to local people and to visitors to Nkwanta including volunteers from the UK.

The trustees are extremely grateful for all donations received during the year from private individuals and generous organisations including Tunbridge Wells Round Table and Ghana International Bank. Despite TWGGS being unable to send pupil teams to Ghana, GEP is very grateful for the contributions to the charity which continue to be made by pupils, their parents, and staff at Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees plan to distribute, in accordance with the charity's objectives, all funds received. However, the trustees recognise that some balances must be held to cover unavoidable future operating costs and commitments in Ghana and thus the charity holds sufficient reserves in the United Kingdom to meet these costs.

As at 31st August 2023 the charity held balances totalling £55,459 in its UK bank accounts (2022 - £50,959).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Ghana Education Project (GEP) was established under deed in 2000, and is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution which was amended in November 2013 to reflect the charity's specific areas of focus in Ghana.

One of the trustees, Gill Norris MBE, continues to manage activities in Nkwanta on a voluntary basis. Her work in Ghana is overseen by the board of trustees in the UK, who normally meet six times a year, including at least one meeting in person with Gill Norris. The UK trustees set and agree the financial plans for the charity based on recommendations from Gill Norris and control the transfer of funds from the charity's UK bank accounts to bank accounts controlled by GEP in Ghana. All expenditure in Ghana is under the direct control of Gill Norris.

In light of the particularly challenging current economic and global health environment, the trustees regularly review expenditure priorities in Ghana to ensure that ex-pupils who are dependent on contributions from GEP for their university or college education can continue to be supported.

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

TRUSTEES

The appointment of trustees is made by means of election at the charity's annual general meeting. The trustees who served during the year were:

Claire Longley	
Gill Norris	Founder
Nelson Brany	
John Horseman	Treasurer
Anna Maimi	
Julie Robinson	Fundraiser
Liz Challis	Secretary
Tom Morris	Chair

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the charity might be exposed and take steps to mitigate them. In particular the trustees regularly review the charity's Child Protection Policy and ensure this is acknowledged and implemented by all staff at KGS who have contact with pupils.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 charity and of its activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies are in accordance with the Charities SORP and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 2nd May 2024 and signed on its behalf

Tom Morris

John Horseman

Trustee and Chair

Trustee and Treasurer

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

We report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which give us cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content 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.

We 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.



BSR Bespoke Chartered Accountants
Linden House
Linden Close
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN4 8HH

Date: 10 June 2024

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	Note			2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and Legacies	4	998	20,345	21,343	16,198
Other Trading Activities		10,041	2,425	12,466	16,377
Charitable Activities		3,875	-	3,875	6,315
Interest		130	-	130	5
Total Income		15,044	22,770	37,814	38,895
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds		375	-	375	2,987
Charitable Activities	3	50,321	3,685	54,006	63,606
Total Expenditure		50,696	3,685	54,381	66,593
Net income / (expenditure) before gains / (losses) on foreign exchange		(35,652)	19,085	(16,567)	(27,698)
Foreign Exchange Gain / (Loss)	2.8	(1,402)	-	(1,402)	(1,258)
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(37,054)	19,085	(17,969)	(28,956)
Transfers between funds		10,098	(10,098)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(26,956)	8,987	(17,969)	(28,956)
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Fund Balances at 1 September 2022		99,672	19,027	118,699	147,655
Fund Balances at 31 August 2023		72,716	28,014	100,730	118,699

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts.

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	£	£
Fixed Assets	6	38,125	58,818
Current Assets			
Balance at Bank		63,114	62,399
Cash in Hand		0	832
Debtors		4,788	2,217
Liabilities			
Loan from Trustee	7	(3,996)	(5,567)
Creditors		(1,301)	-
Net Assets		<u>100,730</u>	<u>118,699</u>
Unrestricted Funds	2.6		
General fund		34,591	40,854
Designated fund – Fixed assets		38,125	58,818
Restricted Funds	4	<u>28,014</u>	<u>19,027</u>
		<u>100,730</u>	<u>118,699</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 2nd May 2024 and signed on its behalf

Tom Morris

John Horseman

Trustee and Chair

Trustee and Treasurer

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

1. Constitution

Ghana Education Project is a registered charity (No: 1079399) established under deed in 2000.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the applicable accounting standards (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement as the charity is applying the disclosure exemption applicable to small entities under FRS102 section 1A.

These financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis in that income is included only as cash is received and on an accruals basis in so far as expenditure is included as it is incurred.

To comply with overseas local legislation, Ghana Education Project (GEP) is established as a separate legal entity in Ghana. This entity is fully controlled by GEP trustees and its financial transactions are included within the accounts of GEP on a branch accounting basis.

2.2 Donations and Legacies

Donations under Gift Aid, together with the associated income tax recovery, are recognised as income when the donations are received.

2.3 Other Trading Activities

Income from other trading activities includes income from the sale of donated goods and services at fundraising events organised by the charity's volunteers.

2.4 Charitable Activities

Income from charitable activities represents income received from the operation of the charity's guest house in Nkwanta, Ghana.

2.5 Raising Funds

Fund raising expenditure comprises costs incurred holding events designed to generate funds which are then applied to the charity's work, and costs incurred on banking and fund raising services necessary for the charity to fulfil its objectives.

2.6 Unrestricted Funds

The unrestricted funds consist of funds which the trustees can allocate to enable the charity to carry out its objectives. The designated fund represents funds allocated by the trustees to capital expenditure projects in Nkwanta including the Kyabobo community centre, the guest house and The Kyabobo Girls School, less accumulated depreciation charged on these assets. The general fund represents unrestricted funds available to meet future expenditure of the charity.

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.7 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation on buildings is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value over five years (school buildings – ten years). No depreciation is provided on assets in course of construction. Depreciation on fixtures and fittings is provided on a straight line basis at rates calculated to write off the cost over four years, including the year of acquisition (except where new school equipment is purchased in advance of, and for, the start of a new academic year).

2.8 Foreign Currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the average rate obtained for all monies transferred to Ghana during the period. Foreign currency balances are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the Balance Sheet date. Foreign exchange gains and losses incurred in respect of operations in Ghana are included in the SOFA for the period in which they are incurred.

3. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2023 £	2022 £
General Nkwanta Expenditure	4,805	7,117
School Operating Costs	12,321	18,554
Guest House Expenditure	4,727	6,518
Depreciation	30,791	31,015
Governance Costs	1,362	402
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	54,006	63,606

4. Restricted Funds

The restricted funds represent donations and grants received from donors who have requested the funds to be used for specific purposes, either capital or operational, relating to the Kyabobo Girls School.

Funds received under the GEP 300 fund raising campaign are used to support the running costs of the school. The trustees have agreed that the donation of £10,300 received from The Mvule Trust in 2013/14 will be used to help support senior high students who wish to apply to university after sitting their WASSCE exams.

	GEP 300 £	The Mvule Trust £	Individual Donors £	Total £
At 1 September 2022	-	10,145	8,882	19,027
Donations / grants received in year (inc Gift Aid)	1,095	-	21,675	22,770
University and college bursaries		-	(2,107)	(2,107)
School running cost	(1,095)	-	(483)	(1,578)
KGS hostel construction			(10,098)	(10,098)
At 31 August 2023	-	10,145	17,869	28,014

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

5. Assets held in Ghana

Net assets held in Ghana by Ghana Education Project, registered locally as both a separate legal entity and as a non-governmental organisation (NGO), were as follows:

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
	£	£
Fixed Assets at net book value	38,125	58,818
Bank and cash balances	7,655	12,271
Liabilities – Loan from Trustee	(3,996)	(5,567)
Creditors	(341)	-
Total Net Assets held in Ghana	41,443	65,522

6. Fixed Assets

	Buildings (Community)	Buildings (School)	Assets in course of construction	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	100,272	305,102	-	80,946	486,320
Additions	-	-	10,098	-	10,098
Transfer on Completion	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	100,272	305,102	10,098	80,946	496,418
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	100,269	247,153	-	80,080	427,502
Charge for the period	-	30,509	-	282	30,791
At 31 August 2022	100,269	277,682	-	80,362	458,293
Net Book Value					
At 31 August 2022	3	57,949	-	866	58,818
At 31 August 2023	3	27,440	10,098	584	38,125

Notes:

During 2022/23 construction started on a hostel at the Kyabobo Girls School which will on completion provide boarding accommodation for 80 students at the start of the 2024/25 academic year.

All tangible fixed assets are held for charitable use.

GHANA EDUCATION PROJECT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

7. Loan from Trustee

The Loan from Trustee of £3,996 represents money loaned locally to GEP by the resident trustee in Nkwanta in prior years to complete various charity projects, less expenses paid by the charity on the trustee's behalf. During the year personal trustee expenses of £470 were paid from the charity's funds in the UK and were then offset against the trustee's loan to the charity. No interest is required by the trustee on the outstanding balance of the loan account, and no other repayment terms or dates have been requested. The loan account is maintained in GHS and is revalued at the balance sheet date in accordance with the charity's foreign exchange policy.

8. Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year.