



Mrs Jenni Kitson , Treasurer

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## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 01/ 2023 to 12/2023

### Reference and Administration details

EducAid Africa

Reg No.: 1087844

Contact address as above.

### Trustees

Ian Carnell

Lorraine Armstrong

Jenni Kitson

Linda Maxfield

Sunny Thethy

Alison Thethy

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Liaison

International liaison

International liaison

Trustees meet three or four times a year and a sub-committee acting as a working group convenes as necessary for practical tasks.

Registered Charity No : 1087844

## Structure, governance and management

### Governing Document is a Trust Deed

2023 saw us coming out of Covid arrangements as they had affected our meetings and educational organisation, particularly in Kenya where terms had been altered and school holidays much reduced in a process of catch up.

In January 2023 the term dates in Kenya returned to the normal pattern of three terms starting in January.

No new Trustees have joined our organisation, but this year began discussions about the future of the charity, mostly because of the age of existing Trustees and the need to plan carefully. This continues to affect our discussions and if we are to close we need to do it in an orderly fashion whilst still maintaining support for all sponsored pupils who are at school or college. To this end, whilst still open to taking on new Trustees, we came to the decision by the end of 2023 to not take on new sponsored pupils in schools from January 2024 and to taper our closure over the coming years, unless there was a prospect of suitable Trustees to take over.

### Volunteers and Representatives of the Charity in Kenya

Our representatives in Kenya are still Jonah Arome and his brother Stephen Arome. Jonah is the person who fulfils the most of the responsibilities though the two share the role. They are paid a small retainer twice a year by Educaid Africa and basic expenses are reimbursed. Stephen and Jonah are both retired and based in Mombasa with a house still in Stephen's village where they have strong links with the local community.

### Communication and links with our representative

The Trustees maintain contact nearly all by email with few if any exchanges by post now. There is a WhatsApp link both with our representatives and a separate group including past sponsored students.

It has been the tradition for some Trustees to visit every two years when possible, but given that this is at our own expense, it cannot be a condition of being a Trustee. As Trustees get older and have health issues, this has become more of a challenge for some. However two of our Trustees have family and business interests in Nairobi and Mombasa so can always be the charity's in person representatives when they are there on other matters.

Although there is reasonable communication by email or occasionally WhatsApp, the personal visits play a different role and often to lead to changes in what we do or additional improvements that emerge through the experience of the visit and face to face meetings.



**Object of the Charity**  
The charity began as a response to meet the needs of young people in Kenya who could not afford to attend secondary school. Each year we are able to sponsor a number of pupils at this level for a period of 4 years in boarding schools in their local area.

Our supporters in the UK have continued to send regular sums to sponsor pupils and students at college and university. In the summer of 2023 this suddenly became a challenge as the previously manageable cost of a place at a Kenyan H E institution was tripled overnight. We honoured our promise of support to three students, but could only do this because we had sufficient funds and we have gradually found additional sponsors to share in the support of each individual. The favourable exchange rate also helped. Because of this increase in cost, we feel we can no longer readily sponsor University places as we have in recent years and will have to consider if there are other ways we can offer assistance at this level. We have never been able to sponsor those looking for funding at overseas universities.

The recent venture of our two newest Trustees' involvement in a successful golf tournament and corporate day has been repeated in 2023 and looks to become a regular event bringing both funds and an interest in sponsorship. This is a successful project reaching a new audience.

**How we operate in the UK**  
In addition to governance, Trustees are willing to give talks about Educaid Africa. Such engagement with local schools, churches and interest groups has somewhat faded since COVID. Nevertheless the revenue from regular supporters and churches continues. We are not lacking the resources we currently need.

Whilst the last previous visit had been in February 2020, in March 2023, one Trustee travelled to meet up with the other two Trustees with links in Kenya during one of their longer trips in order to fulfil the business of the charity. This was very successful and appreciated by all who participated. Many sponsored pupils were met and interviewed, and all were given gifts from the charity. Some past students and some of those studying at college/university were able to meet us in Mombasa to talk about the future and what part they may be able to play themselves should the charity cease to exist. Meetings with our colleagues were useful to assess what future needs may be possible projects or how closure would impact them.



In 2023, the new school year began in January as already stated and we took on 7 new sponsored pupils at secondary schools. The exchange rate has been much more in our favour and we have not needed to pass on increased school fees to our sponsors. We were pleased to welcome some new sponsors.

As before, we provided these pupils with uniform and necessary kit to start them off. Their progress and needs are then monitored throughout their four years at school. Where there is extra hardship or money needed for an educational visit, the charity will meet any reasonable requests.

All sponsors receive regular reports and a letter from their pupil, with extra photographs and information after a Trustees' visit.

We have been able to continue support of two nursery schools with Uji (maize porridge) for their daily feeding programme as well as equipment and books to a local primary school. These schools are also visited by Trustees when in Kenya.

**In the summer of 2023** as previously noted, we took on just three students offered a University or college place for further education, providing laptops where needed.

### Safeguarding

We the Trustees are aware of our responsibilities with reference to safeguarding children both in this country and in Africa and take this issue seriously. We currently have no powers to influence any controls of Kenyan personnel in Kenya or the system in schools there. We can however have dialogues with our representatives in Kenya to raise their awareness of the importance of safeguarding matters and would respond promptly if issues or concerns affecting sponsored pupils and students we support are brought to our notice. The type of contact between those who operate for us in Kenya and the students and young people there is enough to ensure our funds are accounted for, but is almost entirely done through the schools, where young children are involved. Many of the older students are adults, and actual one to one contact is minimal.

### Maintaining the current level of support

The aim of the Trustees was always to maintain the level of fundraising and support at around the same level. Whilst we would wish to raise more money because there are always needs, our current organisation relies on a small local operation in Kenya and it would become unmanageable if it were to grow too large. As noted above we are currently considering a tapered closure but only because of the aging of most of the current Trustees.



## Financial Review

In 2023, our financial controls were again reviewed in line with recommendations of the Charity Commission. Records are kept of donations and income in £sterling. The accounts are independently examined and are attached to this report.

When required, funds are transferred to our bank account in Mombasa managed by our representatives. They distribute the funds to schools as needed, for fees, individual needs, equipment, etc. They send a statement of funds in Kenyan shillings two or three times a year and have an annual official audit of their finances, a copy of which is sent to us each year.

Funds have been transferred as needed, normally twice a year. In December 2023 however the UK bank failed to send the large transfer in December at the correct time and in fact it will appear in the accounts in early January of 2024, meaning we appear to have a much greater carry over than normal. This transfer is in readiness for the payment of fees for the school year but includes other amounts to support the nurseries and equipment for the Primary school we support, as well as an amount that can be used in small amounts in the case of hardship or medical needs of our sponsored pupils and students, at the discretion of our colleagues in Mombasa.

Gift Aid is an important source of income and we try to encourage all regular donors to Gift Aid where possible.

Each year our carry over is maintained at a level such that we can still support outstanding sponsorships where that money is in the account already, plus sufficient to meet an adverse change in the exchange rate. We do not wish to retain large sums. Currently the carry over appears excessive, but this is because the bank delayed our transfer to Mombasa sent on 18 December, and this was not discovered until the New Year, so the usual fee money was actually sent in January 2024.

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The trustees declare that they have approved this report.  
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



31.10.24

Registered Charity No : 1087844

Full name: Jennifer Anne Kitson  
Position: Treasurer  
Date: 31.10.24

*Jennifer Anne Kitson*



For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/2/2023		31/1/2023

## Section A Receipts and payments

[illegible]

AZ Asset and Investment sales, (see table).						
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	37,278	-	-	-	37,278	27,872

[illegible][illegible]









CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

EDUCAID AFRICA  
Charity Name

On accounts for the year  
ended

31.12.23

Charity no  
(if any)

1087844

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above  
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity 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 Trust's accounts carried out  
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I  
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission  
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have  
come to my attention in connection with the examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection  
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a  
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent  
examiner's statement

Signed:

*CM Burr*

Date:

30.10.24

Name:

Mrs Christine M. Burr

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Former member of CIPFA now retired

Address:

41 Fowgay Drive

Solihull

West Midlands B91 3PH