

ADVANTAGE AFRICA

England & Wales · Charity number 1092719

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [04388034](#)

Registered 2002-07-01

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF NEED, POVERTY, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AMONGST PEOPLE IN AFRICA IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DETERMINE, BUT IN PARTICULAR BY SUPPORTING AND WORKING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES WITHIN THEIR OWN REGION WHICH FURTHER THE STATED CHARITABLE PURPOSE

Activities: Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our work in Kenya and Uganda helps people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** AFRICA
- Kenya
- Uganda

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£359,468	£387,640	-	-
2024-07-31	£341,543	£346,160	-	-
2023-07-31	£333,172	£303,702	-	-
2022-07-31	£276,093	£310,990	-	-
2021-07-31	£290,167	£283,427	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alice Gathoni		2023-10-30
Amanda Brook		2025-10-22
Amy Campo McEvoy		2025-10-22
Andrew Lippett		2025-10-22
Christopher Chapman		2024-09-25
Mandy Smith		2018-10-22
Pratima Dattani		2018-10-22

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Accounts

Advantage Africa

pathways out of poverty



Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2025



Susan, the leader of a single parents' group growing vegetables in Katungulu, Uganda displays her crop.

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Acronyms used

ACA	Associated Chartered Accountant
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
EFPA	Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMRC	His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAAD	International Albinism Awareness Day
ICAEW	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
KDPO	Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation
KISE	Kenya Institute of Special Education
MWDG	Migori Women with Disabilities Group
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SNUPA	Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
SPAU	Single Parents' Association of Uganda
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Front cover: Joseph celebrates the joy of a new wheelchair with his mother, in Migori County, Kenya.

Rear cover: Marching on International Albinism Awareness Day in Jinja, Uganda.

Trustee-Directors' Report

for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Charity and Company Information

Trustee-Directors:	Christopher Chapman (joined November 2024) Pratima Dattani Mandy Smith Carole Holloway (resigned October 2025) Alice Gathoni Amy Campo McEvoy (joined October 2025) Andrew Lippett (joined October 2025) Amanda Brook (joined October 2025)
Patrons:	Martyn Joseph Jon Snow
Company Secretary:	Andrew Betts - Executive Director
Governing Document:	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 2002
Company Registration Number:	04388034
Charity Registration Number:	1092719
Registered Office:	9 High Street Olney Buckinghamshire MK46 4EB
Telephone:	01234 711005
Email:	information@advantageafrica.org
Website:	www.advantageafrica.org
Independent Examiner:	Haines Watts Swindon Limited Swindon Wiltshire SN1 3DU
Bankers:	HSBC plc 19 Midsummer Place Milton Keynes MK9 3GB

Introduction

This Report and Accounts describes Advantage Africa's work in 2024/25 to improve the lives of vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda and the resources managed to fulfil that purpose.

We're most grateful to our inspirational partner organisations and our generous and committed supporters who made the achievements in this Report possible and brought joy and hope into disadvantaged communities across East Africa. Thank you for making a difference.

Governance

Advantage Africa's governance is described in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity's governance, strategy, policies and direction are the responsibility of the Trustee-Directors listed on page two. New candidates are considered by the Board according to the match of their skills and experience to our needs and are inducted before and during their first few meetings.

Advantage Africa's organisational policies cover all aspects of its operation including finance, employment, safeguarding and professional practice. We have a schedule for the periodic review of these policies e.g. our safeguarding and data protection policies are reviewed annually and our financial policy every two years. Trustee-Directors take a lead on specific policies and risks according to their expertise.

Only minor changes were made to the Safeguarding Policy this year and its implementation included supporting partners to implement their own. No safeguarding incidents were reported during the year.

The Trustee-Directors delegate day-to-day management of the charity to its Director Andrew Betts. They appoint staff and set appropriate salaries against a set of principles including objectivity and affordability. Reference is also made to the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales which are commonly used in the voluntary sector. The Board meets three times a year to oversee Advantage Africa's governance and monitor progress against the objectives of our Strategic Plan. This includes a review of our impact in Kenya and Uganda, financial performance, fundraising, risk register and policy implementation.

Objects of the Charity

Advantage Africa's objects, as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6th March 2002 and amended by special resolution 31st May 2002, are *'The relief of need, poverty, hardship and distress and the advancement of education amongst people in Africa, in particular by supporting and working with local people to develop sustainable initiatives within their own region'*.

In practice, Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability, albinism and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our partnerships with local organisations in Kenya and Uganda help vulnerable people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities. Advantage Africa provides its partners with resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.

Review of Activities

Oversight

The Trustee-Directors have planned and overseen the activities of the charity with regard to the Charity Commission's Good Governance Code, their guidance on 'Public Benefit', and 'Working Internationally' as well as HMRC's recommendations on 'Payments to Overseas Bodies'. Advantage Africa is also a member of the Fundraising Regulator.

Vision and Strategy

Many millions of people in East Africa continue to live in relentless poverty, excluded from the benefits of economic growth. Among the most vulnerable people of all are those affected by disability, including albinism and epilepsy, and HIV, who are often stigmatised and denied their basic human rights, causing them to lack self-worth, opportunity and hope.

Advantage Africa's vision is for such vulnerable children, women and men to be respected as equals, free from poverty, discrimination and fear, and to have appropriate education, good health and sustainable livelihoods. To this end, our strategic goal is *'better lives for the most vulnerable children and adults in East Africa'* and our objectives are to:

- (1) Support the most vulnerable and excluded children, women and men to overcome poverty and meet their needs in a sustainable way.
- (2) Contribute to changing the conditions, attitudes, policies and practices that limit their opportunities.
- (3) Create a more resilient and sustainable charity.

Advantage Africa's team of three staff in the UK comprising Director Andrew Betts and Programme Managers Rob Aley (Kenya) and Jane Betts (Uganda) worked to fulfil these objectives.

This Review outlines some of the activities carried out and impact achieved in 2024/25. Names of some beneficiaries have been changed to protect privacy.

Towards our first objective, supporting the most vulnerable people to overcome poverty, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan aims for us to *support at least eight partner organisations to provide essential services to improve the education, health and incomes of vulnerable people.*

We achieved this aim in another successful year, actually supporting ten partners to work across these themes, namely Thinu and Mitaboni Primary Schools; Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE); Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG); Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO); Dyslexia Organisation Kenya (DOK), Autism Society of Kenya (ASK), Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS; Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU) and Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA).

Summary

Highlights of Advantage Africa's 2024/25 included:

- **345 children and youths** in education or vocational skills training.
- **48 teachers** of children with disabilities or albinism trained in inclusive methods.
- **50 youths with disabilities** assisted to successfully transition from school to home and community.
- **35 children with albinism** received vision aids.
- **1,468 people** had HIV testing and counselling.
- **1,000+ people with albinism** protected from skin cancer and 19 received life-saving surgery.
- **212 people with disabilities** received wheelchairs or other appliances.
- **222 families affected by epilepsy** supported.
- **700 people** benefitted from sustainable income-generating enterprises.
- **3,900 people** accessed safe water.
- **300+ vulnerable people** provided with welfare support including 18 with renovated homes.
- **60 boda boda riders** trained to prevent gender-based violence.
- **100 young people** trained to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.
- **5,000+ members of the public** reached at rallies on health and rights.



Martha is one of 345 children and young people in education or skills training through Advantage Africa.

Education

Education for Children with Disabilities (Kenya and Uganda)

This year, our third cohort of 20 special-education teachers completed their training in supporting students with learning disabilities to make successful transitions from school to adult life. This marked the completion of a three-year project in partnership with the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE), through which 60 teachers have now been trained. Each teacher has put their learning into practice in their schools, supporting more than 70 older students to achieve successful transitions and with small grants we provided, establish sustainable enterprises within their home communities.

Building on the success of this initiative, the COSARAF Charitable Foundation supported a further 50 school-leavers to make structured transitions from school to community life. The wide-reaching impact included school-leavers gaining purposeful livelihoods through enterprises, confidence and self-esteem, and families (many of whom previously had no clear vision for their children's futures) growing in their hope for the future. Schools also benefitted significantly as spaces were freed up, enabling learners to progress through the system and create room for new entrants. Teachers were likewise empowered and motivated as they witnessed an effective response to the long-standing challenge of over-age students remaining in school without any real prospects for their future.

Mary, aged 23, is one of over 120 school-leavers who successfully transitioned from school to adult life at home. She now rears livestock with the support of her family and enjoys a structured daily routine.



Mary pictured with her cow purchased with a small grant from our Bright Futures project.

Mary has grown in confidence and independence. Her grandmother says: *'We never knew what her future would be – we never saw this good thing coming.'*

Our long-term support for nearly 60 children with learning disabilities at the Special Education Units within Mitaboni and Thinu Primary Schools continued this year, largely through monthly allowances for house mothers, groundskeepers, and cooks.

Mitaboni's advocacy with the local MP enabled major renovations to the school completed through funding from the Constituency Development Fund. At Thinu we funded the replacement of their aging stove. We also began working with Migori Special School in western Kenya, which serves nearly 100 students with learning disabilities, to assess opportunities to develop the school's infrastructure.

In Uganda, with the support of the Educational Opportunity Foundation, and building on our previous year's work in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, we trained district stakeholders and 28 teachers in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement to provide appropriate education for pupils with albinism, using a handbook adapted from a ground-breaking initiative in Sierra Leone. The training covered key topics such as understanding albinism, visual impairment, sun protection and inclusive classroom practices. Teachers were also taught how to identify the early signs of sun damage and how to educate learners and parents about skin cancer prevention. We also enabled 35 children with albinism in Rwamwanja to have eye tests and receive spectacles, magnifiers, wide-brimmed hats, school fee contributions and long-sleeved uniforms. The SNUPA team noted that their parents' attitudes have also improved markedly. *'Unlike in the past, they now value the education of children with albinism equally with their siblings.'*

Vocational Training for Young People (Uganda)

In the rural community of Katungulu, with the support of the Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission (OA&DC), 75 young people started twelve months of vocational training under the leadership of expert teachers. All of the trainees had been out of education or work for several years, due to the COVID-19 closures and an outbreak of Ebola in their community. The shock, fear and trauma of being trapped in successive lockdowns for almost four years, had a devastating effect on mental health and wellbeing in the community. These vocational activities helped the trainees find friendships, regain confidence and rebuild their lives.

10 of the group chose to learn welding, 10 vehicle mechanics, 10 barbering/hairdressing, 16 tailoring and 19 to undertake stone quarrying. The trainees are working towards achieving the Government's Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) certification in their respective trades and all are also being equipped with business skills.



Trainee welders at work.



Training teachers about albinism in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement.



Young hairdressers training in Katungulu.



Quarry workers with their new protective gear.

In the lakeside community of Nsonga, 20 young people learnt brick/block making. By the end of the training, and with their DIT certificates secured, the trainees will be equipped for employment in Uganda's burgeoning construction industry. They will also be able to help families in the Nsonga community, many of whom live in poorly built mud shelters, to cost-effectively access building materials to strengthen their homes.

Sarah, Project Manager of SPAU reported *'The trainees have learnt how to produce strong blocks perfectly and have now also learnt to make pavers for paths and driveways. They have also learnt how to use the blocks effectively in construction. They're very happy with their training and say they're now ready to earn an income!'*

Rehabilitation, Health and Welfare Emergency and Welfare Support (Kenya and Uganda)

In Kenya, over 100 vulnerable people with disabilities across 30 families, including many displaced by severe flooding in western Kenya last year were supported with emergency and welfare support, including three who were assisted with new homes after their dwellings were washed away. The construction was coordinated by our partner Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG) and funded by The Fine & Country Foundation.

Monicah is a single mother caring for two children. She was made homeless last year when flood waters swept through her house during the night. She says *'I had lived there 3 years, then all of a sudden everything was washed away. I was left with nothing at all.'* With assistance from Advantage Africa, MWDG arranged for a simple new house for Monicah to be constructed, away from the flood zone, and assisted her to start earning a living from garment trading. *'MWDG have saved me, they've got my life started again – may God bless them.'*



Monicah (left) at her house construction supervised by Rodah (right) and Sheila (rear) of MWDG.

In Migori, 28 families experiencing acute food insecurity received large emergency food parcels, helping to prevent malnutrition. Thirteen families, including six flood survivors, were supported to establish sustainable micro-enterprises through small grants and loans. These initiatives are enabling people with disabilities to build independent and dignified livelihoods, with enterprises including catering, cereal and vegetable trading and the sale of clothing and footwear.

MWDG helped Mary to start a small catering enterprise at a busy bus park in western Kenya. A single mother with a disability, she was displaced by floods, but is now rebuilding her life.



Mary with Sheila (left) and Rodah (centre) of MWDG.

Additional support was provided to families and individuals in urgent need of medical assistance, essential home repairs, beds and bedding.

In Nsonga and Katungulu, Uganda, we distributed health kits including mattresses, blankets, sheets, toothbrushes and toothpaste to 44 of the most vulnerable families to boost their health, rest and resilience. Most had never had a bed to rest on before, sleeping instead on hard ground, grass or thin mats, and prey to parasitic infections.

Esther is the single mother of Ibrahim aged 13 and Miracle aged 5. Ibrahim has a chronic health condition that has prevented him from attending school for over a year and Miracle has cerebral palsy. Receiving their health kits brought them better sleep and much joy!



Esther and family with their health kit.

Housing support in Uganda focused on Nsonga, where we worked with local leaders to identify families in most urgent need of improved shelter. Many were living in damp, squalid conditions with leaking roofs, crumbling mud walls and no light or airflow in their homes. Windows were blocked with rags to keep out the cold and rain. All were struggling with poor mental health and respiratory infections.

Habiba, a grandmother caring for adopted orphans was among the six families supported to improve their homes; hers was permanently wet and dark. After plastering the walls, the dilapidated roof was removed, a new roof constructed with strong timbers and glazed windows installed.



Habiba sits in front of her newly renovated home.

Paul, Director of SPAU told us: *'Habiba is now one of the happiest people in the village. She sits on the veranda of her house thinking how God has remembered her!'*

Reducing the Spread and Impact of HIV (Kenya and Uganda)

During the year, a total of 1,212 people received HIV testing and counselling from Rescue Team through walk-in services, door-to-door visits and during large community events. Over 70% of those tested were female. The age distribution was 0–14 years (5.5%), 15–29 years (52.5%), and 30 years and above (42%). Of those tested, 50 individuals were found to be HIV positive (4.1%). Despite significant international funding challenges in the sector following the cancellation of USAID support, we managed to link all those needing ARV therapy to local treatment providers.

In Katungulu, Uganda, five expert health workers facilitated three days' HIV awareness training and testing for 265 people. In addition to post COVID high teenage pregnancy rates, a resurgence of gold-mining in the region meant that there were many transitory workers passing through the area amid concern about rising HIV rates.

Testing yielded very discouraging results: 84 out of the 265 participants tested positive for HIV (32%), all aged 14-20 years, and the majority girls. Our team provided them all with sensitive counselling and advice and they were referred to the local District Health Centre for ongoing support and antiretroviral treatment as required. SPAU and Advantage Africa are now following up on the critical need for further HIV sensitisation and testing as requested by community leaders.

Violence against Women and Girls (Kenya)

Our work to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls expanded this year with support from Lancaster University. In Kibwezi, eastern Kenya, and in partnership with our partner Rescue Team, we trained 60 male motorbike taxi riders, bringing the total trained over two years to 120.

Working with men recognises that, as the primary perpetrators of violence against women and girls, they also have the potential to powerfully change attitudes and behaviours within their communities. The project delivered intensive, expert-led training through multi-day workshops, follow-up refresher sessions, and community engagement activities. Participants critically examined gender norms, their own attitudes and behaviours, and developed their roles as positive agents of change.

The project was comprehensively evaluated and showed impressive impacts. Men from a high-risk sector were successfully transformed into allies against violence, demonstrating increased knowledge, confidence, and proactively preventing and responding to incidents in the community.

Women reported very significant improvements in



Wheelchairs provide mobility and hope in western Kenya.

their lives, including healthier relationships, enhanced safety, and, in many cases, the elimination of abuse and assaults. The project also fostered growing community awareness and advocacy, demonstrating the powerful potential of engaging men in the fight against violence.

Tamara the wife of a trained motorbike taxi rider said: *'He was so violent to me, so dishonest. But since you've trained him, there's no more violence, there have been so many changes to my life.'*



Tamara records a video for the project evaluation.

Rehabilitation Services (Kenya and Uganda)

Advantage Africa's provision of mobility aids and assistive devices to transform the lives of people with disabilities in Kibwezi, Eastern Kenya continued in partnership with the NGO Motivation. Altogether, 102 individuals were assessed and fitted with wheelchairs, tricycles, and other aids while an additional 70 clients benefitted from KDPO's rehabilitation workshop with walking frames, supportive seating, crutches, special footwear and essential repairs.



Emmaculate of KDPO unloading a consignment of 20 mobility tricycles.

Three clients were fitted with state-of-the-art prosthetic legs, including KDPO's Coordinator Agnes.

James, a 9 year-old visually and mobility impaired boy was fitted for a child's wheelchair. His mother was delighted saying *'I never knew how to help my boy, but KDPO have supported me so much. With his wheelchair he can now get to school'*.

In western Kenya, we fitted 40 people with wheelchairs, and assessed 35 more ready to receive devices through the MWDG and Nyabondo Rehabilitation Centre.

Marci, who was attending Mitaboni Special Unit, was unable to walk and, without a wheelchair she had to be manually carried by staff from room to room. Advantage Africa took her to KDPO, where she was assessed and fitted with her first wheelchair.



Migori Women with Disabilities Group coordinate the fitting of 40 wheelchairs and mobility devices.

'I felt so happy', Marci said. 'I can move around. I have friends. Now I feel so good!' She can now return to school and join mainstream classes, enabling her to learn and reach her potential.



Marci with her new wheelchair.

In Uganda, our rehabilitation efforts focused on the communities of Nsonga and Katungulu where we worked with specialists from the national orthopaedic clinic in Kampala's Mulago Hospital to assess 29 children and adults with disabilities. Most were affected by cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, polio, stroke-related paralysis and amputations following accidents or illness. None had access to appropriate assistive devices to help improve their mobility and their needs included axillary crutches, orthopaedic shoes and wheelchairs to boost independence.

Full of joy and anticipation, families were transported by bus to Kampala for further assessments and final fittings at the orthopaedic workshop and their smiles said it all as the beneficiaries received their sturdy mobility appliances.

Joyce who has cerebral palsy and is unable to walk, was assessed for a paediatric wheelchair. Her mother Eileen was instructed in giving her simple daily exercises. Parenting a child with a disability is challenging, but Eileen has renewed hope.



Joyce is assessed for a wheelchair.

Moses had previously only moved around by crawling and had previously barely left his home compound. Now, with mobility and independence, a new world has opened up for him.



Moses (left) and Jane with their new wheelchairs.

These interventions not only improve mobility but also enhance independence, self-esteem, dignity, school attendance and enterprise opportunities.

Epilepsy (Uganda)

Our support to people affected by epilepsy developed in 2024/25 and is now having a transformational impact on people's health, well-being and independence. In Nsonga, we held three days' epilepsy awareness training, led by neurological experts from Butabika Hospital and our partner SPAU, for 152 people with epilepsy and their carers. As well as learning about their condition and how to challenge misconceptions in their community, every child and adult with epilepsy was assessed and provided with regular access to medication to reduce seizures and put them in control of their condition.

Most families affected by epilepsy live in chronic poverty because of the discrimination and lack of opportunity they face. Therefore, building their self-reliance is a further crucial element in promoting long-term positive change.

In the communities of Nsonga and Kisojjo we supported 70 families affected by epilepsy to form peer support groups of about 15 members each, to learn about business management and start small enterprises. As well as developing new skills in saving and record-keeping, they formed friendships with each other and pledged to support each other through challenges and successes.



Butabika team training in epilepsy management in Nsonga.

Each group member was provided with a loan appropriate to the enterprise of their choice including rearing small livestock, selling vegetables, silverfish or clothes. Members paid back their loans in small instalments into their respective groups, ensuring that there was working capital to support people with additional loans as needed, or to enable new families to join them.

Nanduga from Kisojjo is single parent and has one son with epilepsy. Her loan enabled her to start a small restaurant in her home. Her food is proving very popular with her neighbours and local people and SPAU report that 'on a daily basis, she can make a profit of 100,000/= [about £22]' As well as transforming the family's economic circumstances and ability to meet their basic needs, this project has helped Nanduga and her son to have a greater sense of belonging and visibility in their community.



Nanduga serves food in her small restaurant.

Safe Water (Kenya and Uganda)

Accompanied by community water management and hygiene training, Advantage Africa supported our partner SPAU to install three boreholes providing safe, accessible water in Nsonga and Katungulu.

The borehole in Nsonga is six miles from the water point we helped them establish last year, and serves over 600 people in 150 families. Paul Lwanga, Director of SPAU reported 'This borehole brings such relief to this area of Nsonga and there is plentiful demand. Before, the only water they had was not fit for human consumption.'

The two new boreholes in Katungulu are regularly used by about 500 families and help keep up to 3,000 children and adults safe from water-borne diseases. A community survey indicated that incidence of such illnesses has reduced by 90%.



One of Katungulu's new boreholes.



People in Nsonga collect water from the newly-completed second borehole.

Local farmer Godfrey, a member of the committee managing the boreholes' maintenance told us: *'The Katungulu residents are very happy that their sickness has reduced with the clean water. Before, they sometimes couldn't pay their children's school fees because they were spending their small income on medical costs.'* The boreholes' accessible locations have also greatly reduced the daily drudgery of water collection for women and children, freeing them to focus on enterprises and education.

Supported by the Scott Bader Commonwealth, our safe water work in Kenya focused on supporting 60 families affected by disability (over 300 people) with rainwater harvesting systems as part of their livestock rearing project. The project has enabled these families to have reliable access to clean water, reduced water-related diseases and save up to three hours a day previously spent in collection. One beneficiary, a single mother of four said: *'Before I had no water tank, we had to collect water from a river one kilometre away. Now we have clean water!'*

Reduced drug and alcohol abuse (Uganda)

In Nsonga, we provided three days' participatory drug and alcohol training for 100 community members. The majority were aged between 15 to 21, reflecting how young people had been particularly affected by lack of purpose and depression since the long COVID-19 lockdowns and resorted to substance misuse as a coping mechanism.

The expert trainers enabled participants to understand and spot the signs of drug and alcohol misuse, how to seek further help and begin the process of change for themselves and others. Happily, many of the participants had recently started our vocational training or small enterprise activities which had given them renewed purpose and a determination to improve their health.



Members of Kulungu Disability Group receive goats and materials for rainwater harvesting.

Improving the Health of People with Albinism (Uganda)

In 2024/2025, we supported our partner SNUPA to hold 45 skin clinics across the Busoga sub-region of Uganda aimed at preventing skin cancer among over 1,000 children and adults with albinism. Attending our clinics every four months, people with albinism had skin checks provided by our dermatologists Dr. Ngobi and Dr. Inena and also received supplies of high sun protection factor (SPF) sunscreen, lip protection and wide-brimmed hats to help keep them safe.



Skin clinic in Palissa.

All of our clinics are now held in district health centres or hospitals so that local doctors and nurses can shadow our dermatologists and learn about albinism and how to prevent skin cancer. During this year's clinics our dermatologists undertook 1,134 comprehensive skin checks and 518 cryotherapy treatments to remove pre-cancerous lesions.



Health education at skin clinic in Luuka District.

Each clinic began with a health talk to refresh attendees' knowledge about how to stay safe in the sun and provide vital information to accompanying family members, as well as local government representatives who are always invited to take part.



Health worker learning to administer cryotherapy.

The SNUPA team was encouraged that these representatives were themselves becoming advocates for children and adults with albinism. For example in Namutumba the District Education Officer had himself *'provided five wide-brimmed hats for pupils with albinism and directed schools to supply customised long-sleeved uniforms.'*

Counselling from SNUPA team members is also offered during each clinic and enables us to find individuals and families living in particularly difficult circumstances. As appropriate, we then provide a small grant from our Severe Hardship Fund to help them lift themselves out of crisis.

This year we enabled SNUPA to procure a new liquid nitrogen cylinder for vital cryotherapy treatments. We were also most grateful for a donation of 5,482 bottles of high SPF sunscreen from Ultrasun UK, an essential tool in skin cancer prevention.

Although rates of skin cancer continue to fall among regular attendees at our clinics, we often have new people attending, many having travelled long distances, and some with severe skin cancer requiring urgent attention. We supported 19 such children and adults, ranging in age from ten years to late forties, to have life-saving skin cancer surgery and follow-up support. This included teenager Camille who lives in a refugee settlement and who developed very painful and fast-growing skin cancer around her mouth. Following her treatment and recovery SNUPA told us: *'The entire family was happy and appreciated the support extended to their daughter. Camille is now cancer free!'*



Camille is now free of skin cancer following surgery.

Our support for refugees with albinism in the Nakivale and Rwamwanja settlements in south-west Uganda was needed more than ever. The closure of USAID, and corresponding reduction in funding for the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), have had a devastating impact on the health and well-being of refugees worldwide. In this context, our four settlement visits provided much-needed relief and friendship to the refugees, alongside skin checks, sun protective resources and emergency food and hygiene supplies. One refugee in Nakivale told us: *'Whenever you come we feel happy because you give food, basic needs and sunscreen.'*



Loading food for refugees in Nakivale Settlement.

Improved Incomes

Sustainable Enterprises for Vulnerable Families (Kenya and Uganda)

Our partner, KDPO co-ordinates a thriving network of 15 village disability groups across Makunei County, each with about 20 members. This year we completed a project funded by the Scott Bader Commonwealth that enabled three of these groups to start goat-keeping enterprises alongside rainwater harvesting systems (highlighted on page 13).

The project had a life-changing impact for 300 people in 60 families affected by disability. These disadvantaged households are already benefitting from growing goat herds, and milk for home consumption and income. Beyond the practical benefits, the project has boosted confidence and promoted inclusion, showing that people with disabilities can lead productive, independent lives. Peninah said *'I never had goats before, now we're expecting milk soon, one of the goats is already pregnant!'*



Peninah with her children, goats and rainwater system.

In Uganda, further helping the Katungulu community to regain hope and resilience following years of lockdowns, lost opportunities and anxiety, we assisted almost 400 single parent families to form peer-support groups, improve their self-reliance and meet their basic needs.

This included enabling 257 families to join co-operative maize-growing groups. One sub-group is led by an inspirational man called Wilberforce. His group is ambitious and inclusive, always looking for new members. Wilberforce says *'Thank you on behalf of the whole group for the support provided in growing maize, including land rent, seeds and fertiliser. We're aiming to gather 30 sacks from our two small plots at our next harvest. We have also started a savings and loans initiative group. We're growing together!'*



Maize harvest in progress.

With our support, a further group of 72 single-parent families develop an extensive coffee-growing nursery under the leadership of experienced farmer Nelson. The group meets regularly at their nursery to learn and support each other. Nelson is an inspirational trainer and encourages the members that with good husbandry, appropriate pest control and intercropping they can reach up to 20kgs of coffee cherries per bush and return significant profits on their enterprise.

32 single mothers were supported to establish a vegetable growing group. The idea for the group came from two enterprising women in Katungulu who told us of their daily struggle to overcome poverty and the need for young mothers in the community to build their resilience and confidence.

Our support enabled the group to buy seeds and hire two large plots of land on which they grow aubergines, cabbages and nakati (local greens) which are popular in local markets. The group meets weekly to weed and cultivate their plots, chat and encourage each other. Their goal is to improve their families' nutrition and meet their basic needs, including paying school fees for their children. Group member Susan told us *'The seeds and land have made us very happy. Life is now changing!'*



The vegetable growing group weed their plot.

Also in Katungulu, 25 single parents had five days' comprehensive training in making fireless cooking baskets which work like slow cookers without smoke (crucial in small homes with limited ventilation), save on fuel and are much safer than open cooking pots. This is a new but growing technology as the parents train others to produce and market more baskets to raise an income. Advantage Africa's Director Andrew Betts, who visited the group in April 2025, reported that the food produced in the baskets is *'Absolutely delicious. It just melts in the mouth!'*



Nursery for coffee seedlings in Katungulu.



Fireless cooking baskets in use.

A further 30 single mothers were trained by skilled local artisans in weaving attractive shopping bags. The baskets are strong, hard-wearing and colourful and sell for about 5,000 – 15,000 Ugandan Shillings (£1-£3), depending on size.



Making baskets together.

Finding a market is proving to be the group's biggest challenge but, with our support, members have been exhibiting at agricultural shows and searching for reliable outlets. The industrious women enjoy the activity because they '*can do it in the evening after farming*' and have plans to diversify into sitting mats which are always in high demand.

Finally, 30 more single parent families were trained to produce and market high quality mosquito repellent candles and liquid soap. This newly-formed group of parents is supportive and enthusiastic and they find much enjoyment in learning and working together.

Building Partners' Resilience, Capacity and Sustainability

Programme support and monitoring visits to Kenya were conducted by Rob Aley (Kenya Programme Manager) in November 2024 and March 2025. Andrew Betts also undertook a visit to Kenya and Uganda in March.

Four KDPO staff members participated in advanced wheelchair assembly and fitting training delivered by Motivation. In addition, Agnes Musembi (KDPO Coordinator) was supported to receive a new and improved prosthetic leg. Rodah Tembo and Sheila Adoyo (MWDG Coordinators) received support to address personal welfare challenges.



KDPO technician Mike (right) in wheelchair training.

Advantage Africa enabled significant repairs to be completed at the Rescue Team Centre in Kalulini, Kenya, and the group was further strengthened through the provision of a new motorbike and laptop.

Advantage Africa continued to support SNUPA in ensuring their office was open and welcoming to all for advice about albinism and counselling and resources as needed. We also ensured that SPAU and SNUPA could maintain and service their vehicles, keeping them safe in their extensive journeys to support communities across Uganda.

With our support, SNUPA continued to provide mentorship and training for the Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism (EFPA) in the Bugisu sub-region of eastern Uganda, enabling them to reach more people with life-saving services than before.

During his trip to East Africa this year, Director Andrew Betts visited the majority of our projects in Uganda, travelling with SPAU and SNUPA across the breadth of the country. He provided our partners with monitoring and evaluation support as well as training in financial management and reporting. The SNUPA team commented '*It's been a truly rewarding time with Andrew as we monitored various projects supported by Advantage Africa. His presence and invaluable support to the SNUPA team have made a significant impact. We deeply appreciate you, Andrew.*' In turn Andrew was encouraged and inspired by our committed partners '*who consistently go the extra mile to help people in desperate, sometimes overwhelming, need.*'



Rescue Team for HIV and AIDS with Advantage Africa's Kenya Programme Manager Rob Aley.

Changing Attitudes, Policies and Practices

Throughout the year, Advantage Africa and partners brought the experience of practical projects to bear in advocating for change to the *'attitudes, policies and practices that keep the most vulnerable women, men and children in East Africa in poverty'*. This included highlighting the needs and aspirations of vulnerable groups as well as specific advocacy projects.

Most significant of these were our two research projects examining the education of children and young people with autism and dyslexia which concluded this year. Our research report *'An Investigation of the Educational Experiences of Children with Autism in Kenya'* was published and the recommendations presented at a multi-stakeholder meeting in Nairobi attended by education leaders, special needs educationalists, and representatives from academia and NGOs. The meeting also prominently featured the perspectives of young people with autism and their parents. The findings reveal major gaps in autism awareness and support in Kenya, with stigma, delayed diagnosis, financial barriers, and limited professional guidance contributing to poor access to education and care. In schools, inadequate teacher training and resources result in poor learning outcomes, with 67% of parents rating their autistic child's education as poor or very poor.

Similarly, our dyslexia research report, *An Investigation into the Awareness and Understanding of Dyslexia Amongst Teachers and Teacher Trainers in Kenya*, was finalised and presented at a large stakeholder meeting in November 2024. The findings confirmed that dyslexia is severely overlooked in Kenya; with an estimated prevalence of 7–10%, this means over a million children are misunderstood, punished and failed by the education system, leading to low self-esteem and disengagement from learning. This reinforces our commitment to develop large-scale, targeted interventions.

KDPO and Rescue Team further strengthened their advocacy and influence with the Makueni County Government, as well as through national disability and HIV/health networks and partnerships.



Participants at the Autism Research Dissemination.

A major achievement during the year was the formal adoption of the Makueni County Persons with Disabilities Policy, which was approved by the County Assembly on 23 May 2025. This milestone was achieved with significant contribution and leadership from Agnes Musembi, Coordinator of KDPO, who played a central role in the policy development and advocacy process.

Several large-scale advocacy and campaigning events were co-organised by our partners, attracting strong public participation and reaching many more people through television, radio, and social media. These included a women's football tournament to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, which raised awareness on gender-based violence and women's rights.

World AIDS Day celebrations, held in Wote on 1 December, saw Rescue Team mobilise a group of trained motorbike taxi riders alongside a drama group that performed skits addressing gender-based violence and HIV awareness. The event also provided HIV testing and counselling services to community members.

KDPO and the Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG) also helped organise and actively participated in International Day of Persons with



Marching on International Albinism Awareness Day to highlight the human rights of people with albinism.

Disabilities celebrations on 3rd December. These events featured powerful speeches on improving disability data collection, access to assistive devices, empowering young people with disabilities, and promoting social and economic inclusion.

The United Nations' focus for this year's International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) on June 13th 2025 was *'Demanding our rights: Protect our skin, preserve our lives.'* Advantage Africa supported two influential IAAD events in Uganda to raise awareness and promote national action around this vital theme.

In the Bugisu area of far south-eastern Uganda, EFPA held their region's first ever campaign and march. Advantage Africa provided protective clothing for the participants including 400 wide brimmed hats and 400 long-sleeved shirts.

We similarly supported SNUPA to host a rally in Jinja attended by hundreds of people with albinism, their families and other advocates. We provided 130 skin checks, 50 cryotherapy treatments and 250 children and adults with sun protection for the event, which was well-attended by government representatives.

Creating a more Resilient and Sustainable Organisation

The continued challenging environment for small charities again made progress against this objective difficult. However, we successfully raised over £195k of unrestricted funding (54% of total income) and continued our cost-effective outsourced financial management. Our partnerships with Beyond Suncare, Ultrasun UK, Sabrefish and Lancaster University contributed towards the charity's resilience and sustainability. Together with the hard work of our three UK staff and our committed and generous supporters, we once again increased income, impact and reach on the previous year.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the achievements described in this report possible including many individual and organisational supporters, who helped us achieve our goal of *'Better lives for the most vulnerable people in East Africa'*.



Rescue Team UN World AIDS Day, including our motorbike taxi rider advocates against gender-based violence.



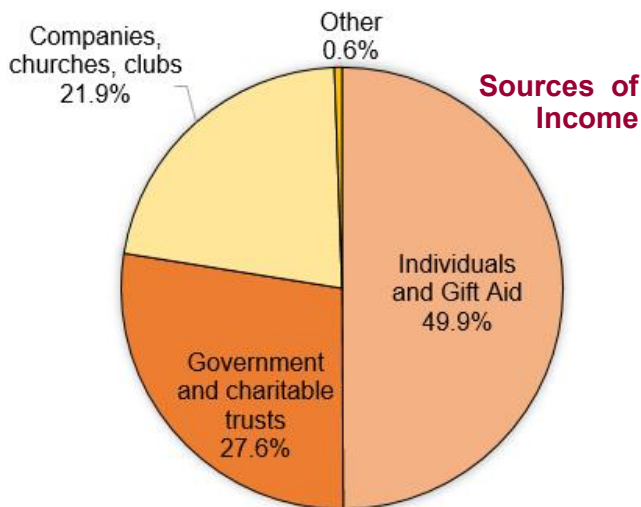
Agnes (KDPO Coordinator) with young man with learning disabilities who has recently started goat rearing.

Financial Review

Income

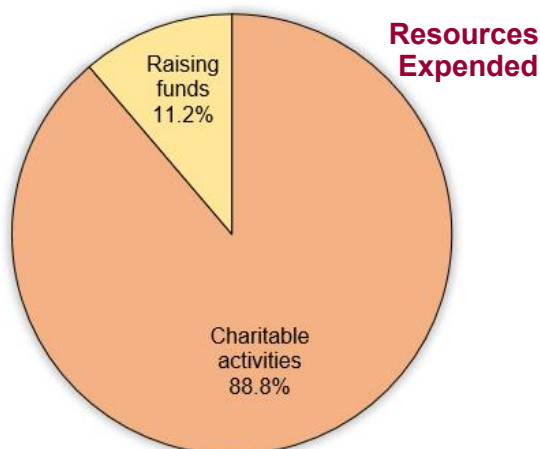
Income in 2024/25 was £359k (£341k in 2023/24). Donations from individuals increased to £179k (£143k in 2023/24) and from companies and churches to £79k (£39k in 2023/24). These increases were offset by a fall in grant income from £159k in 2023/24 to £99k.

We are most grateful to everyone who supported us in the year, including 129 individuals who donated monthly (138 in 2023/24). We also extend our thanks to the following organisations who donated £5k and above: Educational Opportunity Foundation, The Reed Foundation, Let Yourself Trust, Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, Sabrefish and Ultrasun UK.



Expenditure

Expenditure in 2024/25 was £388k (£346k in 2023/24) resulting in a net movement of £28k. Expenditure on charitable activities increased by 13% from £305k in 2023/24 to £344k this year. Reflecting our increased income, fundraising expenditure at £44k, was £2k (5%) more than last year.



Reserves remained within our policy throughout the year, which closed with unrestricted reserves at £82k and restricted £9k (£61k and £58k in 2023/24).

Reserves Policy

In order to meet commitments to partners in Africa, the Trustee-Directors aim to maintain a level of reserves that will protect the charity against any dramatic fall in unrestricted income or unexpected rise in expenditure. As such, our policy is for Advantage Africa's reserves to be maintained at between three to six months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure with provision for projected partner costs. Free reserves of £82k were within this range (estimated at £50k - £100k) and therefore compliant with the policy at the year end.

Risk Management

The Trustee-Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating in Africa with few employees is exposed. Monthly Financial Reports and Risk Registers are used to monitor these.

Internal Controls

Advantage Africa's documented systems of internal financial controls protect against errors or loss. The controls include the delegation of financial authority amongst the staff and Trustee-Directors.

Trustee-Directors' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustee-Directors to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and income and expenditure by:

1. Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
2. Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Stating whether the applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operating.

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustee-Directors on 25th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Mandy Smith, Chair

Charity number 1092719

Company number 04388034

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Advantage Africa

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2025 which are set out on pages 23 to 32.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Chartered Institute of Certified Accountants.

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 that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Michael Webb FCCA
Haines Watts Swindon Limited
Swindon
SN1 3DU

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024/25 £	Total Funds 2023/24 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	193,108	164,358	357,466	340,676
Trading activities	3	199	-	199	304
Investments	4	1,802	-	1,802	563
Total Income		195,110	164,358	359,468	341,543
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	43,560	-	43,560	41,588
Charitable activities	6	124,031	220,049	344,080	304,572
Total Expenditure		167,591	220,049	387,640	346,160
Net income / expenditure		27,519	(55,691)	(28,172)	(4,617)
Transfers between funds		(6,691)	6,691	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		20,828	(49,000)	(28,172)	(4,617)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		61,401	58,338	119,738	124,355
Fund Balances at 31 July 2025		82,229	9,338	91,567	119,738

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 July 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31st July 2025 £	31st July 2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	8	336	-	336	486
Total		336	-	336	486
Current Assets					
Stocks	9	-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	4,397	475	4,872	25,002
Cash at bank and in hand	11	83,150	8,863	92,013	118,901
Total		87,547	9,338	96,885	143,903
Current Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	5,654	-	5,654	24,651
Net current assets		81,893	9,338	91,231	119,252
Net Assets		82,229	9,338	91,567	119,738
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted funds: general funds	13	82,229	-	82,229	61,401
Restricted funds	13	-	9,338	9,338	58,338
Total funds		82,229	9,338	91,567	119,738

For the year ended 31 July 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of Trustee-Directors:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- The Trustee-Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustee-Directors on 25th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Mandy Smith, Chair

Charity number 1092719 Company Number 04388034

The notes on pages 25-32 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities). The 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), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) 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 charity's ability 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 bearing in mind political and economic factors contributing to uncertainty for small charities that may affect our operations, funding and suppliers. In particular the Trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. They have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and when reviewing the charity's financial situation in February 2026 regarded it as reasonably strong. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The following accounting policies were applied in dealing with material items:-

a) Donated and Grant Income

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income from donations includes recoverable Gift Aid which 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. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (as estimated and agreed with the donor).

b) Stocks

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Other Income

Investment income represents income generated by bank interest. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out some of its activities, 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. Income from charitable activities represents income received from consultancy which was undertaken in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred in the strategic management of the charity. Support costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity have been allocated on the basis of the percentage of staff time spent on fundraising, general community development, advocacy and campaigning and Trustee-Directors' activities.

e) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee-Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

f) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets acquired for use by the company are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated useful life unless they cost less than £500 when they are written off on purchase. The depreciation period for equipment and IT is four years.

g) Pension Costs

The company offers an auto-enrolled defined contribution scheme for employees..

h) Taxation

The company as a registered charity is not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax because its income falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

i) Cash Flow Statement

The company has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year, in line with the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP.

2. Income from Donations and Grants

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Individuals and associated Gift Aid	165,516	13,929	179,445	122,365	20,781	143,146
Government donors and charitable trusts	9,224	90,029	99,253	9,034	149,617	158,651
Companies, churches, clubs and schools	18,368	60,400	78,768	13,879	25,000	38,879
Total	193,108	164,358	357,466	145,278	195,398	340,676

3. Income from Trading Activities

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Sales of crafts and donated goods etc	137	-	137	56	-	56
Other, including raffles and admission fees	62	-	62	248	-	248
Total	199	-	199	304	-	304

4. Investment Income

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Interest	1,802	-	1,802	563	-	563
Total	1,802	-	1,802	563	-	563

The increased investment income this year was due to an improved interest rate and ability to make transfers gained from transferring our deposits to a different bank.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Events	2,594	-	2,594	3	-	3
Appeals & newsletters	262	-	262	-	-	-
Staff costs	32,546	-	32,546	35,440	-	35,440
Other direct costs	4,266	-	4,266	2,793	-	2,793
Support costs	3,892	-	3,892	3,352	-	3,352
Total	43,560	-	43,560	41,588	-	41,588

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS						
Community development in Africa						
Staff costs	61,405	14,113	75,518	64,822	5,104	69,926
Other direct costs	3,875	4,693	8,568	3,168	4,311	7,479
Grants payable*	39,246	201,243	240,489	32,708	174,896	207,604
Support costs	7,947	-	7,947	7,970	-	7,970
Total	112,473	220,049	332,522	108,668	184,311	292,979
Governance costs						
Staff costs	4,170	-	4,170	3,651	-	3,651
Accounts and examination	1,764	-	1,764	1,500	-	1,500
Other direct costs	91	-	91	23	-	23
Support costs	34	-	34	-	-	-
Total	6,059	-	6,059	5,174	-	5,174
Advocacy/campaigns/development education						
Staff costs	4,476	-	4,476	5,469	-	5,469
Other direct costs	414	-	414	414	-	414
Support costs	609	-	609	536	-	536
Total	5,499	-	5,499	6,419	-	6,419
Total Charitable Activities	124,031	220,049	344,080	120,261	184,311	304,572

Staff costs include the cost of the outsourced finance function and other staff related costs.

*Grants are given towards partner organisations once their work has been identified as falling within the objects and activities of Advantage Africa, and when a partnership has been built between Advantage Africa and both the partner and the beneficiary community through visits and detailed project planning. The aims and activities of the project are then defined in a formal agreement which is written, approved and signed by the partner organisation's committee and Advantage Africa's Trustee-Directors and which forms the basis for monitoring. A breakdown of grants payable is shown overleaf.

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS PAYABLE	2024/25			2023/24		
	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £
Kenya						
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation	22,571	4,817	27,388	16,089	4,368	20,457
Kenya Institute for Special Education and Partner Schools	18,477	-	18,477	8,412	-	8,412
Mitaboni Special Education Project	7	2,583	2,590	5	2,484	2,489
Thinu Special Education Project	1,061	2,457	3,518	154	2,193	2,347
Rescue Team for HIV & Aids	26,066	5,396	31,462	14,023	5,281	19,304
Autism Society / Dyslexia Organisation (Disability Research)	3,028	-	3,028	6,846	-	6,846
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	7,898	3,544	11,442	14,102	2,899	17,001
Subtotal	79,108	18,797	97,905	59,631	17,225	76,856
Uganda						
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	63,804	7,110	70,914	54,698	6,752	61,450
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	58,236	13,434	71,670	56,570	12,728	69,298
Subtotal	122,040	20,544	142,584	111,268	19,480	130,748
Total	201,148	39,341	240,489	170,899	36,705	207,604

7. Staff and Trustee-Directors

Remuneration paid to key management personnel was £49k (2024: £47k). No remuneration or travel and expenses were paid to Trustees or any person connected to them in either period apart from Alice Gathoni who was paid £200 for autism research work (£400 in 2023/24) following an appropriate selection process and due diligence by the Trustee-Directors with recourse to Charity Commission guidelines held in the previous year.

A total of £12,730 (£26,261 in 2023/24) was donated without conditions by Trustees-Directors, key management personnel and their close families.

We are grateful for the assistance of approximately 5 volunteers (2024:10) who contributed their time freely towards our work.

No fees (2023/24: Nil) were payable to Haines Watts, other than for the Independent Examination.

Staff costs (excluding outsourced Finance Manager) were as follows:

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Gross Salaries	94,717	92,137
Employer's National Insurance	4,187	3,766
Pension	4,724	4,607
Recruitment costs	-	-
Total	103,628	100,510
No. of staff	3	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60k or more in either period.

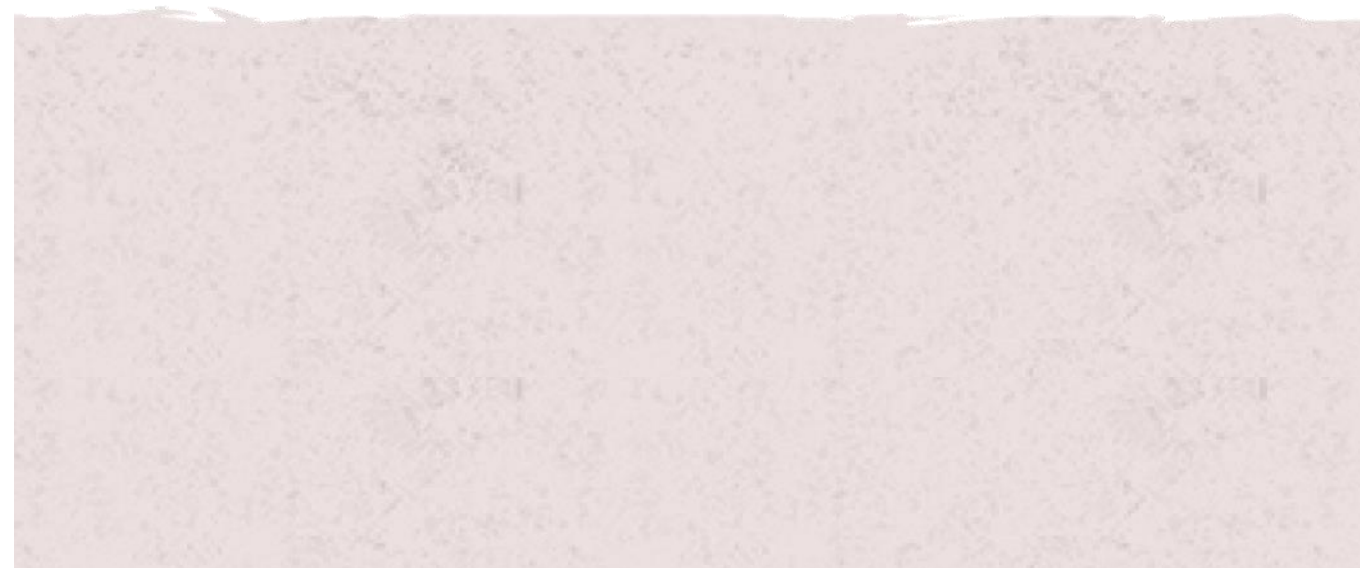
8. Tangible Assets

	Equipment and IT Total £
Cost	
At 1st August 2024	6,213
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 31st July 2025	<u>6,213</u>
Accumulated Depreciation	
At 1st August 2024	5,727
Depreciation in year	150
Less: Depreciation on disposals	-
At 31st July 2025	<u>5,877</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31st July 2025	<u>336</u>
At 31st July 2024	<u>486</u>

9. Stock

Sunscreen was donated by Ultrasun UK for SNUPA to distribute to people with albinism to prevent skin cancer. We have estimated the nominal unit value at £0.10 in line with export values.

		Opening Stock 1st August 2024	Received during the year	Distributed during the year	Closing Stock 31st July 2025
Sunscreen	Value (£)	-	548	(548)	-
	Units (150ml)	-	5,482	(5,482)	-



10. Debtors and Prepayments

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Trade Debtors	752	10,448
Prepayments	1,080	1,114
Other debtors	192	18
Deposit	500	500
Concessionary loans	410	302
Tax receivable	1,938	12,620
Total	4,872	25,002

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Bank operating accounts - UK	11,742	29,477
Bank operating accounts - Africa	4,512	4,023
Bank deposits	75,433	85,059
Petty cash	326	342
Total	92,013	118,901

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Trade Creditors	1,834	22,138
Taxation & Social Security	-	-
Accruals	3,820	2,513
Total	5,654	24,651

Advantage Africa's five-year lease of its UK office premises with rent payable of £500 per month began on 18th June 2023 and concludes in June 2026.

13. Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening balance 1 Aug 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2025 £
Disability Transition Project, Kenya <i>Teacher training and enabling young people to begin their adult lives</i>	5,680	24,932	(20,653)	-	9,959
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation, Kenya <i>Safe water, income generation, wheelchairs and other appliances</i>	18,602	-	(18,131)	1	472
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya <i>Promoting behaviour change in men to reduce gender-based violence</i>	5,874	33,000	(34,649)	-	4,225
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya <i>Income generation and disaster recovery for women with disabilities</i>	935	3,000	(3,310)	127	752
Disability Research, Kenya <i>Investigations into education for children with autism and dyslexia</i>	4,812	-	(6,171)	-	(1,359)
Single Parents' Association, Uganda <i>Community development and epilepsy in Nsonga, Katulngulu and Kisojo</i>	11,444	36,592	(66,628)	1,247	(17,345)
Source of Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda <i>Skin cancer prevention, eye care and education for people with albinism</i>	7,382	63,464	(62,655)	4,365	12,556
Disabled children's education <i>Special units in Mitaboni and Thinu schools</i>	3,609	1,870	(6,351)	950	78
Other restricted purposes <i>Enterprise in Residence at Lancaster University</i>	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	58,338	164,358	(220,049)	6,691	9,338
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	61,401	195,110	(167,591)	(6,691)	82,229
Total Unrestricted Funds	61,401	195,110	(167,591)	(6,691)	82,229
Total Funds	119,738	359,468	(387,640)	-	91,567
<i>The equivalent figures for 2023/24 were as follows:</i>					
	Opening balance 1 Aug 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2024 £
Disability Transition Project, Kenya <i>Teacher training and enabling young people to begin their adult lives</i>	10,389	9,911	(14,621)	-	5,680
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation, Kenya <i>Safe water, income generation, wheelchairs and other appliances</i>	-	30,000	(11,398)	-	18,602
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya <i>Promoting behaviour change in men to reduce gender-based violence</i>	7	21,760	(15,893)	-	5,874
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya <i>Income generation and disaster recovery for women with disabilities</i>	4,183	8,190	(11,438)	-	935
Disability Research, Kenya <i>Investigations into education for children with autism and dyslexia</i>	5,000	8,023	(8,211)	-	4,812
Single Parents' Association, Uganda <i>Community development and epilepsy in Nsonga, Katulngulu and Kisojo</i>	12,864	54,329	(56,963)	1,214	11,444
Source of Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda <i>Skin cancer prevention, eye care and education for people with albinism</i>	9,339	58,994	(60,951)	-	7,382
Disabled children's education <i>Special units in Mitaboni and Thinu schools</i>	4,306	4,191	(4,836)	(52)	3,609
Total Restricted Funds	46,089	195,398	(184,311)	1,162	58,338
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	78,266	146,145	(161,849)	(1,162)	61,401
Total Unrestricted Funds	78,266	146,145	(161,849)	(1,162)	61,401
Total Funds	124,355	341,543	(346,160)	-	119,738

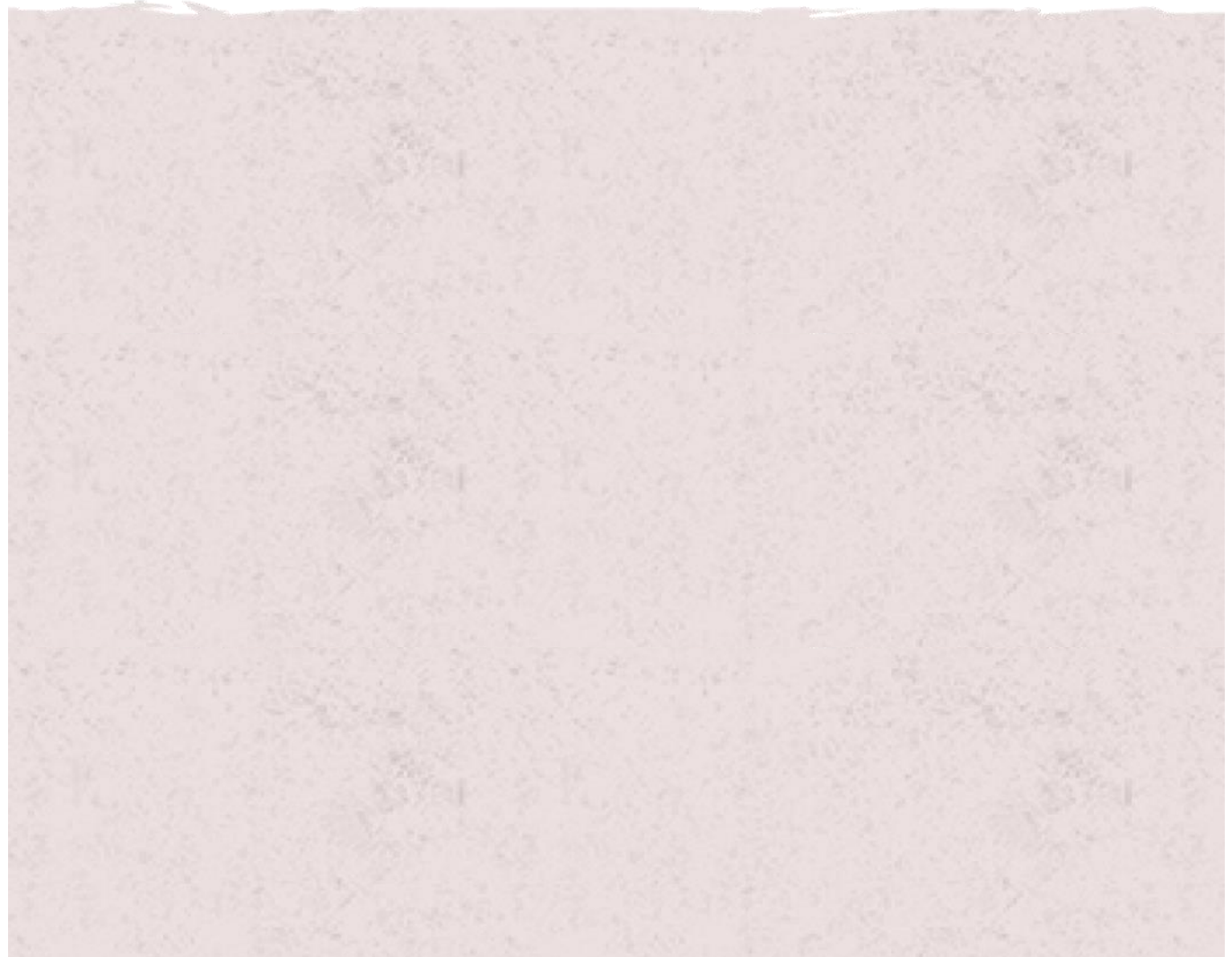
14. Net Analysis of Assets

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

	2024/25				2023/24			
	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	8,863	475	9,338	-	68,044	(9,707)	58,338
Unrestricted funds	336	83,150	(1,257)	82,229	486	50,857	10,057	61,400
Total	336	92,013	(782)	91,567	486	118,901	351	119,738

15. Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute an amount of £10 if the charity is wound up.





Making sturdy shopping baskets in Katulgulu, Uganda.



Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty

www.advantageafrica.org

ADVANTAGE AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1092719

Accounts

Advantage Africa

pathways out of poverty



Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2024



Motorbike taxi riders (boda bodas) in Kenya take part in training to prevent gender-based violence.

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Acronyms used

ACA	Associated Chartered Accountant
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
EFPA	Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism
GBV	Gender-based violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMRC	His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAAD	International Albinism Awareness Day
ICAEW	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
KDPO	Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation
KISE	Kenya Institute of Special Education
MWDG	Migori Women with Disabilities Group
SNUPA	Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
SPAU	Single Parents' Association of Uganda
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Front cover: Small livestock rearer Rose with grand-daughter Katie.

Rear cover: The Muthani family celebrate the completion of their new house.

Trustee-Directors' Report

for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Charity and Company Information

Trustee-Directors:	Christopher Chapman (joined September 2024) Pratima Dattani Mandy Smith Carole Holloway Alice Gathoni
Patrons:	Martyn Joseph Jon Snow
Company Secretary:	Andrew Betts - Executive Director
Governing Document:	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 2002
Company Registration Number:	04388034
Charity Registration Number:	1092719
Registered Office:	9 High Street Olney Buckinghamshire MK46 4EB
Telephone:	01234 711005
Email:	information@advantageafrica.org
Website:	www.advantageafrica.org
Independent Examiner:	Susan Plumb ACA Haines Watts Old Station House Newport Street Swindon Wilts SN1 3DU
Bankers:	HSBC plc 19 Midsummer Place Milton Keynes MK9 3GB

Introduction

This Report and Accounts outlines how Advantage Africa helped improve the lives of several thousand vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda and used our resources to fulfil that purpose.

We're most grateful to our inspirational partner organisations and our generous and committed supporters who made the achievements in this Report possible and brought joy and hope into poor communities across East Africa. Thank you for making a difference.

Governance

Advantage Africa's governance is described in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustee-Directors and the current Board is shown on page two. New candidates are considered by the existing Trustee-Directors according to the match of their skills and experience to our identified needs and are given an induction during their first few meetings.

Advantage Africa's organisational policies cover all aspects of its operation including finance, employment, safeguarding and professional practice and we have a schedule for their periodic review e.g. our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually.

The Trustee-Directors delegate day-to-day management of the charity to its Director Andrew Betts. They appoint staff and set appropriate salaries against a set of principles including objectivity and affordability. Reference is also made to the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales which are commonly used in the voluntary sector. The Board meets three times a year to oversee Advantage Africa's activities and monitor progress against the objectives of our Strategic Plan. At each meeting the Trustee-Directors reviewed our impact in Kenya and Uganda, financial performance, fundraising, risk and organisational policies.

Objects of the Charity

Advantage Africa's objects, as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6th March 2002 and amended by special resolution 31st May 2002, are *'The relief of need, poverty, hardship and distress and the advancement of education amongst people in Africa, in particular by supporting and working with local people to develop sustainable initiatives within their own region'*.

In practice, Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability, albinism and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our partnerships with local organisations in Kenya and Uganda help vulnerable people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities. Advantage Africa provides its partners with resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.

Review of Activities

Oversight

The Trustee-Directors have planned and overseen the activities of the charity with regard to the Charity Commission's Good Governance Code, their guidance on 'Public Benefit', and 'Working Internationally' as well as HMRC's recommendations on 'Payments to Overseas Bodies'. Advantage Africa is also a member of the Fundraising Regulator.

Vision and Strategy

Many millions of people in East Africa continue to live in relentless poverty, excluded from the benefits of economic growth. They have been disproportionately affected by global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Among the most vulnerable people of all are those affected by disability and HIV, often stigmatised and denied their basic human rights, causing them to lack self-worth, opportunity and hope.

Advantage Africa's vision is for such vulnerable children, women and men to be respected as equals, free from poverty, discrimination and fear, and to have appropriate education, good health and sustainable livelihoods. To this end, our current strategic goal is *'better lives for the most vulnerable children and adults in East Africa'* and our objectives, around which our future plans are also based, are to:

- (1) Support the most vulnerable and excluded children, women and men to overcome poverty and meet their needs in a sustainable way.
- (2) Contribute to changing the conditions, attitudes, policies and practices that keep them in poverty.
- (3) Create a more resilient and sustainable charity.

Advantage Africa's team of three staff in the UK comprises Director Andrew Betts and Programme Managers Rob Aley (Kenya) and Jane Betts (Uganda) who all worked to fulfil these objectives.

This Review outlines some of the activities carried out and impact achieved in 2023/24. Names of some beneficiaries have been changed to protect privacy.

Towards our first objective, supporting the most vulnerable people to overcome poverty, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan aims for us to *support at least eight partner organisations to provide essential services to improve the education, health and incomes of vulnerable people.*

We achieved this aim in another successful year, actually supporting ten partners to work across these themes, namely Thinu and Mitaboni Primary Schools; Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE); Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG); Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO); Dyslexia Organisation Kenya (DOK); Autism Society of Kenya (ASK); Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS; Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU) and Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA).



Special education teachers at KISE show their certificates after completing their training in school-leaver transitions.

Summary

Highlights of Advantage Africa's 2023/24 included:

- 192 children and youths in education or training.
- 40 special needs teachers trained.
- 17 youths with disabilities assisted to successfully transition from school to home and community.
- 710 people had HIV testing and counselling.
- 1,000+ people with albinism protected from skin cancer and 17 received life-saving surgery.
- 94 people received wheelchairs or appliances.
- 64 families affected by epilepsy supported.
- 14 women helped to recover from violence.
- 165 vulnerable families started enterprises.
- 1,000 people protected from malaria.
- 1,600+ people accessed safe water and sanitation.
- 5,000+ reached at rallies on health and rights.

Education

Education for Children with Disabilities (Kenya)

In partnership with the Kenya Institute for Special Education (KISE) our efforts to improve life opportunities for school-leavers with disabilities gained significant momentum. We trained two groups of 20 special education teachers; one group completed their third and final training module, while the other enthusiastically began their training. Evaluation consistently highlighted the programme's success in equipping teachers with the skills and confidence to help young people make successful transitions from school to home and community.

The experienced group shared inspiring success stories of applying their new skills and integrating the transition programme into their schools with the new intake. Collectively, they successfully supported 17 students aged 19– 27 to transition from school and start productive, independent lives in their communities. With grants towards their enterprises, these school-leavers started livestock rearing, vegetable farming, carpentry, hairdressing and other initiatives to contribute to their families' income.

Florence Ombongi a vocational class teacher from Kaimusi Special School says; *'My eyes have been opened to the real-life opportunities for our school-leavers. I have to say that before this training we had very few ideas about how to graduate our students in a meaningful way, but now I'm confident. The knowledge is actually very empowering for me'.*



Teacher Florence applied her new knowledge to enable 24 year-old Oscar to make a successful transition from school and start cow rearing with his family at home.

Most children with disabilities in East Africa remain excluded from education. As part of our commitment to change this situation we supported the special education units (that we helped establish) at Mitaboni and Thinu as well as the nursery school for orphaned or otherwise vulnerable children in Kalulini, Kenya.

Our assistance included monthly allowances for teachers, house mothers, groundskeepers, and cooks, teaching and play resources to enhance learning as well as grants to help older students graduate and begin income-generating activities. We also supported teachers and staff from both units to visit Nile Special School in Nairobi, one of Kenya's leading special schools. They observed innovative methods for supporting students with learning disabilities and gained valuable insights from its vocational training.

Ben, a teacher from Mitaboni, said, *'The tour was incredibly informative. I'm excited to bring fresh ideas to our vocational training.'*

We were encouraged by the growing interest in the special units which brought in funding from the local MPs' Community Development Funds towards refurbishing buildings and installing a water supply.

In Uganda, our education work focused on a new initiative funded by the Educational Opportunity Foundation in Nakivale Refugee Settlement to improve the education of children with albinism excluded from school because of poverty and stigma. We produced a manual and held training for 25 teachers in the settlement to address myths and misunderstanding about albinism and equip pupils to reach their potential. The SNUPA team reported: *'The training was a complete revelation for the teachers. Many had never known any information about albinism or how to support students.'*



Teacher training in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

The training was complemented by skin and eye clinics and provision of school fees to further increase educational access. The SNUPA team reported that that *'25 refugee children with albinism are now regularly attending school, allowed to wear long-sleeved uniforms and wide-brimmed hats and using their spectacles to study'*. Their morale, confidence and prospects have been transformed.

Vocational Training for Young People (Uganda)

With support from the Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, 79 young people in Nsonga, mostly in their mid to late teens, started a one year's vocational training in a skill of their choice towards a Government certificate. All had faced enormous challenges in their young lives and dropped out of education permanently following Uganda's two-year COVID-19 lockdowns.

12 opted to learn welding, 12 tailoring, 15 hairdressing, 20 motorcycle mechanics and 20 brickmaking. Learning together under the patient guidance of their trainers, the young people soon grew in confidence and formed strong friendships.

The trainees received their own tools, including sewing machines, safety equipment and practice materials. Their growing skills will equip them to earn a reliable income. For example, Sarah, Project Manager of SPAU reported *'The welding trainees have progressed in making doors, stoves and windows and paint finished products professionally.'*



Beatrice (left) with Sarah of SPAU, checking the register of tailoring trainees' attendance.

Tony has a congenital impairment which means he has no left hand or forearm. He is transforming attitudes to disability in Nsonga through his hard work and determination to learn motorcycle mechanics. He and his fellow trainees are finding new purpose and hope as they work towards the Government's Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) certification and they've all been trained in business management and record-keeping by local entrepreneurs.



Tony, motorcycle mechanic trainee.

Rehabilitation, Health and Welfare

Emergency and Welfare Support (Kenya and Uganda)

Severe flooding in the Lake Victoria basin was among the extreme weather experienced in the region this year. We enabled Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG) to support their members with disabilities made homeless overnight as flood water engulfed and destroyed their homes. Sheila Adoyo and Rodah Tembo of MWDG undertook a precarious journey to visit the displaced families and found them desperate, without food, shelter or any external assistance.

Sheila Adoyo Coordinator of MWDG said *'These vulnerable people are stranded without food or shelter. They are frustrated and discriminated against because of their disabilities, no one wants to accommodate them, it's so painful. They are in a terrible condition. They need urgent support.'*

Thanks to a much appreciated grant from The Souter Charitable Trust, we acted swiftly to provide emergency support to 150 people in 30 families. This included food, sanitary pads, bedding, cooking equipment, and temporary accommodation, alongside psychological and spiritual support to help them rebuild their lives.



Rodah (left) and Sheila prepare to deliver to families displaced by the floods in western Kenya.

Our other individually targeted support for the most vulnerable families in Kenya included 20 food parcels, hygiene kits, medical treatment, allowances for domestic caregivers, house repairs and the completion of a new home for a family in desperate circumstances in eastern Kenya (see back cover).

Through our 'Severe Hardship Funds' we provided swift, targeted support to people in urgent need. In Uganda this included health and nutritional support for housebound people with disabilities living in chronic poverty, palliative care for people with inoperable skin cancer, and facilitating surgery for three young people with extensive burns and scarring sustained in accidents during epileptic seizures.

Across both countries, our welfare support reached more than 500 people in nearly 100 families.

Reducing the Spread and Impact of HIV (Kenya)

Rescue Team's trusted HIV testing, counselling and treatment referral programme saw another year of significant impact, with 710 people tested, 73% of whom were female. Testing took place at Rescue Team's walk-in facility and at outreach events, including UN World AIDS Day in December. 14 women and 5 men (2.6%) tested positive. Sadly, two were severely sick and died, but the other 17 were referred and are now on ARV therapy.

Violence against Women and Girls (Kenya)

Advantage Africa and Rescue Team's ambition to engage men in preventing violence against women and HIV became reality in January 2024 with generous support from The Mercury Phoenix Trust. The project in eastern Kenya targeted motorbike taxi riders (boda bodas) because of the industry's notorious reputation with regard to sexual violence.

We trained 60 men on gender equality and the consequences and prevention of gender-based violence and HIV. Early project monitoring indicates a significant positive impact within a short timeframe. Men who attended the training (see picture on inside front cover) not only increased their knowledge and understanding but also reassessed their own attitudes and behaviours. They demonstrated an unexpectedly high level of interest, engagement, and commitment to tackling gender-based violence and were keen to become community champions. This entailed pledging to initiate change within their families, workplaces, and communities. They showed their commitment by helping to secure the convictions of two male perpetrators in Kibwezi.



Motorbike taxi riders (boda bodas) in training to prevent gender-based violence.

Burgwin Muthoka, Coordinator of Rescue Team says *'I'm delighted with the enthusiasm and dedication of the men. I anticipated strong participation, but they have completely exceeded my expectations!'*

Advantage Africa and KDPO have been steadfastly pursuing justice for a young woman survivor of severe, debilitating violence inflicted by her husband. The two-year legal process was fraught with delays, but despite significant personal risk, the unwavering determination of our local partners in this work helped secure a conviction and prison sentence.

This case is just one of 14 harrowing instances of violence against women, many with disabilities, that our partners in Kibwezi and Migori have bravely tackled. In addition to providing survivors with comprehensive therapeutic and legal support, we have cultivated strong relationships with key local stakeholders, including hospitals, police and government officials. Many of these collaborators have been trained by our partners to enhance their responses to GBV. Among the initiatives this year was training organised by KDPO for 40 women with disabilities and local duty bearers on preventing and responding to violence.

Rehabilitation Services (Kenya)

Advantage Africa provided KDPO with essential materials for its established rehabilitation workshop and upgraded its tools and equipment. We also funded monthly allowances for technicians Nguli Mutisya and Mike Muthama. The team successfully designed, made and fitted over 40 disability appliances including standing frames, callipers, and supportive seating. Additionally, they supplied and fitted 14 durable wheelchairs, completing the final distribution of a consignment of 200 from our international partner Motivation. Beneficiaries were followed up in their homes to ensure the appliances were working for them and being effectively maintained.



Rehabilitation technician Nguli Mutisya at work in the KDPO workshop.

Through our growing partnership with MWDG and Nyabondo Rehabilitation Centre, we also assisted more people with disabilities to access assistive devices than ever before. 40 clients were assessed and fitted with appliances including 23 wheelchairs. These efforts have transformed the lives of vulnerable individuals who would otherwise have no access to such essential equipment, helping them gain improved mobility, confidence, social inclusion and independence. We're grateful to The Green Hall Foundation for their vital support for this work.

Epilepsy (Uganda)

Our support to people with epilepsy focused on three villages in Muwanga parish, Uganda where we provided 64 families affected with small enterprise training and loans to meet their basic needs. Many of these people affected by epilepsy had previously led isolated lives with little hope for change. The peer support they found by meeting others in similar circumstances through these savings and loans groups encouraged them enormously.

Living in isolated rural communities, the families had been barely subsisting by growing vegetables on small plots next to their homes. With their grants and new business skills, some bought seeds and fertilisers to increase their vegetable yields for sale in local markets. Others started shoe and clothing enterprises or chose to rear small livestock.

Sarah of SPAU reports that as well as having formed strong friendships and grown in confidence: *'They are now earning a steady income. For the first time in a long time they have been able to take their children to school. Those growing crops keep some for their own families' nutrition. They can pay for medication and look after their health better.'*

Safe Water (Kenya and Uganda)

We were grateful to Wilmslow Wells for Africa who awarded a grant towards a sustainable community water supply in Kalulini, rural eastern Kenya. The rainwater harvesting system, utilising school roofs and storage tanks made safe water accessible to the entire community via a water vending kiosk.

The project launch was celebrated by 300 community members and leaders, raising awareness about safe water, sanitation and hygiene. As well as improving health, the new water supply greatly reduces the time and effort women and children spend collecting water from distant sources, enabling them to focus on education and other productive activities.



Members of the local community come to fill jerry cans with clean water on the project launch day.

In the lakeside community of Nsonga, Uganda, we trained 52 people on preventing water-related diseases before rehabilitating existing public latrines. Paul, SPAU's Director said *'The situation of the old toilet was alarming! The latrines were blocked, full to overflowing and unusable.'* A community committee was formed to oversee the restored and disinfected toilets and collect fees from users to pay a local caretaker to maintain them who said *'We will make sure of proper use of the toilets and that people no longer throw bottles, pads and nappies into them!'*

With help from the community, we then constructed new community toilets, complete with a rainwater tank to provide water for handwashing. Villagers helped in the construction, unloaded materials and brought drinks to the engineers throughout.



The new accessible toilet block in Nsonga.

Following further training on water management, the first of two boreholes to provide safe water for the Nsonga community was dug. This borehole is now used by 100 families daily as well as 400 children and staff from the local primary school for drinking, washing and cooking. A water committee, elected during the training, oversees the borehole and users pay a small fee to cover maintenance.



Opening of the first Nsonga borehole.

Preventing Malaria (Uganda)

As rainy seasons become more unpredictable and intense in Uganda due to climate change, mosquitoes proliferate and treated nets are more crucial than ever to prevent life-threatening malaria.

In the communities of Kyabiiri and Nsonga we supported 1,000 children and adults in 200 of the most vulnerable households to receive comprehensive malaria prevention training and treated mosquito nets to keep them safe from this debilitating and destructive disease.



Families in Kyabiiri receive their mosquito nets.

Improving the Health of People with Albinism (Uganda)

In 2023/24, we supported our partner SNUPA to hold 45 skin clinics across Uganda's Busoga sub-region to protect children and adults with albinism from skin cancer. District clinics were held every four months for people with albinism to receive skin checks from our dermatologist Dr. Ngobi. Participants also received high sun protection factor sunscreen, lip protection and wide-brimmed hats and cryotherapy to remove pre-cancerous lesions as required. Most of our clinics were held in health centres and hospitals so that their medical staff could learn how to check the skin of people with albinism, spot pre-cancerous lesions and administer cryotherapy.



Dr Ngobi shows a medical officer in Iganga how to administer cryotherapy.



Siblings with sunscreen in Bugweri district.

Altogether Dr. Ngobi and his assistants provided 1,069 comprehensive skin checks and 571 cryotherapy treatments.

Thanks to regular attendance at skin clinics and daily use of hats and sunscreen, skin cancer among people with albinism is reducing. We were most grateful for a new consignment from Ultrasun UK of 2,126 units of sunscreen and 744 tubes of lip protection, which coincidentally reached the SNUPA team on World Cancer Day, 4th February 2024.

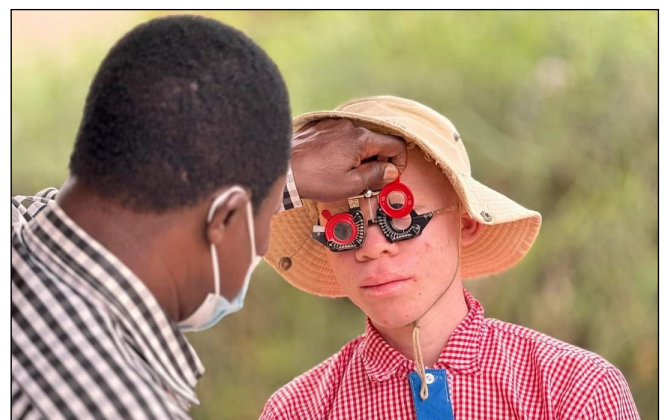
New people from across Uganda with extensive skin cancer frequently turn up at our clinics. The majority are young, with skin in desperate condition, suffering from poor mental health, and often out of school, because of the pain and appearance of their lesions. We enable them to have life-saving surgery whenever resources allow and this year we funded 17 such operations, four for children aged 11-16.

Ramsey is one young boy who received skin cancer surgery to save his life. His operation went well and he is now cancer-free and back in school. Advantage Africa has also provided him with photo-chromatic spectacles to assist in his studies and he is working hard towards his dream of becoming an engineer.



Ramsey with Peter in the SNUPA office.

Ramsey was one of 33 young people with albinism in the Busoga sub-region who received eye checks and photo-chromatic spectacles to improve their vision and ensure they could take part fully in school.



A boy with albinism receives an eye test.

Beyond the Busoga region, our support to refugees with albinism in the Nakivale and Rwamwanja Settlements included five skin clinics and much needed food supplies (maize and beans) and soap.

Improved Incomes

Sustainable Enterprises for Vulnerable Families (Kenya and Uganda)

Families with disabilities consistently ask Advantage Africa and our partner KDPO to help them to earn their own income and become economically self-reliant. To this end, and with the valued support of Scott Bader Commonwealth, we began a new project to provide training, livestock and equipment for 300 people in 60 families to start goat rearing and rainwater collection at their homes.



Duncan (left) is enjoying his new goat rearing enterprise under the guidance of his father.

Goat rearing provides families with improved nutrition and income from milk and meat while rainwater catchment ensures better health from safer, more abundant water supplies. The project will also empower women and children by reducing the burden of water collection, and foster a sense of togetherness and peer support which is especially valuable for families with disabilities who often face stigma and discrimination.



Emelda learning tailoring at the MWDG workshop.

Our tailoring enterprise for women with disabilities in Migori, western Kenya, made significant progress this year as on-the-job training continued.

We expanded the number and variety of machines available, enabling the women entrepreneurs to enhance their skills to a level where they can now produce and sell school and hotel uniforms in the local market. This initiative is not only providing a sustainable source of income for the six trainees, who previously lacked such opportunities, but as a collective enterprise, it also addresses the social isolation and rejection often experienced by women with disabilities in East Africa.

Alongside the educational support we provided to children with albinism in Refugee Settlements, 35 refugee families affected by albinism were assisted to start enterprises, including livestock rearing and market selling (sugar cane, silverfish and eggs). Fazira of SNUPA reported *'Some enterprises are faring better than others but all are doing their best. Families have been so happy to be able to buy their children books and pens together with some lunch items so they're not trying to learn on empty stomachs'*. SNUPA have advised the parents that their children can help with the enterprises—but not when they should be at school!

Also in Uganda, in the rural community of Kyabiiri, we supported 15 single parents to rear poultry to boost their families' nutrition and self-reliance. Three days' training covered poultry housing, feeding, disease prevention and production. Then each parent received 40 chicks, feeders, drinkers, feed and vaccinations. Florence (see inside back cover), single carer of six children, told us the training *'was well explained and not difficult'*. With light, feed and care, her chickens will each lay up to 300 eggs in the first year. After meeting her family needs, Florence sells a tray of 30 eggs locally for about £2.20. The regular income has paid for her children to attend school.

A further 35 single parents were trained in rearing pigs and provided with two piglets and feed. Augustine, father of three young children, found the training *'eye opening'* and commented that pigs' requirements for dry shelter, nutritious food and cleanliness *'are the same as our own!'* He takes good care of his sows and has passed on some of the piglets from their litters to other families in need.



Augustine with his pigs.

Building Partners' Resilience, Capacity and Sustainability

As well as the constant support they provided by phone and video communications in reviewing partners' progress against project and strategic plans and monitoring impact, our Programme Managers Rob Aley and Jane Betts made three support trips to partners between them.



Programme Manager Rob Aley with a family in Kenya.

Some of the specific support provided included helping MWDG to develop their soap-making and tailoring businesses to improve organisational self-reliance, Rescue Team to grow their income from water vending and KDPO to improve their office equipment and use.

Skill sharing is a two-way process and this work continually fed our learning of the daily challenges faced by people living in poverty.

Alongside partners' monthly allowances we assisted them in accessing training opportunities. This included courses in assessment and fitting of wheelchair clients for KDPO, in ARVs for Rescue Team and in skin and vision clinics (to Standing Voice in Tanzania) for SNUPA. This was an invaluable visit of mutual learning and encouragement, with a primary focus on data collection and analysis to help SNUPA improve the monitoring, evaluation and future development of our skin and eye care activities.



SNUPA staff training during their visit to Tanzania.

Our support to partners' physical and mental health included short breaks, loans, appliances, medical and security needs to enable them to work effectively unhindered by personal burdens and stress.

Advantage Africa ensured that the SNUPA team can keep their Jinja office open as their base for outreach and a key focal point for support for people with albinism in Uganda. We also supported them to continue the empowerment of other albinism associations, particularly Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism (EFPA) to meet the skin protection needs of people with albinism across the region and outside of SNUPA's own area.

In addition, the ongoing replacement, care and maintenance of our partners' vehicles and equipment ensured they could undertake their work effectively and safely. Provision of improved smartphones, laptops and tablets all assisted with their project management, monitoring and reporting.

Changing Attitudes, Policies and Practices

Advantage Africa's strategic plan outlines our goal to *'change the attitudes, policies and practices that keep the most vulnerable women, men and children in East Africa in poverty'*.

To this end our Kenya partners advocated for equal rights for people with disabilities and HIV. Agnes Musembi of KDPO, now a prominent disability campaigner in Kenya, contributed towards Makueni County's first ever Disability Policy, one of the country's first. She also helped review disability inclusion in the Kenya National Constitution and formulate amendments to the Kenya Disability Act.

Partners also participated in regional celebrations of World AIDS Day and International Day for Persons with Disabilities. As always, KDPO's theatre group Twaweza highlighted inclusion through their thought provoking and interactive performances.

Our Nairobi 'Showcase' meeting with senior government and NGO representatives highlighted the success of our training for special needs teachers in Kenya. We also advocated for this training to be adopted in the national special education syllabus and received strong support for this from KISE.

Two research projects in Kenya started in earnest this year. In collaboration with the Dyslexia Organisation of Kenya, we conducted 50+ interviews with school teachers and teacher trainers to assess their awareness and understanding of dyslexia. Preliminary analysis revealed an alarmingly low level of knowledge of the condition, which affects 7-10% of the general population.

In partnership with the Autism Society of Kenya, we launched a similar study on the educational experiences of children with autism. Our data collection workshop with young people with autism and their parents uncovered profound insights into the extreme stigma and challenges they face in accessing appropriate education.

The findings from both studies, the first of their kind in Kenya, will be published in 2025, along with recommendations aimed at addressing the critical gaps in educational provision for children with dyslexia and autism in Kenya. Our goal is to design practical interventions that significantly improve the current inadequate systems and offer affected children the support they desperately need.

563 children and adults with albinism, as well as several thousand members of the general public, attended our commemoration of the 10th International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) in Jinja on 13th June. As ever, it was an inspiring day of solidarity and friendship for all who enjoyed the march through Jinja, food, dancing and speeches. Peter, Director of SNUPA told us, *'For people with albinism in Uganda, this is their Christmas Day!'*



The genetics of albinism is adopted into the Ugandan biology curriculum.

SNUPA appealed to the Ugandan government to support for people with albinism in health centres and their messages were shared on television and radio to several million people across the country.

Advocacy is built into all SNUPA's work. For example, in the Refugee Settlements, the team share evidence with the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR to highlight gaps in support and lobby for better educational, livelihood and healthcare support for people with albinism. SNUPA's advocacy this year also contributed to the inclusion of albinism genetics in the national biology curriculum. The next generation will learn the facts about albinism rather than believing in ingrained myths and misinformation.

SNUPA's Director Peter Ogik also represented the needs of people with albinism at international level, giving presentations at the African Union and African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Creating a more Resilient and Sustainable Organisation

Through this objective we aim for Advantage Africa to help vulnerable people in East Africa for many years to come. The continued challenging environment for small charities again made progress against this objective difficult. However, we managed to bring in over £150k of unrestricted funding (42% of total income) and make progress towards finding an outsourced finance manager. Furthermore, our partnerships with Beyond Suncare, Ultrasun UK, Salmon and Lancaster University are all positive steps towards the charity's resilience and sustainability. Together with the hard work of our three UK staff in fundraising and our committed and generous supporters, we were able to increase income, impact and reach on the previous year.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the achievements described in this report possible including many individual and organisational supporters, who helped us achieve our goal of *'better lives for the most vulnerable people in East Africa'*.



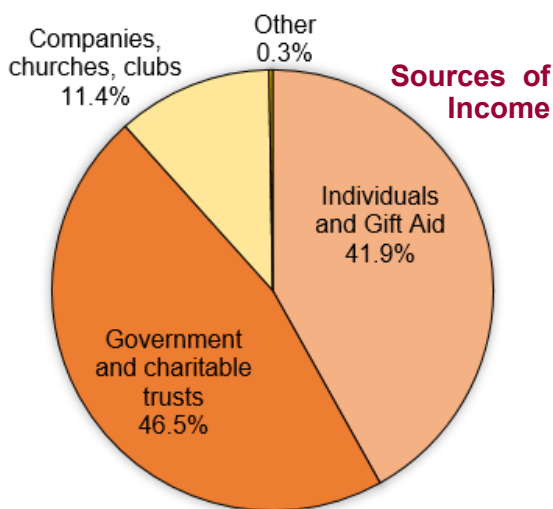
Marching on International Albinism Awareness Day.

Financial Review

Income

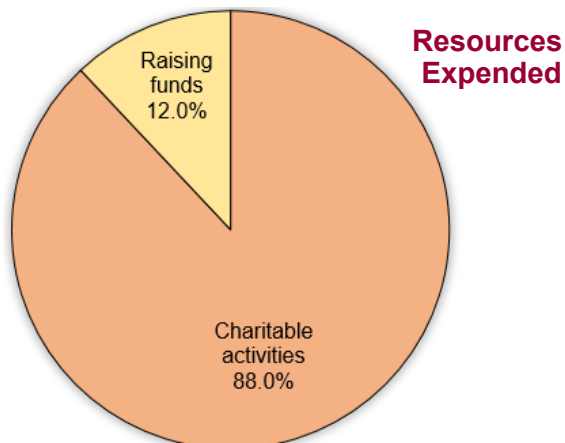
Income in 2023/24 was £341k (£333k in 2022/23). Donations from individuals reduced to £143k (£156k in 2022/23) and from companies and churches to £39k (£46k in 2022/23). These falls were offset, building on the 75% increase in the previous year, by further 21% growth in grant income from £131k in 2022/23 to £159k.

We are most grateful to everyone who supported us in the year, including 138 individuals who donated monthly (136 in 2022/23). We also extend our thanks to the following organisations who donated £5k and above: Barry and Martin's Trust, The Souter Charitable Trust, Educational Opportunity Foundation, The Mercury Phoenix Trust, Scott Bader Commonwealth and Ultrasun UK. It is the policy of some organisations to remain anonymous.



Expenditure

Expenditure in 2023/24 was £346k (£304k in 2022/23) resulting in a net movement of £5k. Expenditure on charitable activities increased by 23% from £260k in 2022/23 to £305k this year. Despite our increased income, fundraising expenditure, at £42k, was 4% less than last year.



Reserves remained within our policy throughout the year, which closed with unrestricted reserves at £61k and restricted £58k (£78k and £46k in 2022/23).

Reserves Policy

In order to meet commitments to partners in Africa, the Trustee-Directors aim to maintain a level of reserves that will protect the charity against any dramatic fall in unrestricted income or unexpected rise in expenditure. As such, our policy is for Advantage Africa's reserves to be maintained at between three to six months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure with provision for projected partner costs. Free reserves of £61k were within this range (estimated at £47k - £94k) and therefore compliant with the policy at the year end.

Risk Management

The Trustee-Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating in Africa with few employees is exposed. Monthly Financial Reports and Risk Registers are used to monitor these.

Internal Controls

Advantage Africa's documented systems of internal financial controls protect against errors or loss. The controls include the delegation of financial authority amongst the staff and Trustee-Directors.

Trustee-Directors' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustee-Directors to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and income and expenditure by:

1. Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
2. Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Stating whether the applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operating.

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustee-Directors on 13th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Holloway, Treasurer

Charity number 1092719

Company number 04388034

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Advantage Africa

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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 that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Susan Plumb ACA, ICAEW
Haines Watts
Old Station House
Station Approach
Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DU

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023/24 £	Total Funds 2022/23 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	145,278	195,398	340,676	331,859
Trading activities	3	304	-	304	1,122
Investments	4	563	-	563	191
Total Income		146,145	195,398	341,543	333,172
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	41,588	-	41,588	43,266
Charitable activities	6	120,261	184,311	304,572	260,436
Total Expenditure		161,849	184,311	346,160	303,702
Net income / expenditure		(15,703)	11,087	(4,617)	29,470
Transfers between funds		(1,162)	1,162	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(16,865)	12,248	(4,617)	29,470
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		78,266	46,089	124,355	94,885
Fund Balances at 31 July 2024		61,401	58,338	119,738	124,355

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31st July 2024 £	31st July 2023 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	8	486	-	486	-
Total		486	-	486	-
Current Assets					
Stocks	9	-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	13,777	11,225	25,002	22,311
Cash at bank and in hand	11	50,857	68,044	118,901	110,960
Total		64,634	79,269	143,903	133,271
Current Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	3,720	20,931	24,651	8,916
Net current assets		60,915	58,338	119,252	124,355
Net Assets		61,400	58,338	119,738	124,355
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted funds: general funds	13	61,401	-	61,401	78,266
Restricted funds	13	-	58,338	58,338	46,089
Total funds		61,401	58,338	119,738	124,355

For the year ended 31 July 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of Trustee-Directors:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- The Trustee-Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustee-Directors on 13 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Holloway, Treasurer

Charity number 1092719 Company Number 04388034

The notes on pages 17-24 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities). The 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), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) 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 charity's ability 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. The global financial crisis have caused significant uncertainty and made it difficult to assess the potential impact of the wider economy on the charity's operations, funding and suppliers. In particular the Trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. They have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and when reviewing the charity's financial situation in February 2025 regarded it as reasonably strong. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The following accounting policies were applied in dealing with material items:-

a) Donated and Grant Income

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income from donations includes recoverable Gift Aid which 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. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (as estimated and agreed with the donor).

b) Stocks

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Other Income

Investment income represents income generated by bank interest. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out some of its activities, 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. Income from charitable activities represents income received from consultancy which was undertaken in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred in the strategic management of the charity. Support costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity have been allocated on the basis of the percentage of staff time spent on fundraising, general community development, advocacy and campaigning and Trustee-Directors' activities.

d) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee-Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

e) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets acquired for use by the company are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated useful life unless they cost less than £500 when they are written off on purchase. The depreciation period for equipment and IT is four years.

f) Pension Costs

The company offers an auto-enrolled defined contribution scheme for employees..

g) Taxation

The company as a registered charity is not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax because its income falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

h) Cash Flow Statement

The company has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year, in line with the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP.

2. Income from Donations and Grants

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Individuals and associated Gift Aid	122,365	20,781	143,146	135,264	20,414	155,678
Government donors and charitable trusts	9,034	149,617	158,651	40,832	89,755	130,587
Companies, churches, clubs and schools	13,879	25,000	38,879	14,206	31,388	45,594
Total	145,278	195,398	340,676	190,302	141,557	331,859

3. Income from Trading Activities

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Sales of crafts and donated goods etc	56	-	56	451	-	451
Other, including raffles and admission fees	248	-	248	671	-	671
Total	304	-	304	1,122	-	1,122

4. Investment Income

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Interest	563	-	563	191	-	191
Total	563	-	563	191	-	191

The increased investment income this year was due to an improved interest rate and ability to make transfers gained from transferring our deposits to a different bank.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Events	3	-	3	164	-	164
Appeals & newsletters	-	-	-	30	-	30
Staff costs	35,440	-	35,440	36,191	-	36,191
Other direct costs	2,793	-	2,793	3,709	-	3,709
Support costs	3,352	-	3,352	3,172	-	3,172
Total	41,588	-	41,588	43,266	-	43,266

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS						
Community development in Africa						
Staff costs	64,822	5,104	69,926	66,162	1,838	68,000
Other direct costs	3,168	4,311	7,479	3,735	762	4,497
Grants payable*	32,708	174,896	207,604	49,187	119,941	169,128
Support costs	7,970	-	7,970	6,596	-	6,596
Total	108,668	184,311	292,979	125,680	122,541	248,221
Governance costs						
Staff costs	3,651	-	3,651	3,833	-	3,833
Accounts and examination	1,500	-	1,500	1,573	-	1,573
Other direct costs	23	-	23	226	-	226
Support costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5,174	-	5,174	5,632	-	5,632
Advocacy/campaigns/development education						
Staff costs	5,469	-	5,469	5,589	-	5,589
Other direct costs	414	-	414	491	-	491
Support costs	536	-	536	503	-	503
Total	6,419	-	6,419	6,583	-	6,583
Total Charitable Activities	120,261	184,311	304,572	137,895	122,541	260,436

*Grants are given towards partner organisations once their work has been identified as falling within the objects and activities of Advantage Africa, and when a partnership has been built between Advantage Africa and both the partner and the beneficiary community through visits and detailed project planning. The aims and activities of the project are then defined in a formal agreement which is written, approved and signed by the partner organisation's committee and Advantage Africa's Trustee-Directors and which forms the basis for monitoring. A breakdown of grants payable is shown overleaf.

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS PAYABLE	2023/24			2022/23		
	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £
Kenya						
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation	16,089	4,368	20,457	8,276	5,186	13,462
Kenya Institute for Special Education and Partner Schools	8,412	-	8,412	4,418	-	4,418
Mitaboni Special Education Project	5	2,484	2,489	131	2,168	2,299
Thinu Special Education Project	154	2,193	2,347	10	1,763	1,773
Rescue Team for HIV & Aids	14,023	5,281	19,304	8,794	5,536	14,330
Autism Society / Dyslexia Organisation (Disability Research)	6,846	-	6,846	-	-	-
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	14,102	2,899	17,001	11,010	2,971	13,981
Subtotal	59,631	17,225	76,856	32,639	17,624	50,263
Uganda						
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	54,698	6,752	61,450	36,443	5,812	42,255
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	56,570	12,728	69,298	64,314	12,296	76,610
Subtotal	111,268	19,480	130,748	100,757	18,108	118,865
Total	170,899	36,705	207,604	133,396	35,732	169,128

7. Staff and Trustee-Directors

Remuneration paid to key management personnel was £47k (2023: £45k). No remuneration or travel and expenses were paid to Trustees or any person connected to them in either period apart from Alice Gathoni was paid £400 for autism research work following an appropriate selection process and due diligence by the Trustee-Directors with recourse to Charity Commission guidelines.

A total of £26,261 (£17,551 in 2022/23) was donated without conditions by Trustees-Directors, key management personnel and their close families.

We are grateful for the assistance of approximately 10 volunteers (2023:10) who contributed their time freely towards our work.

No fees (2022/23: Nil) were payable to Haines Watts, other than for the Independent Examination.

Staff costs (excluding outsourced Finance Manager) were as follows:

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Gross Salaries	92,137	95,234
Employer's National Insurance	3,766	4,177
Pension	4,607	4,608
Recruitment costs	-	-
Total	100,510	104,019
No. of staff	3	4

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60k or more in either period.

8. Tangible Assets

	Equipment and IT Total £
COST	
At 1st August 2023	5,615
Additions	598
Disposals	-
At 31st July 2024	6,213
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	
At 1st August 2023	5,615
Depreciation in year	112
Less: Depreciation on disposals	-
At 31st July 2024	5,727
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st July 2024	486
At 31st July 2023	-

9. Stock

Sunscreen was donated by Ultrasun UK for SNUPA to distribute to people with albinism to prevent skin cancer. We have revised the nominal unit value from £0.50 to £0.10 this year in line with export values.

		Opening Stock 1st August 2023	Received during the year	Distributed during the year	Closing Stock 31st July 2024
Sunscreen	Value (£)	-	213	(213)	-
	Units (150ml)	-	2,126	(2,126)	-
Lip protection	Value (£)	-	74	(74)	-
	Units (4.8g)	-	744	(744)	-



10. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Trade Debtors	10,448	6,009
Prepayments	1,114	-
Other debtors	18	23
Deposit	500	500
Concessionary loans	302	701
Tax receivable	12,620	15,078
Total	25,002	22,311

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Bank operating accounts - UK	29,477	49,930
Bank operating accounts - Africa	4,023	3,249
Bank deposits	85,059	57,496
Petty cash	342	285
Total	118,901	110,960

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Trade Creditors	22,138	6,022
Taxation & Social Security	-	-
Accruals	2,513	2,894
Total	24,651	8,916

Advantage Africa's five-year lease of its UK office premises with rent payable of £500 per month began on 18th June 2023 and includes a break clause after two years.

13. Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening balance 1 Aug 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2024 £
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	10,389	9,911	(14,621)	-	5,680
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation, Kenya	-	30,000	(11,398)	-	18,602
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	7	21,760	(15,893)	-	5,874
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya	4,183	8,190	(11,438)	-	935
Disability Research, Kenya	5,000	8,023	(8,211)	-	4,812
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	12,864	54,329	(56,963)	1,214	11,444
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	9,339	58,994	(60,951)	-	7,382
Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya	4,306	4,191	(4,836)	(52)	3,609
Total Restricted Funds	46,089	195,398	(184,311)	1,162	58,338
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	78,266	146,145	(161,849)	(1,162)	61,401
Total Unrestricted Funds	78,266	146,145	(161,849)	(1,162)	61,401
Total Funds	124,355	341,543	(346,160)	-	119,738
<i>The equivalent figures for 2022/23 were as follows:</i>					
	Opening balance 1 Aug 2022	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2023
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	-	17,407	(7,018)	-	10,389
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	7,125	-	(7,118)	-	7
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya	3,525	4,000	(3,342)	-	4,183
Disability Research, Kenya	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	1,519	47,905	(36,733)	173	12,864
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	14,555	61,298	(66,690)	176	9,339
Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya	-	5,947	(1,641)	-	4,306
Total Restricted Funds	26,724	141,557	(122,542)	349	46,089
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	68,161	191,615	(181,160)	(349)	78,266
Total Unrestricted Funds	68,161	191,615	(181,160)	(349)	78,266
Total Funds	94,885	333,172	(303,702)	-	124,355

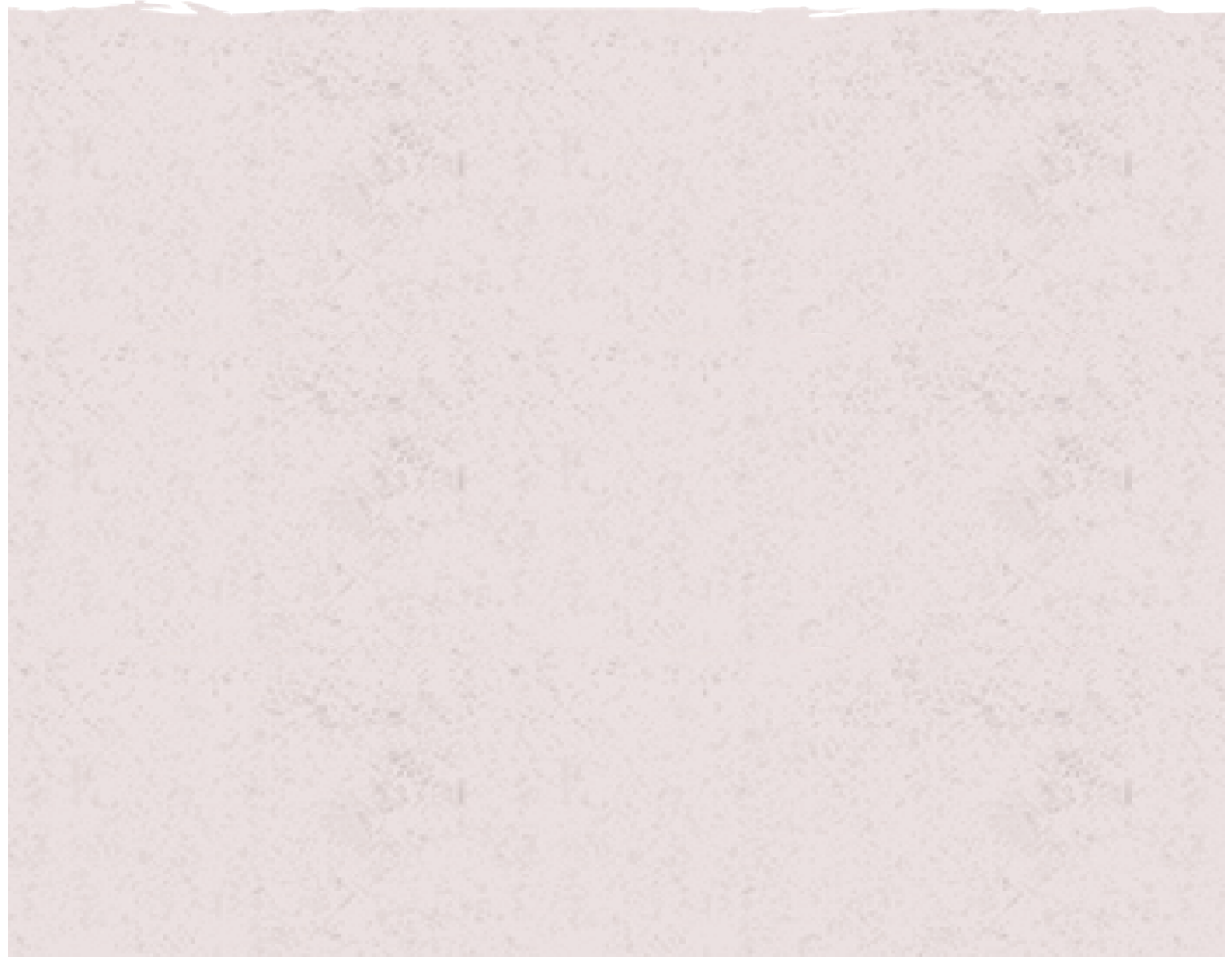
14. Net Analysis of Assets

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

	2023/24				2022/23			
	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets/ (liabilities) £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	68,044	(9,707)	58,338	-	42,295	3,794	46,089
Unrestricted funds	486	50,857	10,057	61,400	-	68,665	9,601	78,266
Total	486	118,901	351	119,738	-	110,960	13,395	124,355

15. Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute an amount of £10 if the charity is wound up.





Single parent Florence is meeting her family's basic needs through poultry rearing.



Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty

www.advantageafrica.org

ADVANTAGE AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1092719

Accounts

Advantage Africa

pathways out of poverty



Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2023



Margaret (left) with her stall selling basic provisions and Rodah (centre) and Sheila (right) from MWDG.

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Advantage Africa Report and Accounts Year ended 31 July 2023

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Acronyms used

ACA Associated Chartered Accountant
AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 2019
FRS Financial Reporting Standard
EFPA Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism
GBV Gender-based violence
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMRC His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAAD International Albinism Awareness Day
ICAEW Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
KDPO Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation
KISE Kenya Institute of Special Education
MWDG Migori Women with Disabilities Group
SNUPA Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
SORP Statement of Recommended Practice
SPAU Single Parents' Association of Uganda
STI Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN United Nations

Front cover: Children with their teacher at Rescue Team's Nursery School.

Rear cover: The SNUPA team with refugees at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

Trustee-Directors' Report

for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Charity and Company Information

Trustee-Directors:	David Barnett (resigned June 2023) Christopher Chapman (resigned June 2023) Pratima Dattani George Mwaura (resigned June 2023) Mandy Smith Carole Holloway (joined June 2023) Sally Houghton (resigned October 2023) Alice Gathoni (joined October 2023)
Patrons:	Martyn Joseph Jon Snow
Company Secretary:	Andrew Betts - Executive Director
Governing Document:	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 2002
Company Registration Number:	04388034
Charity Registration Number:	1092719
Registered Office:	9 High Street Olney Buckinghamshire MK46 4EB
Telephone:	01234 711005
Email:	information@advantageafrica.org
Website:	www.advantageafrica.org
Independent Examiner:	Susan Plumb ACA Haines Watts Old Station House Newport Street Swindon Wilts SN1 3DU
Bankers:	HSBC plc 19 Midsummer Place Milton Keynes MK9 3GB

Introduction

This Report and Accounts outlines how Advantage Africa helped improve the lives of several thousand vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda and used our resources to fulfil that purpose.

We're most grateful to our inspirational partner organisations and our generous and committed supporters who made the achievements in this Report possible, and brought joy and hope into poor communities across East Africa. Thank you for making a difference.

Governance

Advantage Africa's governance is described in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustee-Directors and the current Board is shown on page two. Three Trustees left the board this year because of relocation, other commitments or having served the maximum term of 10 years. New candidates are considered by the existing Trustee-Directors according to the match of their skills and experience to our identified needs and are given an induction during their first few meetings.

Advantage Africa's organisational policies cover all aspects of its operation including finance, employment, safeguarding and professional practice and we have a schedule for their periodic review e.g. our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually.

The Trustee-Directors meet four times a year to oversee Advantage Africa's activities and monitor progress against the objectives of our Strategic Plan. At each meeting the Trustee-Directors reviewed our impact in Kenya and Uganda, financial performance, fundraising, risk and organisational policies.

Objects of the Charity

Advantage Africa's objects, as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6th March 2002 and amended by special resolution 31st May 2002, are *'The relief of need, poverty, hardship and distress and the advancement of education amongst people in Africa, in particular by supporting and working with local people to develop sustainable initiatives within their own region'*.

In practice, Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability, albinism and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our partnerships with local organisations in Kenya and Uganda help vulnerable people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities. Advantage Africa provides its partners with resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.

Review of Activities

Oversight

The Trustee-Directors have planned and overseen the activities of the charity with regard to the Charity Commission's Good Governance Code, their guidance on 'Public Benefit', and 'Working Internationally' as well as HMRC's recommendations on 'Payments to Overseas Bodies'. Advantage Africa is also a member of the Fundraising Regulator.

Vision and Strategy

Many millions of people in East Africa continue to live in relentless poverty, excluded from the benefits of economic growth. They have been disproportionately affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising prices triggered by the war in Ukraine. Among the most vulnerable people of all are those affected by disability and HIV, often stigmatised and denied their basic human rights, causing them to lack self-worth, opportunity and hope.

Advantage Africa's vision is for such vulnerable children, women and men to be respected as equals, free from poverty, discrimination and fear, and to have appropriate education, good health and sustainable livelihoods. To this end, our current strategic goal is *'better lives for the most vulnerable children and adults in East Africa'* and our objectives towards achieving it are to:

- (1) Support the most vulnerable and excluded children, women and men to overcome poverty and meet their needs in a sustainable way.
- (2) Contribute to changing the conditions, attitudes, policies and practices that keep them in poverty.
- (3) Create a more resilient and sustainable charity.

Advantage Africa's team of four staff in the UK comprised Director Andrew Betts, Programme Managers Rob Aley (Kenya) and Jane Betts (Uganda) and Finance Manager Lianne Betteridge (until February 2023) who all worked to fulfil these objectives.

This Review outlines some of the activities carried out and impact achieved in 2022/23. Names of some beneficiaries have been changed to protect privacy.

Towards our first objective, supporting the most vulnerable people to overcome poverty, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan aims for us to *support at least eight partner organisations to provide essential services to improve the education, health and incomes of vulnerable people.*

We actually supported eight partners and also undertook work that cut across all three of these programmatic themes. These partners were Thinu Primary School; Mitaboni Primary School; Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE); Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG); Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO); Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS; Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU) and Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA).

Education

Special Education Units and Early Years Education (Kenya)

Student numbers in the special units we support at Mitaboni and Thinu primary schools in eastern Kenya slowly recovered from COVID-19 closures and disruption. This enabled nearly 80 children with disabilities to learn with their friends in a safe and caring environment. Advantage Africa provided monthly salaries to the vital support staff, including the cooks, house mothers and security guards, and helped with the maintenance including repairs to the bathrooms and playground equipment at Mitaboni.

In December 2022 Thinu school celebrated the graduation of five of their oldest learners. All were assisted to make successful starts to their adult lives in the community.

Our nursery school in eastern Kenya for vulnerable children run by Rescue Team, saw pupil numbers rise to pre-pandemic numbers of 23. The school compound was further developed with the renovation of a storage building, the installation of an energy-efficient stove in the school kitchen, and planting of mango and other drought-resistant trees. Plans were made to start a community water project at the school with a grant already approved by Wilmslow Wells for Africa. Rain water will be harvested from the school roofs, stored in large tanks and provided to around 1,000 people in the local community.



Children plant trees at Rescue Team's nursery school.

Disabled Children's Education (Kenya)

With support from British and Foreign School Society, we started the scaling-up of our training for special teachers in Kenya. Building on our successful pilot project with 20 teachers last year, we recruited teachers from a further 17 schools who attended two week-long training sessions hosted by our partner the Kenya Institute for Special Education (KISE).



Teacher training using interactive methods.

The training equips teachers with the knowledge and skills to support older learners with intellectual disabilities to make successful transitions from school to adult life. Many of the trainee teachers are already advanced in applying the learning in their schools, with 10 school-leavers already helped in productive post-school community-based activities such as livestock rearing, hair dressing and carpentry this year. The project will continue to expand in 2023/24 with the first group completing their training and another group of 23 teachers joining the programme.

Nancy, 22 is one of the young people benefitting from this project. She has learning disabilities and comes from a poor family and was at risk of getting 'stuck in school'. Her teacher Pamela received training from Advantage Africa and applied it in supporting Nancy to make a successful transition from her special school in western Kenya. With a grant from Advantage Africa she started duck rearing at home with the support of her father. Nancy says 'I love my ducks and attend to them first thing every morning'.



Nancy with her ducks.

Vocational Training for Young People (Uganda)

In the rural community of Kyabiiri, Uganda, Advantage Africa supported 45 unemployed / out-of-school young people aged 14-28 with 12-15 months' vocational training. Most had completed basic levels of primary education only, and this training will culminate in a formal Government certification.

10 male and female trainees opted to learn how to grow coffee under the expert tuition of Bernard from the Kibenge coffee farmer's co-operative society. The training course included practical farming skills, setting up and managing a coffee nursery bed, optimising growing seasons, disease management, marketing of seedlings, overcoming challenges and resourcing a new enterprise.

After six months the group had already produced 25,000 healthy coffee seedlings which they could sell at 1,000 Ugandan Shillings (22p) each. Sarah of SPAU reported *'The seedlings have grown well and the trainees are equipped to set up a coffee nursery bed themselves.'*



Coffee trainees build their first nursery.

25 young people undertook motorcycle mechanic training under the guidance of Geoffrey and Abdu. The trainees, previously feeling bored, frustrated and hopeless, found purpose, friendship and great enjoyment in their apprenticeships.

Uganda's transport system largely relies on boda boda (motorcycle taxis) for people to move around cheaply and quickly. This means that the skills learnt by these young people will always be in demand and they're equipped to earn an income for life.

10 young people who opted to learn welding were trained by experts Musa and Eddie and all applied themselves keenly to learning new skills. They impressed their trainers with how quickly they picked up metal shaping and cutting, and at the six month mark were producing impressive metal gates, fences and doors together. Their welding skills have also equipped them to repair motor vehicles and many other services in demand by the local community.



Motorcycle mechanic Geoffrey teaches his trainees.



Welding trainees at work.

Reducing the Spread and Impact of HIV (Kenya and Uganda)

With support from Evan Cornish Foundation, we completed a pioneering project to support 162 sex workers in eastern Kenya to protect themselves from STIs and abuse. Through comprehensive training our local partner, Rescue Team, empowered the women with knowledge and confidence about their rights and health, resulting in the establishment of a network of self-advocates called 'Bidii (hard-working) Champions'. The women were also supported with grants to overcome crises and start small enterprises to reduce their reliance on sex work to survive.

Burgwin, our project coordinator says *'It's clear these women have been really left out, their knowledge levels at the start of the training were very low, and they really needed a group. Previously they all just looked after themselves.'*

The project also provided HIV testing and counselling for 199 sex workers and 53 others, with 5 referred for treatment and STI screening for 120 women and 25 referrals. The project culminated with a large and vibrant public awareness event held for 250 people in Kibwezi town that was featured on mass media.



The Bidii Champions sex workers made banners and T-shirts for their health awareness campaigning event.

Now, the Bidii Champions are actively bridging the gap between women in crisis and essential services, including during emergencies like sexual violence and police misconduct.

Through their other local HIV programmes throughout the year, Rescue Team provided a further 390 (total 541) people with HIV testing and counselling, many of them orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers. The reduced incidence of HIV infections demonstrates the impact of Rescue Team's prevention work supported by Advantage Africa over the last decade.

Our HIV & AIDS work in Uganda focused on a five-day 'Memory Work' training of trainers course for single parent families in Kyabiiri followed by sessions of HIV counselling and testing. The course enabled the 80 participants to become trainers themselves in overcoming stigma and fear surrounding HIV. Learning and socialising together for a week, the parents and carers were equipped to frankly discuss and tackle challenging issues relating to HIV, relationships and planning for the future within their families and wider community. Most participants noted appropriate support for older teenagers, creating family trees and will-writing as invaluable parts of the course about which they had limited knowledge before. Single parent Godfrey echoed many in saying 'I am going to give advice to my friends on what we have learnt.'

Rehabilitation, Health and Welfare Rehabilitation Services (Kenya and Uganda)

Our support of Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO) enabled them to provide 60 wheelchairs and mobility tricycles to people with disabilities this year. All were secured through our long term partnership with Motivation UK. Each wheelchair recipient was assessed, measured and fitted with an appropriate chair for their needs. Users were then visited in their home to ensure they were getting the best use of their chairs. These evaluations of effectiveness enabled KDPO to be designated as one of Motivation's eight partners trusted to provide assessment, fitting and follow-up services and approved for further collaboration. Next year we expect to provide a further 150 robust wheelchairs.

Another 107 disability appliances were designed, built, supplied or repaired this year at KDPO's rehabilitation workshop with materials, tools and technician's allowances provided by Advantage Africa. These include crutches, standing frames, supportive seating and special footwear. Five amputees were assisted to have prosthetic legs fitted and we initiated a partnership with a new provider Circleg, who offer more sophisticated prostheses than we've sourced in the past.



HIV testing and counselling for couples.



KDPO technicians Mike and Nguli (right and centre) assemble wheelchairs ready for client fitting

In Kyabiiri, Uganda, four people with disabilities were provided with sturdy new wheelchairs suitable for the local terrain. We are waiting to provide at least eight further adults and children with disabilities with fitted wheelchairs in the area when a delayed shipment of kits arrives in the country.

The despair and chronic poverty of prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns meant that substance abuse and anti-social behaviour had risen sharply in the Kyabiiri community, especially among teenagers who were out of education and work. We responded by enabling our partner SPAU to deliver three days' training for 100 people about avoiding and recovering from drug and alcohol abuse.

Many of the young people taking part in our vocational training attended the course. Having learnt and debated freely together, substance abuse and addiction are no longer taboo subjects in the community and the trainees are equipped with skills to help others.

Welfare and Shelter for Vulnerable People (Kenya and Uganda)

It was another incredibly tough year for vulnerable people in East Africa. In Kenya, extremes of drought in the east and flooding in the west combined with dramatic price increases in staple foods and fuel, to intensify the acute hardship experienced by the most disadvantaged families.

Advantage Africa supplied significant quantities of food including maize flour and beans plus essential hygiene supplies to 135 families with debilitating medical conditions, no family support or unable to earn an incomes for themselves.

Targeted support was also delivered to 45 families in Kenya identified by our partners as at the very highest risk. In addition to food, we provided help with hospital treatment, disability appliances, beds and bedding, house repairs and carers' allowances.



MWDG with relief food ready for distribution.

Clinton, an orphan with severe disabilities, is typical of those supported. We found a caring foster family to look after him and provided food, clothing, bedding, a wheelchair, commode and his much-loved solar-powered radio. Other recipients included a young female victim of domestic violence for whom we constructed a safe house and a fragile family of eight for whom we also began building a home.

Where individuals in need had the capacity to earn a living for themselves, we provided capital costs and advice to start their own small businesses. Margaret (pictured on page 2) was one such enterprising person who now has a sustainable income.

In Uganda, we distributed health kits to 45 of the most vulnerable families in Kyabiiri and food to 25 families affected by albinism living in chronic poverty in various locations. People in the poorest homes sleep on thin mats on hard mud floors where they are prey to parasitic infections and have insufficient rest. The kits include comfortable mattresses, sheets and soft blankets and were met with great appreciation by the community who highlighted the improvement to their lives gained from better sleep and subsequent ability to cope with life's challenges.



Mattresses arrive in Kyabiiri for distribution.

In both countries the ‘Severe Hardship Funds’ we provided to our partners gave targeted, swift support to individuals and families in extreme need, including emergency nutrition, palliative care and pain relief for people with albinism with inoperable skin cancer.

We undertook shelter repair and construction for families living in dire and dangerous homes in the Kyabiiri area. Single parent Ruth was living in a tiny, dilapidated mud house with five children, one of whom has epilepsy and intellectual disabilities. The SPAU team reported *‘In this village Ruth’s house is in the poorest shape. Whenever it rains heavily her neighbours rush to see if it has collapsed on them!’* It was agreed by the SPAU team that *‘renovating the old house would be a waste of resources’* so our team therefore built the family a new home.

Gender-based Violence (Kenya)

This year we directly assisted six survivors of gender-based violence with emergency medical help and long-term psychological and practical support. Where possible we helped apprehend and prosecute perpetrators, sometimes in the face of intimidation and threats. Legal action is a long process, and sometimes takes years, but we maintained our commitment to secure justice in the courts.

In a new initiative that recognises men are usually the perpetrators of gender-based violence, we supported Rescue Team to engage men in reducing its incidence in their community. Our workshop with motorbike taxi (‘boda bodas’) drivers confirmed the need and approach of a project to begin next year.

Epilepsy (Uganda)

Epilepsy is a key and growing focus for Advantage Africa. This year we held three days’ epilepsy awareness training in the Kyabiiri community for 121 people affected. All were equipped with knowledge about their condition, skills to challenge discrimination and tailored medication following assessment. Most had never had access to epilepsy medication before and lived with daily, debilitating seizures. They now have regular prescriptions and report that their seizures have completely stopped or significantly reduced.

Having heard about the training’s transformational impact on people’s lives, 60 further families in the Kyabiiri community, who had previously not come forward, approached us for help. We subsequently supported 80 further children and adults with epilepsy to have training and access regular medication. This transformed community attitudes and people’s ability and confidence to go to school and work.



Families affected by epilepsy gather for training.

46 of the most vulnerable families affected by epilepsy from across Kyabiiri formed four peer support groups and received small business training and start-up loans to improve their self-reliance. The size of loans provided depended on the enterprises each family had decided to pursue and included trading in coffee, maize and bananas. Each group developed plans for individual loans to be paid back over 6 months and safeguarded in an account by the treasurer. This meant that in due course each group could invite new families to join, learn from their business skills and receive enterprise loans.

Grace has epilepsy and lives with her elderly mother. Before our training and medication she suffered from frequent debilitating seizures which severely hampered her education and ability to work. Following the project, her life completely changed. Grace joined one of the peer support groups and received a loan for her knitting business. She said *‘I’m strong and brave – ever since the training!’*

Grace now makes jumpers for local schools and produces scarfs, shawls and other knitwear to sell in local markets. She is known for always wearing a beautifully-made scarf around her neck, has grown enormously in confidence and is a passionate advocate for people with epilepsy.



Grace with other members of the savings group.

Safe Water (Uganda)

Our support for safe water focused on Kyabiiri Uganda, where we supported water management and hygiene training followed by a new borehole to provide safe and accessible water for the 1,300 strong community. SPAU's Director Paul Lwanga said *'You can't imagine the happiness of the people of Kyabiiri! They've been travelling three to four miles to get water but right now they have their own clean, safe water in the heart of their community.'*



Women collect water from the new borehole.

Improving the Health of People with Albinism (Uganda)

People with albinism in East Africa are extremely vulnerable to skin cancer; without intervention, almost none reach 40 years of age. This year we held 45 skin clinics for children and adults with albinism across 15 districts. During the clinics, each participant received a comprehensive skin check from our dermatologist Dr. Ngobi and cryotherapy if needed to remove pre-cancerous lesions.



Marion received cryotherapy at one of the 45 clinics.

Over the course of the clinics Dr. Ngobi and his assistants provided 1,299 skin checks and 482 cryotherapy treatments. Attendees also received supplies of high sun protection factor (SPF) sunscreen and lip balms, as well as sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats if needed.



Baby Sarah shows healthy skin at one of our clinics.

We also held five skin clinics for refugees with albinism in the Nakivale and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlements in southwestern Uganda, providing much needed skin checks, sunscreen and hats.

During one of the visits to Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement Faruk from the SNUPA team told us *'People with albinism are excited and thankful for SNUPA's continued outreaches in the camp. They have told us about their numerous challenges in accessing any health services.'*

SNUPA's visits, encouragement and friendship boost the morale and resilience of refugees with albinism whose physical and mental health needs are routinely overlooked and neglected. We also support their families with maize, beans and soap to help them improve their nutrition and overall health.

The albinism project is crucially supported by our partnership with Ultrasun UK. In addition to funding, they provided a consignment of 1,845 bottles of sunscreen which arrived in Uganda just in time for our mass skin clinic at SNUPA's International Albinism Awareness Day commemoration in Jinja.

All this activity has dramatically reduced the incidence of skin cancer among people with albinism in Uganda. Unfortunately, as the reach of our prevention activities increases, some attendees at the 50 clinics were diagnosed with skin cancer requiring urgent attention. Dr. Ngobi successfully treated many with minor surgery but others required more extensive treatment. During 2022/23 we supported 17 people to have life-saving skin cancer surgery and follow-up medical and nutritional care.

They included widower Fred who is breadwinner and carer for four young children. He attended one of our skin clinics in Bududa District in December 2022 for the first time and we quickly took action to provide surgery to remove the aggressive and fast-growing cancer on his chest. Back at the next skin clinic in March 2023, Fred was brimming with relief and joy. The SNUPA team told us, *'We were thrilled to learn that he is much better - completely cancer-free!'*

These operations also extended to people with albinism in refugee settlements. For example, we provided life-saving surgery for 18-year old Eva, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo living in Nakivale Refugee Settlement who developed cancerous lesions across her back. The SNUPA team first met Eva at our skin clinic in March 2023 where she told them she feared for her life: *'I'm scared...the wound keeps progressing.'* We acted quickly to arrange treatment, Eva recovered well following her operation and is now skin cancer free. She has learnt from SNUPA how to keep safe from the sun and the importance of protecting herself with skin checks, sunscreen and hats.



Joyful Eva following surgery with Fazira from SNUPA.

Young people with albinism have varying levels of visual impairment which impairs their ability to read and study. This can cause them to drop out of education because they struggle to see learning materials, perform poorly and lose confidence.

This year we supported 40 young people with albinism to have eye tests with SNUPA's local optometrist and to receive photochromatic spectacles, which also act as protective sunglasses. The impact for the young students has been transformational. They can study effectively with renewed thirst for reading and learning and have grown in independence and confidence.



Patrick undertakes a sight test.

Incomes

Sustainable Enterprises for Vulnerable Families (Kenya and Uganda)

Vulnerable people, especially single parents and those with disabilities, often ask for opportunities to work their way out of poverty. This year we concluded our project in eastern Kenya arising from such a request to generate incomes for 20 disadvantaged single mothers from goat rearing. The initial benefits of the project were evident last year with the goat numbers quickly multiplying from 40 to 76. This trend continued and monitoring showed a further expansion in the families' goat herds and milk production, with these increases expected to continue into the future. In addition to incomes from milk sales, the project promotes women's dignity and self-esteem, and builds resilience for their future.

In western Kenya, our partner Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG) started a small tailoring business with funding from Ashworth Charitable Trust. This was used to purchase sewing equipment, materials and training with an experienced tailor.



Tailoring training by Irene at MWDG.

The intention is to fulfil the local demand for garments such as sportswear, school and hotel uniforms. We also supported MWDG to start making liquid soap to help cover their organisational costs and enable 40 women with disabilities to complete enterprise development training.

On the other side of Kenya, our support to KDPO enabled them to expand their network of village disability groups to 30 and assist them with enterprises such as tree nurseries, soap making and weaving. Their close links with the local government facilitated the Siembeni village group to start poultry rearing with a donation of 300 chickens.

In Kyabiiri, Uganda, we supported 22 single parents and carers to rear goats to help them boost their families' self-reliance. With comprehensive training in care, feeding and disease-control complete, each family received two young female goats. The group as a whole received and cared for two males for breeding; a proportion of their offspring will be given to other vulnerable families in the community.



Namtume (centre) receives her young goats.

We also assisted 25 vulnerable families affected by albinism living in poverty with training in business management and grants to pursue their chosen enterprises for sustainable incomes. These included tailoring, selling clothes, retail kiosks or making snacks. All grew in confidence through the training and encouraged each other to succeed in business.



Margaret's garment-making business is thriving.

Building Partners' Resilience and Capacity

In January 2023 we reviewed the monthly allowances provided to partners. In recognition of rising inflation and the cost of living crisis in Uganda and Kenya we subsequently increased these payments by 10% for all partner staff. In addition to specific project costs, we also supported partners' running costs such as office rent, fuel and vehicle maintenance, electricity and internet access. The offices of KDPO, MWDG and SNUPA in particular are bases for outreach and support for several thousand people with disabilities and albinism in their respective regions.

Unfortunately, our KDPO technician Mike Munguti was involved in a serious road accident in May 2023 resulting in his right leg needing amputation. We supported Mike and KDPO through this period and are delighted that he made a remarkable recovery and quickly returned to working with the team.

With the support of the Spanish NGO Beyond Suncare and Advantage Africa, SNUPA continued to empower and train Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism (EFPA) in the Bugisu sub-region of eastern Uganda. This is enabling EFPA to train health workers and meet the skin protection needs of more than 400 people with albinism across the region who are outside of SNUPA's own area.

Through support visits, phone and video communications, our two Programme Managers worked to build our partners' capacity and resilience throughout the year. This included reviewing partners' progress against strategic plans, monitoring impact and advancing project planning and training, for example on safeguarding and advanced wheelchair assessment (hosted by Motivation).

Skill sharing is a two-way process and our constant contact with partners, as well as field visits to beneficiaries continually fed our learning of the daily challenges faced by people living in poverty.

Changing attitudes, policies and practices

Advantage Africa's strategic plan outlines our goal to *'change the attitudes, policies and practices that keep the most vulnerable women, men and children in East Africa in poverty'*.

Among this year's highlights in our partners' extensive participation in advocacy and awareness forums and events was KDPO and Rescue Team's vital contributions to regional celebrations for International Days for Disabilities and AIDS. We funded the sex worker champions to participate in the latter event and the team to perform drama that compellingly called for HIV and GBV prevention.

Elections were held in Kenya on 9th August 2022. Our partners contributed to the democratic process by educating people with disabilities about their equal rights to vote. MWDG made local radio broadcasts and held meetings and KDPO contributed to County Government efforts to make voting accessible to people with disabilities.



Women with disabilities learn about their voting rights.

We enabled our partners to broaden their networks significantly this year. In particular, KDPO collaborated with Light of the World and VSO on youth with disabilities initiatives. They also worked with United Disabled Persons of Kenya to make the Kenya Constitution disability friendly and contributed to Makueni County's five-year strategic planning.

In the UK, we disseminated our work with school-leavers with disabilities among other organisations at the British and Foreign School Society grant holders' workshop and secured funding to research the reality of education for children with dyslexia and autism in Kenya and advocate for improved approaches.

More than 600 people with albinism plus their families and supporters took part in our commemoration of International Albinism Awareness Day in Jinja, Uganda on 13th June. Under the theme 'Inclusion is Strength' people with albinism shared their stories and called on local and national authorities to challenge the discrimination they face.



Marching through Jinja on IAAD.

In Uganda myths and stigma still surround albinism and cause those affected to be ostracised and persecuted. The SNUPA team never miss an opportunity to educate and arm people with the facts, in one instance taking over a hospital waiting room to explain 'No magic, no witchcraft, just albinism!'

Our international advocacy included providing Muluka Miti-Drummond, the UN Independent Expert on Albinism with detailed and 'invaluable' evidence to report to the UN General Assembly on improving the lives of refugees with albinism.



Muluka presents her report at the UN General Assembly.

Creating a more Resilient and Sustainable Organisation

Through this objective we aim for Advantage Africa to help vulnerable people in East Africa for many years to come - but the continuing cost of living crisis in 2022/23 meant it was challenging to fulfil. In particular, our Finance Officer's departure and difficulties in maintaining a cost-effective outsourced finance function presented a setback to address in 2023/24. Furthermore, funding is likely to remain erratic and sustainability issues will continue to be firmly on the Trustee-Directors' agenda.

However, amid this background, our partnerships with Beyond Suncare, Ultrasun UK, new donors and local partners in our autism and dyslexia research were all positive steps towards the charity's resilience and sustainability. Together with the hard work of our three UK staff in fundraising and our committed and generous supporters, we were able to increase income, impact and reach on the previous year.

Concluding Remarks

Despite continued economic pressures in East Africa and the UK, 2022/23 was a successful year for Advantage Africa. We supported thousands of vulnerable people to improve their lives.

Highlights included: 158 vulnerable children and young people in education or vocational training; 17 special needs teachers trained; 541 people had HIV tests and treatment; 162 sex workers protected from STIs and GBV; 1,000+ people with albinism protected from skin cancer and 17 received life-saving surgery; 100 people assisted to avoid substance abuse; 3 families supported with new houses and 12 with repairs; 171 people received wheelchairs or appliances; 201 people affected by epilepsy supported; 6 women affected by violence helped; 107 vulnerable families started enterprises and 8,000+ reached at rallies on health and rights.

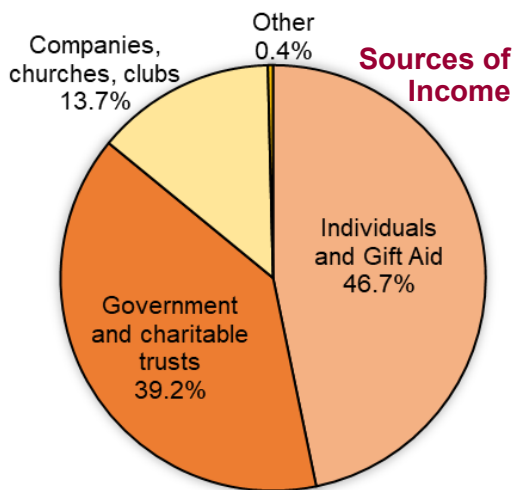
We're grateful to everyone who helped make these achievements possible including many individual and organisational supporters, towards our goal of 'better lives for the most vulnerable people in East Africa'.

Financial Review

Income

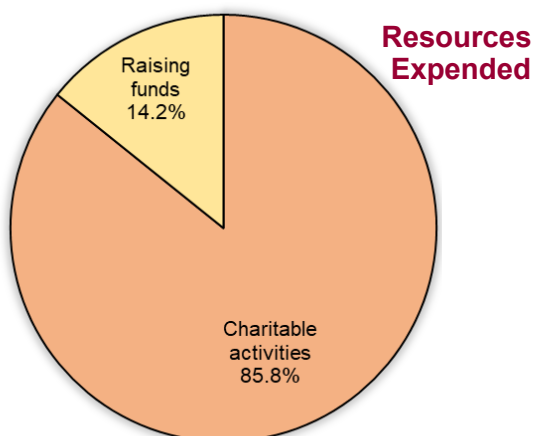
Income in 2022/23 was £333k (£276k in 2021/22). Donations from individuals remained the same at £156k and from companies and churches increased from £32k to £46k. Boosting our impact enormously, grants from government and charitable trusts increased by 75% from £75k to £131k.

We are most grateful to everyone who supported us in the year, including 136 individuals who donated monthly (137 in 2021/22). We also extend our thanks to the following organisations who donated £2k and above: Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, Clueit Foundation, British and Foreign School Society, GlobalGiving, The Reed Foundation, Sir Halley Stewart Trust, The Souter Charitable Trust, The Green Hall Foundation, The Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust, The Ulverscroft Foundation, DS Retail Contracts, Sabrefish Ltd, Ultrasun UK and The Developing World Group of Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church Harpenden. It is the policy of some organisations to remain anonymous.



Expenditure

Expenditure in 2022/23 was £303k (£311k in 2021/22) resulting in a closer balance of income and expenditure than had been possible during and following COVID-19 lockdowns. Expenditure on charitable activities decreased by 4% from £270k in 2021/22 to £260k this year and on raising funds remained relatively stable at £43k.



Reserves Policy

In order to meet commitments to partners in Africa, the Trustee-Directors aim to maintain a level of reserves that will protect the charity against any dramatic fall in unrestricted income or unexpected rise in expenditure. In keeping with this goal, our policy is for Advantage Africa's reserves to be maintained at between three to six months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure with provision for projected partner costs.

Unrestricted reserves remained compliant within the policy throughout the year, which closed with unrestricted reserves at £78k and restricted £46k (£61k and £27k in 2021/22).

Risk Management

The Trustee-Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating in Africa with few employees is exposed. Monthly Financial Reports and Risk Registers are used to monitor these.

Internal Controls

Advantage Africa's documented systems of internal financial controls protect against errors or loss. The controls include the delegation of financial authority amongst the staff and Trustee-Directors.

Trustee-Directors' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustee-Directors to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and income and expenditure by:

1. Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
2. Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Stating whether the applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operating.

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustee-Directors on 24th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Holloway, Treasurer

Charity number 1092719

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Advantage Africa

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2023 which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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 that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Susan Plumb ACA, ICAEW

Haines Watts
Old Station House
Station Approach
Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DU

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022/23 £	Total Funds 2021/22 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	190,302	141,557	331,859	262,003
Charitable activities	3	-	-	-	11,896
Trading activities	4	1,122	-	1,122	2,152
Investments		191	-	191	42
Total Income		191,615	141,557	333,172	276,093
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	43,266	-	43,266	40,530
Charitable activities	6	137,895	122,541	260,436	270,460
Total Expenditure		181,161	122,541	303,702	310,990
Net income / expenditure		10,454	19,016	29,470	(34,897)
Transfers between funds		(349)	349	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		10,105	19,365	29,470	(34,897)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		68,161	26,724	94,885	129,782
Fund Balances at 31 July 2023		78,266	46,089	124,355	94,885

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 July 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31st July 2023 £	31st July 2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	8	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Stocks	9	-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	16,014	6,297	22,311	8,946
Cash at bank and in hand	11	68,665	42,295	110,960	100,272
Total		84,679	48,592	133,271	109,218
Current Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	6,413	2,503	8,916	14,333
Net current assets		78,266	46,089	124,355	94,885
Net Assets		78,266	46,089	124,355	94,885
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted funds: general funds	13	78,266	-	78,266	68,161
Restricted funds	13	-	46,089	46,089	26,724
Total funds		78,266	46,089	124,355	94,885

For the year ended 31 July 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of Trustee-Directors:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- The Trustee-Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustee-Directors on 24th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Holloway, Treasurer

Charity number 1092719 Company Number 04388034

The notes on pages 17-24 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities). The 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), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) 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 charity's ability 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. The global financial crisis have caused significant uncertainty and made it difficult to assess the potential impact of the wider economy on the charity's operations, funding and suppliers. In particular the Trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. They have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and when reviewing the charity's financial situation in March 2024 regarded it as reasonably strong. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The following accounting policies were applied in dealing with material items:-

a) Donated and Grant Income

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income from donations includes recoverable Gift Aid which 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. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (as estimated and agreed with the donor).

b) Stocks

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Other Income

Investment income represents income generated by bank interest. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out some of its activities, 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. Income from charitable activities represents income received from consultancy which was undertaken in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred in the strategic management of the charity. Support costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity have been allocated on the basis of the percentage of staff time spent on fundraising, general community development, advocacy and campaigning and Trustee-Directors' activities.

d) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee-Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

e) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets acquired for use by the company are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated useful life unless they cost less than £500 when they are written off on purchase. The depreciation period for equipment and IT is four years.

f) Pension Costs

The company offers a defined contribution scheme for employees after three months' service.

g) Taxation

The company is a registered charity and exempt from taxation under the Income & Corporation Taxes Act.

h) Cash Flow Statement

The company has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year, in line with the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP.

2. Income from Donations and Grants

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Individuals and associated Gift Aid	135,264	20,414	155,678	121,066	34,797	155,863
Government donors and charitable trusts	40,832	89,755	130,587	15,584	58,990	74,574
Companies, churches, clubs and schools	14,206	31,388	45,594	12,733	18,833	31,566
Total	190,302	141,557	331,859	149,383	112,620	262,003

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	11,896	11,896
Total	-	-	-	-	11,896	11,896

4. Income from Trading Activities

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Sales of crafts, other items, donated goods	451	-	451	1,056	-	1,056
Other, including raffles and admission fees	671	-	671	1,096	-	1,096
Total	1,122	-	1,122	2,152	-	2,152

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Events	164	-	164	182	-	182
Appeals & newsletters	30	-	30	826	-	826
Staff costs	36,191	-	36,191	30,446	-	30,446
Other direct costs	3,709	-	3,709	3,222	-	3,222
Support costs	3,172	-	3,172	5,854	-	5,854
Total	43,266	-	43,266	40,530	-	40,530

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS						
Community development in Africa						
Staff costs	66,162	1,838	68,000	51,496	17,386	68,882
Other direct costs	3,735	762	4,497	691	3,388	4,079
Grants payable*	49,187	119,941	169,128	57,895	119,083	176,978
Support costs	6,596	-	6,596	9,830	-	9,830
Total	125,680	122,541	248,221	119,912	139,857	259,769
Governance costs						
Staff costs	3,833	-	3,833	3,579	-	3,579
Accounts and examination	1,573	-	1,573	1,200	-	1,200
Other direct costs	226	-	226	17	-	17
Support costs	-	-	-	98	-	98
Total	5,632	-	5,632	4,894	-	4,894
Advocacy/campaigns/development education						
Staff costs	5,589	-	5,589	4,501	-	4,501
Other direct costs	491	-	491	425	-	425
Support costs	503	-	503	871	-	871
Total	6,583	-	6,583	5,797	-	5,797
Total Charitable Activities	137,895	122,541	260,436	130,603	139,857	270,460

*Grants are given towards partner organisations once their work has been identified as falling within the objects and activities of Advantage Africa, and when a partnership has been built between Advantage Africa and both the partner and the beneficiary community through visits and detailed project planning. The aims and activities of the project are then defined in a formal agreement which is written, approved and signed by the partner organisation's committee and Advantage Africa's Trustee-Directors and which forms the basis for monitoring. A breakdown of grants payable is shown overleaf.

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS PAYABLE	2022/23			2021/22		
	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £
Kenya						
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation	8,276	5,186	13,462	6,612	6,499	13,111
Mitaboni Special Education Project	131	2,168	2,299	6	2,092	2,098
Thinu Special Education Project	10	1,763	1,773	-	1,854	1,854
Kenya Institute for Special Education and Partner Schools	4,418	-	4,418	5,382	-	5,382
Rescue Team for HIV & Aids	8,794	5,536	14,330	10,272	4,780	15,052
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	11,010	2,971	13,981	8,241	1,802	10,043
Subtotal	32,639	17,624	50,263	30,513	17,027	47,540
Uganda						
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	36,443	5,812	42,255	37,165	3,935	41,100
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	64,314	12,296	76,610	76,572	11,766	88,338
Subtotal	100,757	18,108	118,865	113,737	15,701	129,438
Total	133,396	35,732	169,128	144,250	32,728	176,978

7. Staff and Trustee-Directors

Staff costs for key management personnel were £45k (£43k in 2021/22). No remuneration or travel and expenses were paid to Trustees or any person connected to them in either period.

A total of £17,661 (£29,586 in 2021/22) was donated without conditions by Trustees-Directors, key management personnel and their close families.

We are grateful for the assistance of approximately 10 volunteers who contributed their time freely towards helping with fundraising applications and newsletters.

No fees (2021/22: Nil) were payable to Haines Watts, other than for the Independent Examination.

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Gross Salaries	95,234	97,331
Employer's National Insurance	4,177	4,867
Pension	4,608	4,452
Recruitment costs		758
Total	104,019	107,408
No. of staff	4	4

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60k or more in either period.

8. Tangible Assets

	Equipment and IT Total £
COST	
At 1st August 2022	5,615
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 31st July 2023	5,615
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	
At 1st August 2022	5,615
Depreciation	-
Less: Depreciation on disposals	-
At 31st July 2023	5,615
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st July 2023	-
At 31st July 2022	-

9. Stock

Sunscreen was donated by Ultrasun UK for SNUPA to distribute to people with albinism to prevent skin cancer.

		Opening Stock 1st August 2022	Received during the year	Distributed during the year	Closing Stock 31st July 2023
Sunscreen	Value, £	-	922	(922)	-
	Units (150ml)	-	1,845	(1,845)	-



10. Debtors and Prepayments

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Trade Debtors	6,009	6,927
Prepayments	-	165
Other debtors	23	-
Deposit	500	600
Concessionary loans	701	-
Tax receivable	15,078	1,254
Total	22,311	8,946

11. Cash at bank and in hand

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Bank operating accounts - UK	49,930	53,672
Bank operating accounts - Africa	3,249	9,075
Bank deposits	57,496	37,305
Petty cash	285	220
Total	110,960	100,272

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Trade Creditors	6,022	9,109
Taxation & Social Security	-	1,524
Accruals	2,894	3,700
Total	8,916	14,333

Advantage Africa's five-year lease of its UK office premises with rent payable of £600 per month ended on 17th June 2023. A five year renewal of this lease with a break clause after two years at a new rate of £500 per month was signed on 12th September 2023.

13. Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening balance 1 Aug 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2023 £
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	-	17,407	(7,018)	-	10,389
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	7,125	-	(7,118)	-	7
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya	3,525	4,000	(3,342)	-	4,183
Disability Research, Kenya	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	1,519	47,905	(36,733)	173	12,864
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	14,555	61,298	(66,690)	176	9,339
Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya	-	5,947	(1,641)	-	4,306
Total Restricted Funds	26,724	141,557	(122,542)	349	46,089
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	68,161	191,615	(181,160)	(349)	78,266
Total Unrestricted Funds	68,161	191,615	(181,160)	(349)	78,266
Total Funds	94,885	333,172	(303,702)	-	124,355

The equivalent figures for 2021/22 were as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance £
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	7,960	-	(7,960)	-	-
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	5,284	13,902	(12,061)	-	7,125
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya	-	4,775	(1,250)	-	3,525
Preventing Violence Against Women, Kenya	-	11,896	(11,896)	-	-
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	17,438	9,810	(25,729)	-	1,519
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	10,876	81,901	(78,222)	-	14,555
COVID-19 Support: Funds raised from a public appeal to meet urgent needs arising from lockdown	257	1,350	(1,607)	-	-
Other restricted purposes: Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya	250	882	(1,132)	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	42,065	124,516	(139,857)	-	26,724
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	87,717	151,577	(171,133)	-	68,161
Total Unrestricted Funds	87,717	151,577	(171,133)	-	68,161
Total Funds	129,782	276,093	(310,990)	-	94,885

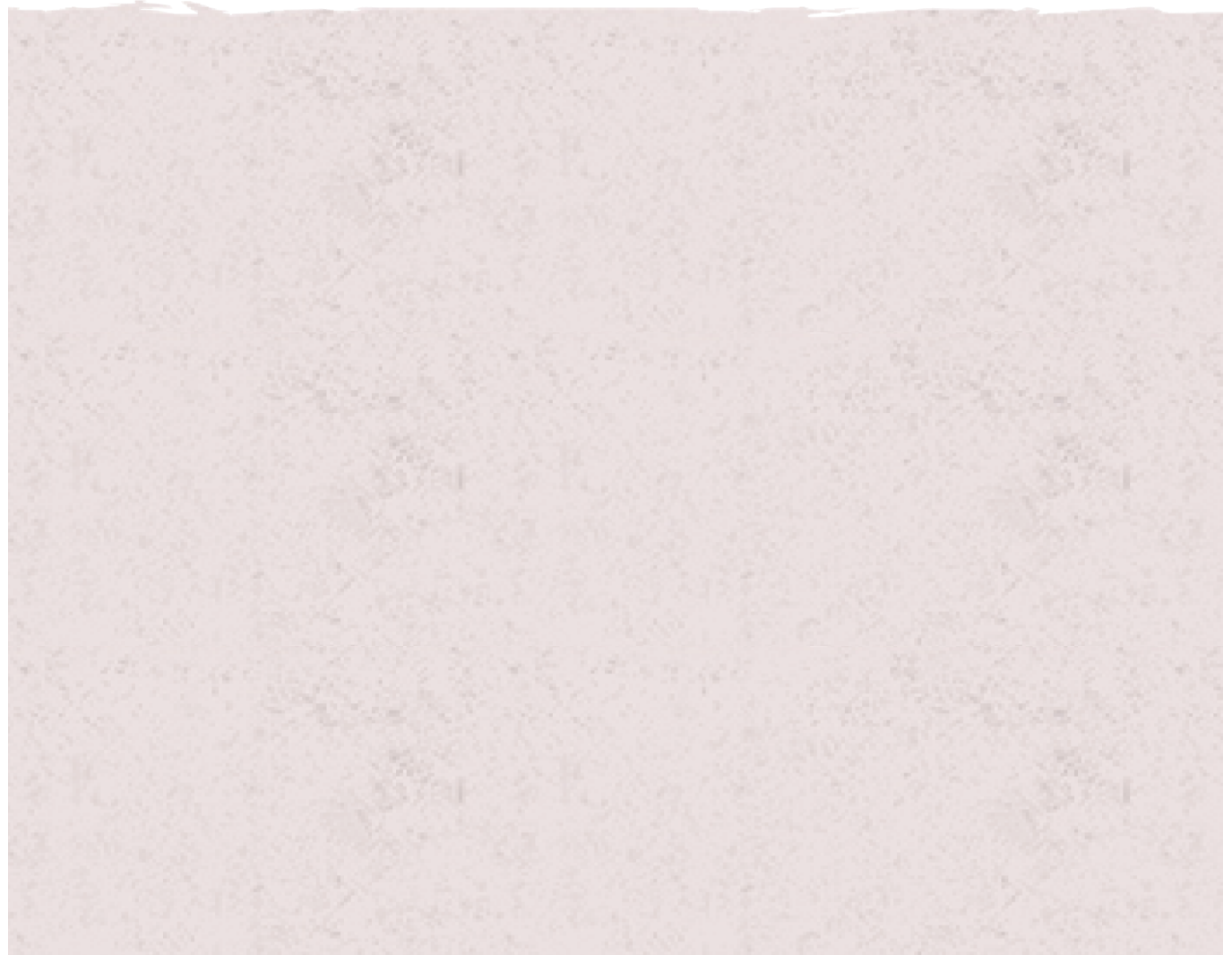
14. Net Analysis of Assets

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

	2022/23				2021/22			
	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets/ (liabilities) £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	42,295	3,794	46,089	-	30,935	(4,211)	26,724
Unrestricted funds	-	68,665	9,601	78,266	-	69,337	(1,176)	68,161
Total	-	110,960	13,395	124,355	-	100,272	(5,387)	94,885

15. Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute an amount of £10 if the charity is wound up.





Joseph, a young boy with albinism in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement, proudly holds on to his sunscreen.



Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty

www.advantageafrica.org

ADVANTAGE AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1092719

Accounts

Advantage Africa

pathways out of poverty



Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2022



In Kibwezi , Kenya, Mumbe is delighted and proud to receive her new wheelchair which will enable her to go to school.

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Advantage Africa Report and Accounts Year ended 31 July 2022

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Acronyms used

ACA	Associated Chartered Accountant
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
GBV	Gender-based violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMRC	His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAAD	International Albinism Awareness Day
ICAEW	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
KDPO	Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation
KES	Kenyan Shilling
KISE	Kenya Institute of Special Education
MWDG	Migori Women with Disabilities Group
SNUPA	Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
SPAU	Single Parents' Association of Uganda
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN	United Nations
VAT	Value Added Tax

Front cover: Members of Dwaniro's third savings and loans group keenly crowd around the laptop of our Project Manager Sarah to see the progress of their activities.

Rear cover: Some members of the SNUPA team in front of their newly-purchased vehicle.

Trustee-Directors' Report

for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Charity and Company Information

Trustee-Directors:	David Barnett Christopher Chapman Pratima Dattani George Mwaura Rebecca Sherriff (resigned 9th December 2021) Mandy Smith Sally Houghton (joined 16th September 2021)
Patrons:	Martyn Joseph Jon Snow
Company Secretary:	Andrew Betts - Executive Director
Governing Document:	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 2002
Company Registration Number:	04388034
Charity Registration Number:	1092719
Registered Office:	9 High Street Olney Buckinghamshire MK46 4EB
Telephone:	01234 711005
Email:	information@advantageafrica.org
Website:	www.advantageafrica.org
Independent Examiner:	Susan Plumb ACA Haines Watts Old Station House Newport Street Swindon Wilts SN1 3DU
Bankers:	HSBC plc 19 Midsummer Place Milton Keynes MK9 3GB

Introduction

In 2021/22 the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns, economic and political turmoil continued to be felt in our partner communities and in the UK where we raise funds. As always, this impact fell most acutely on vulnerable people affected by poverty, disability and HIV - the children, women and men who are often left behind by other agencies and governments - that Advantage Africa exists to support.

This Report and Accounts outlines how we helped improve the lives of several thousand such vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda and used our resources to fulfil that purpose.

The year began with providing emergency aid to overcome the hardships resulting from the pandemic. Then as lockdowns were lifted, we shifted our focus back to long-term development projects that enabled vulnerable people and their families to sustain their education, health and incomes in the long-term.

We're most grateful to our inspirational partner organisations and our generous and committed supporters who made the achievements in this Report possible, and brought joy and hope into poor communities across East Africa.

Thank you for making a difference.

Governance

Advantage Africa's governance is described in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustee-Directors and the current Board is shown on page two. New candidates are considered by the existing Trustee-Directors according to the match of their skills and experience to our identified needs and are given an induction during their first few meetings.

Advantage Africa's organisational policies cover all aspects of its operation including finance, employment, safeguarding and professional practice and we have a schedule for their periodic review e.g. our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually.

The Trustee-Directors meet four times a year to oversee Advantage Africa's activities and monitor progress against the objectives of our Strategic Plan. In 2021/22 three of our meetings were held remotely on Zoom instead of in our office, in line with Charity Commission guidance. At each meeting, the Trustee-Directors reviewed our impact in Kenya and Uganda, financial performance, fundraising and risk. Policies and guidelines reviewed and revised this year included those on data protection, cybersecurity, safety, equal opportunities/diversity and our rationale for taking part in research projects.

Objects of the Charity

Advantage Africa's objects, as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6th March 2002 and amended by special resolution 31st May 2002, are *'The relief of*

need, poverty, hardship and distress and the advancement of education amongst people in Africa, in particular by supporting and working with local people to develop sustainable initiatives within their own region'.

In practice, Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability, albinism and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our partnerships with local organisations in Kenya and Uganda help vulnerable people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities. Advantage Africa provides its partners with resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.

Review of Activities Oversight

The Trustee-Directors have planned and overseen the activities of the charity with regard to the Charity Commission's Good Governance Code, their guidance on 'Public Benefit', and 'Working Internationally' as well as HMRC's recommendations on 'Payments to Overseas Bodies'. Advantage Africa is also a member of the Fundraising Regulator.

Vision and Strategy

Many millions of people in East Africa continue to live in relentless poverty, excluded from the benefits of economic growth. They have been disproportionately affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising prices triggered by the war in Ukraine. Among the most vulnerable people of all are those affected by disability and HIV, often stigmatised and denied their basic human rights, causing them to lack self-worth, opportunity and hope.

Advantage Africa's vision is for such vulnerable children, women and men to be respected as equals, free from poverty, discrimination and fear, and to have appropriate education, good health and sustainable livelihoods. To this end, our current strategic goal is **'better lives for the most vulnerable children and adults in East Africa'** and our objectives towards achieving it are to:

- (1) Support the most vulnerable and excluded children, women and men to overcome poverty and meet their needs in a sustainable way.
- (2) Contribute to changing the conditions, attitudes, policies and practices that keep them in poverty.
- (3) Create a more resilient and sustainable charity.

Advantage Africa's team of four staff in the UK comprised Director Andrew Betts, Programme Managers Rob Aley (Kenya) and Jane Betts (Uganda) and Finance Manager Carole Holloway (succeeded at the end of the year by Lianne Betteridge) who all worked to fulfil these objectives.

This Review outlines some of the activities carried out and impact achieved in 2021/22. Names of some beneficiaries have been changed in order to protect their privacy.

Towards our first objective, supporting the most vulnerable people to overcome poverty, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan aims for us to **support at least eight partner organisations to provide essential services to improve the education, health and incomes of vulnerable people.**

We actually supported nine partners and also undertook work that cut across all three of these programmatic themes. These partners were:

Thinu Primary School
Mitaboni Primary School
Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE)
Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC)
Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG)
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO)
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS
Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU)
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA)

Education

Disabled Children's Education (Kenya)

This year saw the completion of our two-year pilot project to train 22 special education teachers in Kenya in how to help students with learning disabilities to transition from school to adult life.



Francis made a successful transition from school to adult life with support from his teacher Monicah (left) who received training from Advantage Africa and his grandmother (right).

The training was the first of its kind in Kenya and tackles the hitherto neglected topic of older students with learning disabilities being stuck in school with no plan for their future. The course content was designed and written by Advantage Africa in partnership with Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) - the national government body for special needs teacher training in Kenya. Through this project, an initial 20 students with learning disabilities

made a supported transition from school to home and community to start a productive adult life. During follow-up visits to families, parents and guardians expressed how the transitioning students had learnt relevant new skills, gained self-esteem and taken on new responsibilities. Families also said their attitudes to their children with learning disabilities had changed, their expectations had been exceeded and they were more positive about the future.

One such guardian, the grandmother of 22-year-old Francis (pictured below left) said: *'The school helped us so much, Francis is now rearing his sheep at home. He's happy, confident and likes what he's doing. He would not want to go back to school. He has bought himself clothes and even a phone, he gave Christmas gifts to the family! We are happy.'*

Special Education Units and Early Years Education (Kenya)

The impact of COVID-19 and the cost of living crisis continued to hamper access to education but by the end of the year our Special Education Units at Mitaboni and Thinu in Kenya were running as usual with 20 and 45 students respectively. The dedicated teachers and support staff assisted families as much as possible to meet the attendance requirements within the challenging economic environment. Their commitment and love for the pupils that they help to wash, dress, feed and educate every day is inspirational, and they always thank Advantage Africa for our support.

In May, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Thinu Special Unit and all the children who had since studied there since its construction by Advantage Africa and the community in 2012.



Defrosa Mutua, Head teacher of Thinu Special Unit shares the 10th anniversary cake with students with learning disabilities.

Our support to Rescue Team's nursery school in eastern Kenya enabled them to recover from the COVID-19 lockdowns and increase pupil numbers to 20 by the year end. We're working to develop a water catchment and vending enterprise which will help the school become self-supporting in the future.

Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation



Left and centre: Sheila and Rodah (back) bring Sarah a new bed, mattress, bedding and toilet to help with her recovery from illness. Right: Single mother Elizabeth, a skin cancer survivor, received food and soap to boost her recovery and her young family's health.

COVID-19 Relief (Kenya and Uganda)

The hardships and privations caused by lockdowns in East Africa continued into this year and challenged vulnerable people (especially those with disabilities) in our partner communities to meet their basic needs. Our individually targeted assistance to 818 people (230 in Kenya and 588 in Uganda) included urgent medical help, food parcels, hygiene kits, bedding, mattresses, disability appliances and house repairs.

Sarah (above) lives alone in Migori, in south-west Kenya, where our local partners Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG) work. Sheila from MWDG says: *'We found Sarah housebound and in pain from a severe leg infection, she was sleeping on the floor and had nobody to help her. We gave her food and arranged some medical assessments. Unfortunately, the doctors said the infection had spread through her leg and she would need an amputation. By God's will and with Advantage Africa's assistance, Sarah is now much better. Although she lost her leg, she is so thankful to be out of pain. We have renovated her house and she now has a wheelchair, toilet, bed, mattress and bedding. She's now comfortable. She says she feels blessed to have received such kindness from people who love her.'*

Reducing the Spread and Impact of HIV (Kenya and Uganda)

This year Advantage Africa assisted Rescue Team and their partners to conduct HIV testing and counselling for 1,858 people vulnerable to infection. 42 (2.3%) tested positive and almost all of them were successfully linked to antiretroviral therapy.

Our HIV prevention provided post-exposure prophylaxis to 57 clients and pre-exposure prophylaxis to 76 at risk individuals including sex workers. During the year we also distributed over 15,000 condoms and 350 HIV self-test kits.

Sex workers in Kenya are routinely exploited and stigmatised and 30% are HIV positive - the highest prevalence of any group.

In June 2022 Advantage Africa and Rescue Team started a ground-breaking new project to address this need by establishing a support network for sex workers. 12 sex workers based on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway will be trained and empowered to run the network. They will each help another 15 sex workers to protect themselves from HIV, other STIs and gender-based violence, access health services and alternative income-generating opportunities and understand their human and legal rights.

In the rural community of Buyaga, Uganda 25 single parents were trained to train others in 'Memory Work', including learning tools to support each other with will-writing, child development, relationship-building and coping with the psychological and practical impact of HIV & AIDS. HIV testing and counselling was also carried out for 150 people, including the SPAU team, as they led on dispelling stigma and anxiety surrounding HIV.



HIV testing for single parents in Buyaga.

Preventing Skin Cancer among People with Albinism (Uganda and Kenya)



Left: Two young women enjoy each others' company as they arrive at the Kamuli skin clinic. They left wearing wide-brimmed hats!
Centre: Every skin clinic starts with a warm welcome from Peter, SNUPA's Director, and the team followed by updated health training. Participants are also given the opportunity to share their pressing challenges and concerns.
Right: Following lobbying by SNUPA, children like Beth now wear hats and long-sleeved school uniform for sun protection.

In 2021/22, Advantage Africa supported its partner the Source of the Nile Union of persons with Albinism (SNUPA) to hold 45 skin clinics across the 15 districts of Busoga sub-region and neighbouring areas to enable 1,000+ people with albinism to keep safe from life-threatening skin cancer.

As well as providing crucial advice and care to protect themselves from skin cancer, people with albinism found much-needed solidarity and friendship at the clinics. The January 2022 clinics coincided with the reopening of schools in Uganda after two years' closure in the COVID-19 lockdown. People's poverty and hardship significantly worsened over the course of the pandemic and carers of children with albinism all expressed concern about being able to afford school fees and scholastic materials. Anthony, a teenager with albinism from Mayuge district told us: *'The schools are opening but we don't know what to do...schools are resuming but we don't see any hope. We need help.'* The SNUPA team supported such people in need of emergency food, shelter or counselling through our Severe Hardship Fund.



Top: Dermatologist Dr. Ngobi provides cryotherapy.
Bottom: Dr. Ngobi checks a young boy's skin.

At each clinic every participant had their skin thoroughly checked and received supplies of sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats. In total our dermatologist Dr. Ngobi and team provided 1,762 skin screenings and 830 cryotherapy treatments to remove small pre-cancerous lesions.

Sunscreen was kindly provided by Ultrasun UK. After successful negotiation with customs, a consignment of 3,036 bottles reached SNUPA to much celebration on World Cancer Day, 4th February 2022.



Albinism Project Manager Peter with Elijah after his surgery.

This year we enabled 17 people with albinism, ranging from 15 - 45 years old to have life-saving skin cancer operations, medical and nutritional care, including teenager Elijah (above). Another beneficiary, Joseph, a father of four and family breadwinner, couldn't sleep or work because of extensive cancer on his back. Following successful surgery in June 2022 he swiftly recovered. He was determined to take part in SNUPA's International Awareness Day event to share his story and help others to stay safe from skin cancer (next page). He now helps people with albinism learn how to protect themselves from the sun at SNUPA's skin clinics.



Joseph (in brown suit) takes part with great pride in the International Albinism Awareness Day march on 13th June 2022.

We expanded our work among refugees with albinism in south-western Uganda by undertaking several skin clinics in the Nakivale and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlements. As well as providing much-needed skin checks, sunscreen and protective clothing, the SNUPA team distributed food to help families with albinism facing severe malnourishment.



In Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement children with albinism sit with their siblings as they wait for their skin checks.

Building on our years of experience in Uganda, Advantage Africa began working with people with albinism in Kenya for the first time this year. We supported our partner KDPO to hold a training course for a group of 20 people with albinism in Makueni County. The training helped the group members to understand their condition and learn how to prevent cancer by protecting their skin.

Reducing Substance Abuse (Uganda)

Substance abuse affects the prospects, physical and mental health of a high proportion of the youth of Buyaga. Our response was to hold three days' drug and alcohol training for 90 people, mostly under the age of 25, in the heart of the community. They received support and advice from a psychologist and addiction professional from the Kampala Youth Recovery Foundation. Two local people, themselves

survivors of long-standing addiction, shared their stories which had a big impact on the trainees. They heard how addiction breaks down family relationships and has a detrimental effect on appetite, fertility, health and the ability to work and earn an income. As the trainees learned, chatted and ate together, strong support networks to boost their confidence and morale were created.

Shelter (Kenya)

Although shelter is a basic human right, Advantage Africa and partners often find families whose rudimentary houses are in dangerous disrepair. Floods in Migori County made the situation critical this year, damaging mud walls, and making roofs unsafe. This year we repaired, renovated or extended 8 houses in Migori and built a new house for Alice, a severely disabled woman in Kibwezi.



Top: Alice (left) in front of her dilapidated old house. Bottom: Her newly built house.

Rehabilitation Services (Kenya and Uganda)

This year in Kenya we provided wheelchairs to 170 people. KDPO achieved the incredible feat of supplying over 140 people with wheelchairs and mobility tricycles. Each client was assessed, fitted and trained in wheelchair handling and maintenance. This was all made possible through our ongoing partnership with the NGO Motivation who provided well-designed wheelchairs at minimal cost.



Our technician Nguli coordinates wheelchair assessments.

Each fitted wheelchair changes a life. It provides much more than mobility, for example by giving users the chance to attend school, get to work or even start their own small business. Beneficiaries gain self-esteem, and challenge the strong social stigma associated with disabilities in Kenya.



After receiving a wheelchair. Phoebe runs a small business.

In Migori we established a strong relationship with Nyabondo Rehabilitation Centre and together with MWDG assessed and fitted 30 people for wheelchairs, thus extending provision to west Kenya.

In addition to wheelchairs, we supplied, made or repaired another 90 disability appliances, including 30 sets of crutches. Most of the appliances were designed and custom-made in our rehabilitation workshop run by KDPO in Kibwezi.

Rehabilitation requires knowledge and skills as well as technology. In Kenya, parents of disabled children often have no understanding of the causes of disability or how to manage their children's conditions. Harmful myths and stigma leave families confused and isolated. Advantage Africa responds by supporting training workshops for parents, one of which was held in Migori for 15 parents / carers over three days in May 2022. Participants expressed how useful the training had been; One mother of a daughter with cerebral palsy told the facilitators: *'I have learnt so much about how to care for my daughter, and sharing with other parents in the same position has stopped me from feeling all alone'.*

In Uganda, the success and impact of our epilepsy training in Dwaniro last year enabled us to confidently deliver further training for 122 people affected by epilepsy in the neighbouring community of Muwanga. Over three full days the participants learnt about the causes of epilepsy, how to dispel myths and misconceptions, stay safe and manage the condition. All the trainees with epilepsy were assessed by experts from Butabika Hospital and received medication appropriate to their needs, the vast majority for the first time in their lives. We continue to monitor and assist them to ensure they can secure regular epilepsy medication and that the supportive networks set up during the course thrive.

Immediately following the epilepsy course, we held two days' training for 58 children, parents and carers affected by cerebral palsy. The training focused on rehabilitation techniques and mobility as well as effective feeding and drinking for improved health and development. The participants formed strong bonds as they learned and shared meals together.



Lunch is served during the epilepsy training.

Gender-Based Violence (Kenya)

This year Advantage Africa supported 8 women and girls who experienced violent sexual assaults, one of whom tragically died. Our past training provided for our local partners, medics and police, meant that they're knowledgeable and confident to take action when these extremely distressing incidents occur.

Advantage Africa can provide funds to partners rapidly, meaning survivors receive timely emergency treatment and psychological support. They were also assisted to seek justice through legal channels and in four cases the perpetrators remain in custody.

Irene was brought to the MWDG office with terrible injuries. Her husband and sons deserted her when he married a second wife, but later returned, demanding her house and land. When she refused they brutally attacked her, severing her hand and leaving her with awful burns to her face. After arranging emergency medical care and psychological support, MWDG reported the incident to the Migori Police and, using their legal knowledge, insisted on a proper investigation. The perpetrators were subsequently found at Irene's home and arrested by armed officers, who also recovered the land registration document in Irene's name. The men were taken into custody and await trial.



Irene was supported to recover from her terrible ordeal.

In March 2022 we concluded our 4-year collaborative project to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls with disabilities in Kenya. Working with Women Challenged to Challenge and with our consultancy input funded by UN Women, the project trained 120 women and 36 local service providers. Impressive changes in women's knowledge of their rights, confidence and willingness to act collectively to report perpetrators, pursue justice and support survivors resulted. By the project end, 20 perpetrators had been processed through the courts and 11 were sentenced. One of the trainees, Anna who is deaf said, *'I've now got much confidence. I've learnt about the steps to follow when I see violence, I don't fear, I don't get ashamed, I use my knowledge.'*

Incomes

Sustainable Enterprises for Vulnerable Families (Kenya and Uganda)

Across our partner communities in East Africa, Advantage Africa replicated its proven model of supporting vulnerable people living in poverty to start sustainable income-generating enterprises.

This year in eastern Kenya we trained 35 people in goat rearing and provided small enterprise training for 40 disabled women in the west of the country.

The first group of 20 trained in goat rearing were mostly single mothers disadvantaged by HIV, and the second group of 15 were people with disabilities in Beria village. The groups received three days' training in their local language covering topics such as disease prevention, feeding practices, breeding, security and milk sales. Each beneficiary was given two Galla goats and a water storage tank. The Galla breed is drought and disease resistant, suited for the semi-arid project location and yields plentiful milk.

Project monitoring with the first group of 20 women showed that after 6 months all 40 goats were in good health. 70% had produced at least one offspring, so the original 40 goats had multiplied to 76. Families were benefiting from at least half a litre of milk daily.



Kambua, a single mother of three now has 5 goats providing over a litre of milk a day. She says *'I never thought I would get this help to start earning an income. Now our life is better than yesterday, I know it will get even better day by day!'*

In Uganda, other socially excluded people demonstrated their ability to establish enterprises with Advantage Africa's support. Following on from two successful savings and loans groups formed in Dwaniro last year, our Project Officer Sarah trained a third group of 15 families affected by epilepsy and we provided start-up grants to start small businesses. The supportive environment of their peer group, enabled the members to encourage each other, grow in confidence and improve their respective families' well-being and self-reliance (see cover photo).

Advantage Africa and partners' deep knowledge of the communities where we work means that we're quickly able to identify individuals and families in crisis and on the edge of their ability to cope. After providing emergency support, our focus then shifts to helping them establish enterprises that provide an income stream to meet their basic needs.

An example from Uganda is 16-year old Moses and his four younger siblings who were destitute and out of school with barely any food to eat following the death of their father. Moses struggled in particular with epilepsy and daily debilitating seizures. Happily, we were able to include him in the Muwanga epilepsy training course and ensure that he accesses reliable medication to control his condition. With the children in a place to live, we worked with local community leaders to secure them a small piece of land to grow crops for themselves and sell in local markets. Sarah of SPAU, who consistently goes the extra mile to help people in need, eventually tracked down the children's paternal grandmother who was living far away on the border with Tanzania. The 'jaja' then travelled to Muwanga to live with her grandchildren - whose future now looks bright.



Moses (far right) with his grandmother and siblings.

Building Partners' Resilience and Capacity

In order to achieve our first objective of overcoming poverty for vulnerable people, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan directs us to strengthen the resilience and capacity of our partners to sustain their activities. Our two Programme Managers did this throughout the year with support towards project planning, management, monitoring and fundraising

COVID-19 travel restrictions meant that just one support visit to partners was made (to Kenya) and phone and video communications adopted during the pandemic were extensively used. Kenya Programme Manager Rob Aley's three-week visit proved invaluable in reconnecting with partners in person. Rob witnessed first-hand the multiple serious pressures on Kenyan communities caused by the after effects of COVID-19, huge price rises and

severe drought in eastern Kenya, described by the UN as the worst in 40 years.

Rob assisted partners to plan and navigate through the challenges with their ongoing programme development, planning and monitoring. He also provided training on safeguarding and helped local partners finalise their safeguarding policies.



Rodah Tembo (left) and Sheila Adoyo (right) of Migori Women with Disabilities Group with Rob Aley during his visit.

Advantage Africa continued to support SNUPA to run their office in Jinja which is a base for their outreach and a national centre for people with albinism from all over Uganda. They arrive daily seeking guidance, resources and emotional support. 21-year old John is a good example; he travelled to Jinja from western Uganda desperately seeking help for the extensive and fast-growing skin cancer around his neck. John lives a lonely life, ostracised by his family, but was welcomed at the SNUPA office as a much-valued new friend with refreshments, advice and compassionate care. Within a week we supported John with life-saving surgery and he now has hope of leading a full life. He phones Peter and other members of the SNUPA team regularly for a chat and says they have become his new family.



SNPU Director Peter with John after his life-saving surgery.

Advantage Africa's support for partner staff training enabled KDPO staff to attend two advanced courses on client assessment and wheelchair fitting during the year - an example of how we facilitate partners' working with delivery providers such as Motivation.

Another is our collaboration with the Spanish NGO Beyond Suncare and SNUPA to build the capacity of the Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism



Elizabeth, leader of the Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism, greets participants at the first skin cancer prevention training.

(EFPA) in the Bugisu sub-region of eastern Uganda. With Advantage Africa's support, the SNUPA team has grown significantly in experience and expertise by running regular skin cancer prevention services since 2016. In 2021/22, they started to mentor and support EFPA to establish their own skin clinics and train health workers, thereby reaching hundreds of new people with albinism in the region.

This year, to improve SNUPA's reach and efficiency, and with the help of two very generous donors, we supported the team to buy a robust vehicle. No longer having to resort to expensive and time-consuming vehicle hire means that SNUPA can travel much more cost-effectively and flexibly. The vehicle enables them to reach more people with albinism than ever before, as well as travel to remote, harder-to-reach areas.

The amazing skills, dedication, compassion, hard work and resilience of all our partners inspired us throughout the year. Our partnerships are seamless, and characterised by mutual learning and respect.

Changing attitudes, policies and practices

As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, Advantage Africa resumed supporting its partners to **'change the attitudes, policies and practices that keep the most vulnerable women, men and children in East Africa in poverty so they can secure their rights and meet their basic needs in a sustainable way'**. Here are some of the year's highlights:

Health Information for Youth (Kenya)

In December 2021 our partner Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS successfully completed their project to raise young people's awareness and knowledge of HIV, women's rights and gender-based violence. After comprehensive training, the group of 20 'youth ambassadors' created materials to share digitally and on social media to raise awareness and knowledge

amongst their young peers. The project targeted young people, especially women, because AIDS remains the leading cause of death and morbidity among adolescents and young adults in Kenya. Over 3,000 young people were reached through mobile phone platforms used in this project.

Burgwin Muthoka, Coordinator of Rescue Team says; *'This was a very effective project, the youth ambassadors were highly engaged, and it is actually something very new and exciting for us at Rescue Team. We're learning the power of digital technology to get our awareness messages known far and wide'*.

Advocacy on Disability and HIV (Kenya)

Our Kenyan partners are increasingly active and influential in decision making forums and advocacy events. This year we again used radio to reach large audiences with our information and advocacy messages. For example, on 3rd December 2021, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, KDPO created a radio feature as they delivered food parcels to 15 vulnerable families.

MWDG used radio broadcasts to challenge the high rates of violence against women and to explain voting rights prior to the Kenyan election.

On 1st December, World Aids Day, Rescue Team spoke on local radio during a large collaborative event held in Wote town attended by 1,500 people.

KDPO attended numerous meetings and events promoting disability rights and inclusion. Their coordinator Agnes Musembi is now the 'go-to' advocate and adviser on disability for county officials. She is also a leader in civil society forums, attending events such as a progress review of the Sustainable Development Goals, and training courses to prevent gender-based violence.

Agnes says: *'Because of KDPO, we are now one of the most advanced counties for disability participation in Kenya. And it is KDPO which is at the forefront to prevent violence against women.'*

Advocacy on Albinism (Uganda)

Due to prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns, June 13th 2022 was the first time since 2019 that SNUPA could hold a major event to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD). Although it is sometimes challenging for us to secure funding for this event, we do everything we can to do so because of the great impact it has - both on people with albinism and those who witness it in person or on television and radio.

Attendees took part in a march through the streets of Jinja which culminated in a campaigning rally attended by influential government officials. Here, calls were made for equal access to healthcare, education and incomes for people with albinism. SNUPA reported that one woman, attending IAAD for the first time, was praising God throughout the march. She said *'Before, we were hidden inside houses. Today we are marching on the streets of Jinja city. Who knew this would happen? Hallelujah!'*

During the course of IAAD, SNUPA's medical team also held a skin clinic and screened and advised 289 children and adults with albinism, 117 of whom required cryotherapy to remove pre-cancerous lesions. 549 children and adults with albinism were provided with stocks of Ultrasun sunscreen. 250 long-sleeved shirts, 300 wide-brimmed hats and 223 pairs of sunglasses were also distributed. The day was a tremendous success with hundreds of people with albinism and their families buoyed by a sense of solidarity and hope.



SNUPA team members and volunteers prepare for IAAD.

Our advocacy reached international audiences during SNUPA's visits to refugees settlements where we facilitated online meetings between refugees with albinism attending our clinics and Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond, the United Nations Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights by Persons with Albinism. Muluka was able to learn first-hand about the enormous challenges they face in accessing healthcare, education, incomes and food.

The settlements are managed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Muluka pledged to use evidence shared at the skin clinics to lobby the United Nations for improved and targeted support for refugees with albinism in Uganda.

Creating a more Resilient and Sustainable Organisation

By fulfilling this objective we aim for Advantage Africa to help vulnerable people in East Africa for many years to come. In 2021/22 it was challenging to strengthen our organisational and financial resilience when small charities faced increasing competition for funds and many needs remaining from the pandemic. We also lost a valued staff member, although we did recruit a new person to manage our finances in June.

The Director began to assess how the reliance on the charity's founders can be reduced by researching how other small charities have, and sometimes haven't, progressed from being 'founder-led'.

Advantage Africa bounced back from the withdrawal of our grant from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office for our albinism work arising from cuts to the UK aid budget. We are so grateful for the charitable trusts that provided grants to rebuild and ensure that this life-saving work did not collapse, but continued strongly this year, with impact and spend comparable to 2020/21.

Our budgeting and fundraising strategy process assisted us to maintain income to within 5% of the previous year from diverse sources.

Concluding Remarks

Despite the continued challenges of COVID-19, economic issues arising from the war in Ukraine and pressure on funding for small charities, 2021/22 was a successful year for Advantage Africa. We supported thousands of vulnerable people including:

- 85 vulnerable children (mostly with disabilities) in education; 20 successfully transitioned from school.
- 22 special needs teachers trained.
- 818 people received COVID-19 emergency relief.
- 2,141 people accessed HIV tests and treatment.
- 162 sex workers protected from STIs and GBV.
- 1,000+ people with albinism protected from skin cancer (1,762 skin checks and 830 cryotherapy treatments) and 17 received life-saving surgery.
- 90 people assisted to avoid substance abuse.
- 9 families supported with improved housing.
- 260 people received wheelchairs or appliances.
- 180 people affected by epilepsy supported.
- 73 people affected by cerebral palsy and other disabilities trained and supported.
- 128 women affected by violence supported.
- 100 vulnerable families started enterprises.
- 3,000 young people reached with health messages.
- 3,500 reached at public rallies on health and rights.

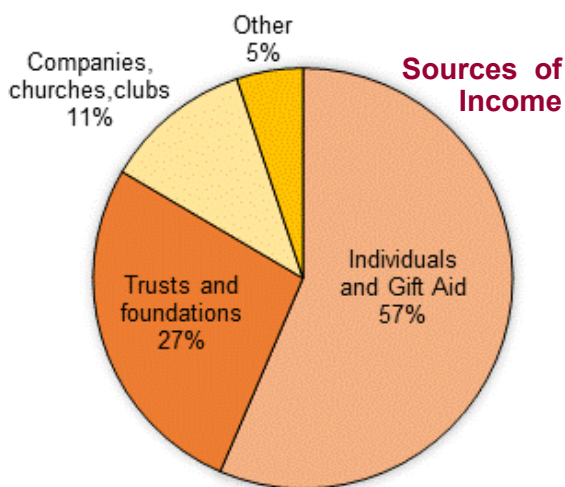
We're grateful to everyone who made these achievements possible including our many individual and organisational supporters. We look forward to 2022/23 with hope for more long-term sustainable development in our partner communities, in fulfilment of our goal of **'better lives for the most vulnerable people in East Africa'**.

Financial Review

Income

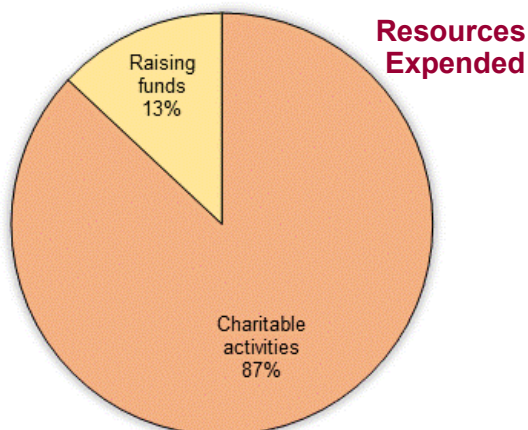
Income in 2021/22 was £276k (£290k in 2020/21). Donations from individuals reduced from the high level of last year by 15% (£156k vs £183k in 2020/21) and from non-individuals by 25% (£32k vs £43k in 2020/21). This was offset by a 27% increase in grants (£75k vs £59k in 2020/21).

We are most grateful to everyone who supported us in the year, including 137 individuals who made a monthly donation (135 in 2020/21). We also extend our thanks to the following organisations who donated £2k and over in the year: British and Foreign School Society, Evan Cornish Foundation; Let Yourself Trust; The Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust; Sabrefish Limited; Possibilities, Ultrasun UK, St Marks Overseas Aid Trust, Ashworth Charitable Trust and The Community of the Presentation Trust.



Expenditure

Expenditure in 2021/22 was £311k (£283k in 2020/21) reflecting resumed development projects following COVID-19 lockdowns and the purchase of a second-hand vehicle for SNUPA at the end of the year. Expenditure on raising funds remained stable at £41k and on charitable activities increased by 11% from £243k in 2020/21 to £270k this year.



As the large donations received at the end of 2020/21 were spent, reserves returned to within our policy. Unrestricted reserves at the end of the year were £61k (£92k at the end of 2020/21) and restricted reserves were £27k (£22k in 2020/21).

Reserves Policy

In order to meet commitments to partners in Africa, the Trustee-Directors aim to maintain a level of reserves that will protect the charity against any dramatic fall in unrestricted income or unexpected rise in expenditure. As such, our policy is for Advantage Africa's reserves to be maintained at between three to six months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure with provision for projected partner costs. Unrestricted reserves were within that range and compliant with the policy at the year end.

Risk Management

The Trustee-Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating in Africa with few employees is exposed. Monthly Financial Reports and Risk Registers are used to monitor these.

Internal Controls

Advantage Africa's documented systems of internal financial controls protect against errors or loss. The controls include the delegation of financial authority amongst the staff and Trustee-Directors.

Trustee-Directors' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustee-Directors to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and income and expenditure by:

1. Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
2. Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Stating whether the applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operating.

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustee-Directors on 8th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Pratima Dattani, Chair

Charity number 1092719
Company number 04388034

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Advantage Africa

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2022 which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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 that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Susan Plumb ACA, ICAEW
Haines Watts
Old Station House
Station Approach
Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DU

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021/22	Total Funds 2020/21
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	149,383	112,620	262,003	285,998
Charitable activities	3	-	11,896	11,896	3,739
Trading activities	4	2,152	-	2,152	333
Investments		42	-	42	97
Total Income		151,577	124,516	276,093	290,167
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	40,530	-	40,530	40,704
Charitable activities	6	130,603	139,857	270,460	242,723
Total Expenditure		171,133	139,857	310,990	283,427
Net income / expenditure		-19,556	-15,341	-34,897	6,740
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		-19,556	-15,341	-34,897	6,740
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		68,161	42,065	129,782	123,042
Fund Balances at 31 July 2022		68,161	26,724	94,885	129,782

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 July 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31st July 2022 £	31st July 2021 £
Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	8	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Stock	9	-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	5,467	3,479	8,946	2,809
Cash at bank and in hand	11	69,337	30,935	100,272	131,961
Total		74,804	34,414	109,218	134,770
Current Liabilities					
Liabilities falling due within one year	12	6,643	7,690	14,333	4,988
Net current assets		68,161	26,724	94,885	129,782
Net Assets		68,161	26,724	94,885	129,782
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted funds: general funds	13	68,161		68,161	87,717
Restricted funds	13		26,724	26,724	42,065
Total		68,161	26,724	94,885	129,782

For the year ended 31 July 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of Trustee-Directors:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- The Trustee-Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustee-Directors on 8th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Pratima Dattani, Chair

Charity number 1092719 Company Number 04388034

The notes on pages 17-24 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities). The 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), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) 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 charity's ability 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. The COVID-19 pandemic, followed by global inflation, have caused significant uncertainty and made it difficult to assess the potential impact of the wider economy on the charity's operations, funding and suppliers. In particular the Trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. They have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, when the Trustees reviewed the charity's financial situation at the AGM on 8th March 2023 it was strong, with income 36% above pro-rata budget. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The following accounting policies have been applied in dealing with material items:-

a) Donated and Grant Income

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income from donations includes recoverable Gift Aid which 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. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (as estimated and agreed with the donor).

b) Stocks

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Other Income

Investment income represents income generated by bank interest. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out some of its activities, 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. Income from charitable activities represents income received from consultancy which was undertaken in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred in the strategic management of the charity. Support costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity have been allocated on the basis of the percentage of staff time spent on fundraising, general community development, advocacy and campaigning and Trustee-Directors' activities.

d) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee-Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

e) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets acquired for use by the company are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated useful life unless they cost less than £500 when they are written off on purchase. The depreciation period for equipment and IT is four years.

f) Pension Costs

The company offers a defined contribution scheme for employees after three months' service.

g) Taxation

The company is a registered charity and exempt from taxation under the Income & Corporation Taxes Act.

h) Cash Flow Statement

The company has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year, in line with the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP.

2. Income from Donations and Grants

	2021/22			2020/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Individuals and associated Gift Aid	121,066	34,797	155,863	158,176	24,993	183,169
Government donors and charitable trusts	15,584	58,990	74,574	5,900	53,266	59,166
Companies, churches, clubs and schools	12,733	18,833	31,566	6,219	37,444	43,663
Total	149,383	112,620	262,003	170,295	115,703	285,998

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	2021/22			2020/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Consultancy	-	11,896	11,896	-	3,739	3,739
Total	-	11,896	11,896	-	3,739	3,739

4. Income from Trading Activities

	2021/22			2020/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Sales of crafts, other items, donated goods	1,056	-	1,056	137	-	137
Other, including raffles and admission fees	1,096	-	1,096	196	-	196
Total	2,152	-	2,152	333	-	333

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	2021/22			2020/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Events	182	-	182	-	-	-
Appeals & newsletters	826	-	826	811	-	811
Salaries	30,446	-	30,446	32,955	-	32,955
Other direct costs	3,222	-	3,222	2,323	-	2,323
Support costs	5,854	-	5,854	4,615	-	4,615
Total	40,530	-	40,530	40,704	-	40,704

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2021/22			2020/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS						
Community development in Africa						
Staff costs	51,496	17,386	68,882	60,742	3,620	64,362
Other direct costs	691	3,388	4,079	614	349	963
Grants payable ¹	57,895	119,083	176,978	53,347	104,830	158,177
Support costs	9,830	-	9,830	8,326	-	8,326
Total	119,912	139,857	259,769	123,029	108,799	231,828
Governance costs						
Staff costs	3,579	-	3,579	3,477	-	3,477
Accounts and examination	1,200	-	1,200	1,207	-	1,207
Other direct costs	17	-	17	13	-	13
Indirect costs	98	-	98			
Total	4,894	-	4,894	4,697	-	4,697
Advocacy/campaigns/development education						
Staff costs	4,501	-	4,501	5,062	-	5,062
Other direct costs	425	-	425	427	-	427
Support costs	871	-	871	709	-	709
Total	5,797	-	5,797	6,198	-	6,198
Combined charitable activity	130,603	139,857	270,460	133,924	108,799	242,723

¹ Grants are given towards partner organisations once their work has been identified as falling within the objects and activities of Advantage Africa, and when a partnership has been built between Advantage Africa and both the partner and the beneficiary community through visits and detailed project planning. The aims and activities of the project are then defined in a formal agreement which is written, approved and signed by the partner organisation's committee and Advantage Africa's Trustee-Directors and which forms the basis for monitoring. A breakdown of grants payable is shown overleaf.

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS PAYABLE	2021/22			2020/21		
	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £
Kenya						
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation	6,612	6,499	13,111	15,570	6,708	22,278
Mitaboni Special Education Project	6	2,092	2,098	933	1,470	2,403
Thinu Special Education Project	-	1,854	1,854	-	1,214	1,214
Kenya Institute for Special Education and Partner Schools	5,382	-	5,382	1,417	-	1,417
Rescue Team for HIV & Aids	10,272	4,780	15,052	9,553	4,215	13,768
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	8,241	1,802	10,043	2,595	560	3,155
Subtotal	30,513	17,027	47,540	30,068	14,167	44,235
Uganda						
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	37,165	3,935	41,100	38,760	3,727	42,487
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	76,572	11,766	88,338	61,544	9,911	71,455
Subtotal	113,737	15,701	129,438	100,304	13,638	113,942
Total	144,250	32,728	176,978	130,372	27,805	158,177

7. Staff and Trustee-Directors

Staff costs for key management personnel was £43k (£43k in 2020/21). No remuneration or travel and expenses were paid to Trustees or any person connected to them in either period.

A total of £29,586 (£23,043 in 2020/21) was donated without conditions by Trustees-Directors, key management personnel and their close families.

We are grateful for the assistance of approximately 10 volunteers who contributed their time freely towards helping with fundraising applications and newsletters.

No fees (2020/21: Nil) were payable to Haines Watts, other than for the Independent Examination.

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Gross Salaries	97,331	96,618
Employer's National Insurance	4,867	4,406
Pension	4,452	4,831
Recruitment costs	758	
Total	107,408	105,856
No. of staff	4	4

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

8. Tangible Assets

	Equipment and IT Total £
COST	
At 1st August 2021	5,615
Additions in year	-
Disposals in year	-
At 31st July 2022	5,615
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	
At 1st August 2021	5,615
Depreciation in year	-
Less: Depreciation on disposals	-
At 31st July 2022	5,615
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 1st August 2021	-
At 31st July 2022	-

9. Stock

Sunscreen and lip protection donated by Ultrasun UK for SNUPA to distribute among people with albinism to prevent skin cancer.

		Opening Stock 1st August 2021	Received during the year	Distributed during the year	Closing Stock 31st July 2022
Sunscreen	Value, £	-	1,653	1,653	-
	Units (250ml)		3,306	3,306	-



10. Debtors and Prepayments

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Prepayments	165	618
Accrued Income	-	507
Debtors	6,927	-
Deposit	600	600
Concessionary loans	-	-
Tax recoverable	1,254	1,084
Total	8,946	2,809

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Bank operating accounts - UK	53,672	89,252
Bank operating accounts - Africa	9,075	5,174
Bank deposits	37,305	37,262
Petty cash	220	273
Total	100,272	131,961

12. Creditors: Liabilities Falling Due within One Year

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Trade Creditors	9,109	2,049
Taxation & Social Security	1,524	1,651
Accruals	3,700	1,288
Total	14,333	4,988

As of 31 July 2022, Advantage Africa has a five-year lease of its office premises ending 17th June 2023 with rent payable of £600 per month.

The company, as a registered charity, is not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax because its income falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

13. Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening balance 1 Aug 2021	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £ 31 July 2022	Closing balance
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	7,960	-	-7,960	-	-
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	5,284	13,902	-12,061	-	7,125
Migori Women Living with Disabilities, Kenya	-	4,775	-1,250	-	3,525
Preventing Violence Against Women, Kenya	-	11,896	-11,896	-	-
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	17,438	9,810	-25,729	-	1,519
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	10,876	81,901	-78,222	-	14,555
COVID-19 Support: Funds raised from a public appeal to meet urgent needs arising from lockdown	257	1,350	-1,607	-	-
Other restricted purposes: Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya	250	882	-1,132	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	42,065	124,516	(139,857)	-	26,724
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	87,717	151,577	-171,133	-	68,161
Total Unrestricted Funds	87,717	151,577	-171,133	-	68,161
Total Funds	129,782	276,093	-310,990	-	94,885

The equivalent figures for 2020/21 were as follows:

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance £
Kibwezi Disabled Person's Organisation, Kenya	2,266	2,250	4,516	-	-
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	9,377	-	1,417	-	7,960
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	5	12,110	6,831	-	5,284
Migori Women Living with Disabilities, Kenya	-	250	250	-	-
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	24,816	26,785	34,163	-	17,438
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	-4,576	66,791	51,339	-	10,876
Education Support	438	-	438	-	-
COVID-19 Support	-1,267	7,017	5,493	-	257
Other restricted purposes	363	4,239	4,352	-	250
Total	31,422	119,442	108,799	-	42,065
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	91,620	170,725	-174,628	-	87,717
Total Unrestricted Funds	91,620	170,725	-174,628	-	87,717
Total Funds	123,042	290,167	-283,427	-	129,782

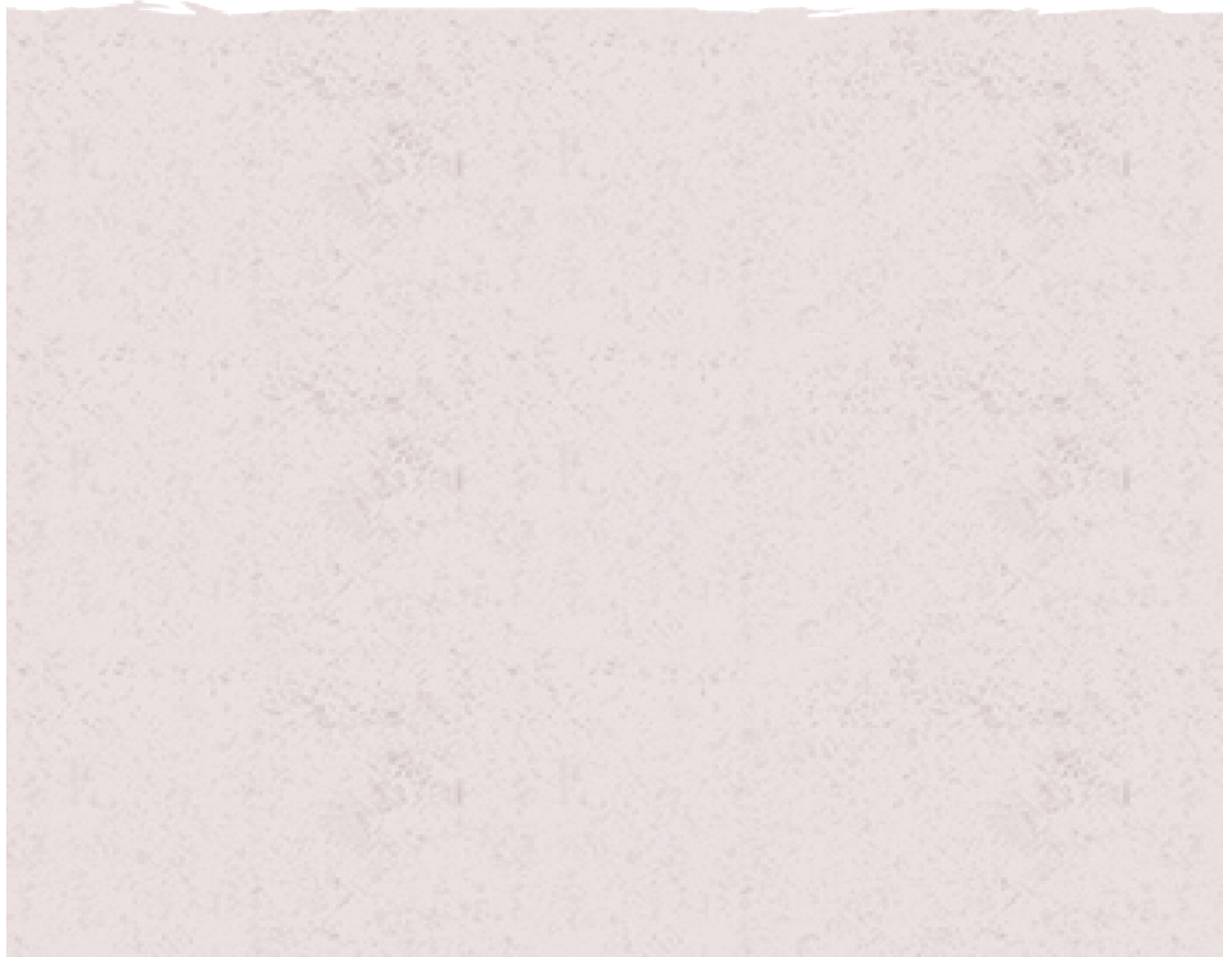
14. Net Analysis of Assets

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

	2021/22				2020/21			
	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	30,935	-4,211	26,724	-	43,252	-1,187	42,065
Unrestricted funds	-	69,337	-1,176	68,161	-	88,709	-992	87,717
Total	-	100,272	-5,387	94,885	-	131,961	-2,179	129,782

15. Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute an amount of £10 if the charity is wound up.





A mother with her child who has cerebral palsy at our training in Mwanga, Uganda.



Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty

www.advantageafrica.org

ADVANTAGE AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1092719

Accounts

Advantage Africa

pathways out of poverty



Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2021

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Advantage Africa Report and Accounts Year ended 31 July 2021

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Acronyms used

ACA	Associated Chartered Accountant
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAAD	International Albinism Awareness Day
IT	Information Technology
KDPO	Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation
KES	Kenyan Shilling
KISE	Kenya Institute of Special Education
MWDG	Migori Women with Disabilities Group
SNUPA	Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
SPAU	Single Parents' Association of Uganda
UN	United Nations
VAT	Value Added Tax
WCC	Women Challenged to Challenge

Front cover: Attendees arrive for cerebral palsy and epilepsy training in Ddwaniro.

Rear cover: Arrival of pigs in Buyaga.

Trustee-Directors' Report

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Charity and Company Information

Trustee-Directors:	David Barnett Christopher Chapman Pratima Dattani George Mwaura Rebecca Sherriff Mandy Smith
Patrons:	Martyn Joseph Jon Snow
Company Secretary:	Andrew Betts - Executive Director
Governing Document:	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 2002
Company Registration Number:	04388034
Charity Registration Number:	1092719
Registered Office:	9 High Street Olney Buckinghamshire MK46 4EB
Telephone:	01234 711005
Email:	information@advantageafrica.org
Website:	www.advantageafrica.org
Independent Examiner:	Susan Plumb ACA Haines Watts Old Station House Newport Street Swindon Wilts SN1 3DU
Bankers:	HSBC plc 19 Midsummer Place Milton Keynes MK9 3GB

Message from the Chair



The art of being resilient is to be able to withstand shock and the capacity to recover quickly. This has been a year of serious challenge and yet you will see from this Annual Report that Advantage Africa's resilience has shone through.

There has been a lot said about the impact of COVID-19 on people's lives, but if you are amongst the world's poorest and most vulnerable people this impact is unimaginable. Advantage Africa responded quickly when the needs in our partner communities increased so suddenly. It held steady when the UK government decided to withdraw key international funds at the worst possible time during a global pandemic, when the world's poorest people needed our support the most.

One definition of resilience is 'spirited' and on behalf of all the Trustee-Directors and staff we salute the spirit of our partners, all local, grassroots organisations, who against the odds, managed to reach people in the greatest need. Lives have been saved and this has required both spirit and courage.

During 2020/21, Advantage Africa's infrastructure, resources, capacity, experience, and resilience proved capable during the uncertainties presented by COVID-19. This was made possible by our highly-valued supporters, including many individuals - whose donations increased by 25% when it really was most needed. If not now, then when?

On behalf of the Trustee-Directors, I want to thank our staff who work tirelessly, passionately and selflessly, and everyone who has provided much-needed support this year in lifting spirits and never letting us doubt the need to continue the cause of justice and fairness in the world.

Pratima Dattani
Chair

Governance

Advantage Africa's governance is described in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The policy and operating decisions of Advantage Africa rest with the Trustee-Directors and the current Board is shown on page two. New candidates are considered by the existing Trustee-Directors according to the match of their skills and experience to our identified needs and are given an induction during their first few meetings.

Advantage Africa's organisational policies cover all aspects of its operation including finance, employment, safeguarding and professional practice and we have a schedule for their periodic review e.g. our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually.

The Trustee-Directors usually meet four times a year to oversee Advantage Africa's activities and monitor progress against the objectives of our Strategic Plan. In 2020/21 all meetings were held remotely on Zoom instead of in our office, in line with Charity Commission guidance. At each meeting, the Trustee-Directors reviewed the organisation's impact in Kenya and Uganda, financial performance, fundraising and risk. Policies reviewed and revised this year included those on data protection and safeguarding and new policies were introduced on risk management, travel and subsistence, whistleblowing and volunteers code of conduct.

Objects of the Charity

Advantage Africa's objects, as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6th March 2002 and amended by special resolution 31st May 2002, are *'The relief of need, poverty, hardship and distress and the advancement of education amongst people in Africa, in particular by supporting and working with local people to develop sustainable initiatives within their own region'*.

In practice, Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability (including albinism) and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our partnerships with local organisations in Kenya and Uganda help vulnerable people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities. Advantage Africa provides its partners with resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.

Review of Activities Oversight

The Trustee-Directors have planned and overseen the activities of the charity with regard to the Charity Commission's Good Governance Code, their guidance on 'Public Benefit', and 'Working Internationally' as well as HMRC's recommendations on 'Payments to Overseas Bodies'.

Vision and Strategy

Many millions of people in East Africa continue to live in relentless poverty, excluded from the benefits of economic growth and disproportionately affected by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the most vulnerable people of all are those affected by disability and HIV who are often disregarded, stigmatised and denied their basic human rights so that they lack self-worth, opportunity and hope. Advantage Africa's vision is for such vulnerable children women and men to be respected as equals, free from poverty, discrimination and fear, and to have appropriate education, good health and sustainable livelihoods. To this end, our current strategic goal is **'better lives for the most vulnerable children and adults in East Africa'** and our objectives towards achieving it are to:

- (1) Support the most vulnerable and excluded children, women and men to overcome poverty and meet their needs in a sustainable way.
- (2) Contribute to changing the conditions, attitudes, policies and practices that keep them in poverty.
- (3) Create a more resilient and sustainable charity.

Advantage Africa's team of four staff in the UK comprised Director Andrew Betts, Programme Managers Rob Aley (Kenya) and Jane Betts (Uganda) and Finance Manager Carole Holloway - who all worked to fulfil these objectives.

This Review outlines some of the activities carried out and impact achieved in 2020/21. Names of some beneficiaries have been changed in the report to protect their privacy.

Towards our first objective, supporting the most vulnerable people to overcome poverty, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan aims for us to **support at least eight partner organisations to provide essential services to improve the education, health and incomes of vulnerable people.**

We actually supported nine partners and also undertook work that cut across all three of these programmatic themes. These partners were:

Thinu Primary School
 Mitaboni Primary School
 Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE)
 Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC)
 Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG)
 Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO)
 Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS
 Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU)
 Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA)

Education

Disabled Children's Education (Kenya)

In partnership with the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE), Advantage Africa worked to ensure the successful transition of learners with intellectual disabilities from school to adult life. Despite COVID-19 related closures, we supported 22 special education teachers trained in our model of school-to-home transition to put their new knowledge and skills into practice in 20 schools throughout Kenya. This resulted in curricula focused on practical vocational skills more suited to school leavers' adult lives rather than academic rote learning. Teachers identified older students, often above traditional graduation age, who were ready to leave school and designed 'individual transition plans' with them and their families.

Advantage Africa assisted 16 students to complete successful transitions. 21 year-old Miriam, who has intellectual disabilities, was among them. She learnt animal husbandry working with the cows at her school in western Kenya and mastered the practical skills to rear her own cow at home.



Miriam learning animal husbandry skills at St. Catherine's Special School in western Kenya.

Miriam lives with her single mother, three siblings and her grandparents. Her teacher Fredrick, says *'At first the family was uncertain about this idea, but we have worked with them and now they have a very positive attitude. They can see that the grant for Miriam's cow is good for her future and that she will be contributing to the whole family by selling milk'*.

This initiative is breaking new ground for students, their families, and the education system, as it embeds transition practice into the schools' culture. The widespread challenge of being 'stuck' in school and unable to transition into adult life which faces students with intellectual disabilities in Kenya is being addressed.

Special Education Units (Kenya)

The Mitaboni and Thinu Special Units supported by Advantage Africa re-opened in early 2021 after COVID-19 lockdowns; Advantage Africa's ongoing support helped the schools to provide education and care for 50 pupils with learning disabilities. We funded much-needed renovations to the kitchen at Mitaboni, including new energy efficient cooking stoves, chimneys, roof repairs and a new window for better ventilation. Pupils and teachers celebrated with a wonderful meal and party!

While supporting some staff salaries, we also increased our efforts to gain full government support for the two special units with applications to the Kenyan Department of Special Education, which resulted in the approval of small 'top-up' grants for each school.

Early Years Education (Kenya)

Advantage Africa maintained support towards Rescue Team's nursery school in Kalulini, eastern Kenya during the year. Like all schools, the nursery was forced to close due to COVID-19 and since reopening, returning pupil numbers were low due to the economic impact of the lockdown. The reduced income from the small fees hindered progress towards local sustainability but the remaining 15 pupils are learning well and enjoying playing together again; we expect numbers to bounce back soon.

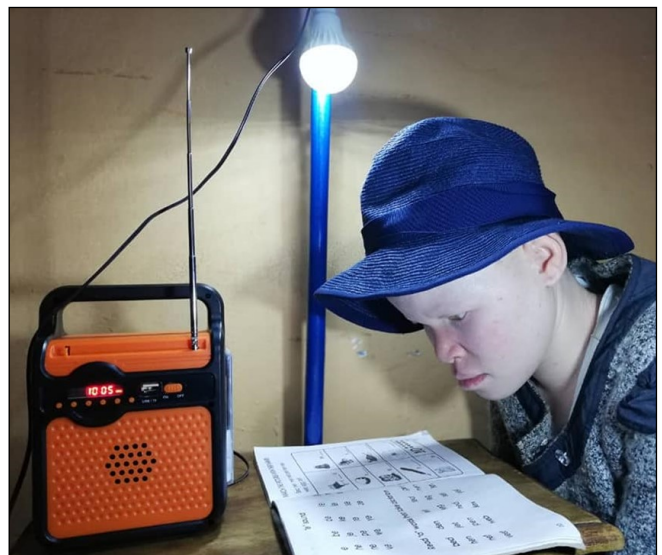


Children in Kalulini return to school after a COVID-19 closure.

Education for Children with Albinism (Uganda)

The prolonged closure of schools across East Africa due to the COVID-19 lockdown was to the enormous detriment of children from the poorest households who were unable to access national broadcasts of lessons on radio or television. These included children with albinism in Uganda who felt increasingly isolated and marginalised as they fell behind their peers and began to lose confidence. Their parents, 80% of whom are single mothers already anxious about the pandemic's impact on their families, were in despair about their children's future.

As part of our COVID-19 response to improve families' resilience during the crisis, Advantage Africa supported 90 families with children with albinism with large print educational materials and a 'solar radio set'. Each set comprised a sturdy radio, solar panel, USB phone charger, four light bulbs and a direct connection charger. The radios enabled the children to hear national educational broadcasts and the bright light enabled them to comfortably read and write despite varying levels of visual impairment. 420 of their siblings and other family members also benefited from using the radios and lights.



Gemma with her solar powered radio and light.

Fazira from SNUPA reported *'The radio sets were also used for getting updated with the daily Government guidelines to prevent COVID-19. They were a source of entertainment too. One family narrated how the solar radios have greatly reduced boredom in her family, something that reduced the risk of getting the deadly depression.'*



Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation



Distribution of food and hygiene packages to families affected by albinism during the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda.

COVID-19, and the stringent lockdowns it caused, dominated Advantage Africa's year as it devastated the livelihoods of the vulnerable people we support in East Africa. Casual work dried up, small businesses collapsed, prices escalated and people lived daily with hunger and fear for the future.

As Uganda entered a new lockdown in June and COVID-19 cases rocketed, oxygen dwindled and just 1% of its 47 million were people vaccinated, SNUPA Director Peter Ogik told us *'The situation is very horrible. People with albinism are contacting us to say they fear dying from hunger before COVID-19 kills them. I just spoke to Rose who is no longer able to sell pancakes outside the local church and has run out of food for her three young children. Yesterday they ate nothing at all and went to bed hungry.'*

A UN spokesperson reported the continent *'at a big disadvantage'* because *'African countries are still lifting people out of poverty, providing basic education and health services. Now spending and investment are drying up and that translates into distress and destitution'*.

We saw this distress and destitution in the lives of people like Rose every day throughout 2020/21 as we mobilised the resources at our disposal to meet the immediate needs of people in our projects. Our partner organisations' deep knowledge of local communities lay at the heart of this response; for example, SNUPA's skin clinics enabled them to identify individuals and families facing extreme challenges, particularly in relation to the privations of the COVID-19 lockdowns, and help them cope and get back on their feet.

Using assessment tools developed last year we identified and provided urgent assistance to 2,122 people in 355 of the most vulnerable families in our partner communities. They were supplied with maize flour, rice, beans, sugar, salt, cooking oil, paraffin and soap to help them get through the COVID-19 crisis. Additional support was provided for housing, bedding, medication and other needs via our partners' severe hardship funds.



Community leader Frank brings food and comfort to Samuel in rural Uganda.



Food distribution at Rescue Team's Resource Centre.

On top of the hunger and anxiety caused by lockdown restrictions, Anne and her sons lost their small home due to flooding and were forced to live in makeshift accommodation. Daily life was desperately hard but their spirits and morale were greatly lifted by receiving their food and hygiene package and knowing that people cared for them.

In Kenya, a further 90 families of people with disabilities benefited from food parcels provided through Advantage Africa's ongoing partnership with Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC).

After witnessing our effective food distribution work, the County Government of Makueni in eastern Kenya approved Rescue Team to supply food parcels and girls' hygiene kits worth £4,500 which reached a further 60 vulnerable households with essential support.

In addition to relief supplies, our COVID-19 response also included the provision of accurate information about the pandemic by our partners verbally within communities, by phone, on the radio and in written form. We also installed seven foot-operated handwashing stations for local medical centres and provided training in handwashing techniques to prevent disease transmission.



Demonstration of a foot-operated handwashing station in eastern Kenya.

Reducing the Spread and Impact of HIV (Kenya)

The demand for our partner Rescue Team's services in the Kibwezi community has never been greater and more crucial than during the pandemic, and we're proud to have supported them to maintain local HIV services throughout the year. 270 people (66% female and 34% male) received HIV testing and counselling and of those testing positive 92% were successfully linked to medical support and antiretroviral therapy. We also issued 319 home test kits and 10 clients were given post-exposure prophylaxis to stop the virus taking hold.

In addition, 8,500 prophylactics were distributed to prevent sexually-transmitted infections.

Regular phone calls, and visits where possible, were made to support people living with HIV, many of whom were very anxious about losing access to essential drugs and food during the lockdown. The most vulnerable families were assisted to obtain antiretrovirals and prioritised for food relief because their therapy requires good nutrition to be properly effective.

Preventing Skin Cancer among People with Albinism (Uganda)

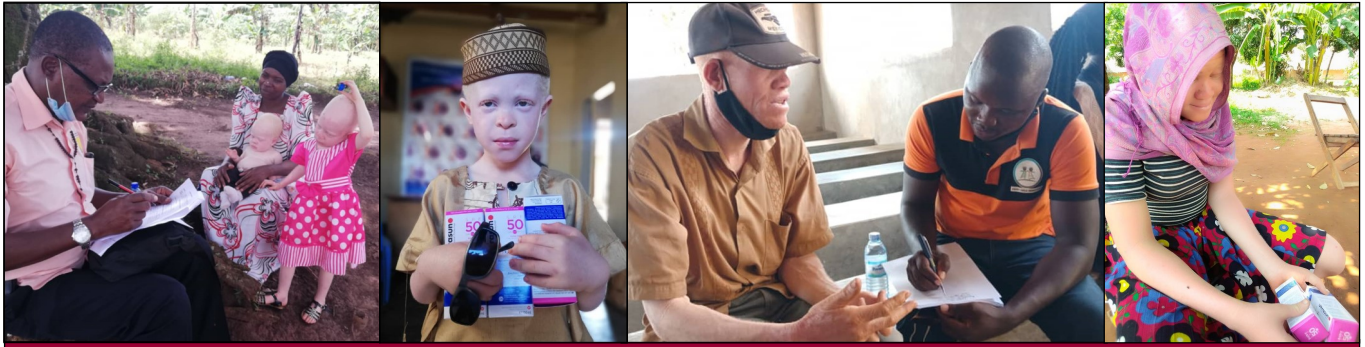
This year we supported our partner the Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA) to undertake 60 skin clinics for people with albinism across the Busoga sub-region and neighbouring districts to help them stay safe from skin cancer. Because of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on movement and gatherings, the SNUPA team obtained government permission to travel directly to people's homes to undertake many clinics rather than holding them in central locations. Our dermatologist Dr. Ngobi and his team carried out 1,591 comprehensive skin checks and each person with albinism received supplies of high sun protection factor sunscreen, wide-brimmed hats, and guidance on staying safe from the sun. In Busoga sub-region approximately 50% of people with albinism required cryotherapy to remove pre-cancerous lesions. In the newly-supported bordering districts, people's skin was in a terrible condition and as many as 80% of the skin clinic participants required cryotherapy.

A young woman called Fatiya attended November's skin clinic in Luuka District, which, due to a brief easing of restrictions on movement, took place in a centralised location. Like many other people who had received life-saving surgery supported by Advantage Africa, she has become a passionate advocate for helping people with albinism to protect themselves from skin cancer. Now a regular attendee at skin clinics, she shares her story and encourages others to take care of their skin. She told us *'I thank the people who treated me. I never thought this disease would heal. I got operated and I feel fine now!'*



Fatiya is full of joy after her skin cancer surgery.

Some children and adults with albinism, in most cases attending the clinics for the first time, already had skin cancer requiring urgent treatment. This year, following Dr. Ngobi's urgent clinic referrals, we enabled 26 people, ranging in age from seven to sixty-eight to receive life-saving skin cancer surgery and aftercare. We also supported several people with albinism who had extensive, inoperable skin cancer with palliative care. This included nutritious food, soap and bedding for improved hygiene and comfort, pain relief and clean dressings as well as regular emotional and spiritual support from SNUPA.



Skin clinics for people with albinism include advice about protective clothing, sunscreen distribution and cryotherapy.

Skin cancer treatment doesn't just benefit individuals; it affects the hopes and future prospects of whole families. Ali, who received life-saving surgery in May told us: *'I'm a single father of three, I had lost the hope of looking after my children. But now, I'm recovering well and have a lot of energy. I appreciate what you do, may God bless you abundantly. Please send my appreciation to our friends who treated me.'*

The SNUPA team were delighted to receive sun protection from Ultrason UK which arrived in Jinja on Christmas Eve 2020. The consignment contained 4,791 bottles of sunscreen and 922 tubes of lip protection, vital to protect from cheilitis (severe inflammation of the lips at risk of turning cancerous).

The borehole's establishment was accompanied by a two-day course in water management for the Buyaga community in which our trainers provided expert advice on hygiene, sanitation and long-term maintenance of the precious new water point.



Socially-distanced community water management training.



SNUPA's Director Peter Ogik with sunscreen from Ultrason

Safe Water (Uganda)

Working with the Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU) we supported the rural community of Buyaga, which previously only had polluted, inaccessible water sources, to establish a borehole in the heart of their village. The borehole was completed and providing safe water by mid-December and is making an immense difference in the lives of an estimated 1,600 people. It has dramatically reduced illnesses such as typhoid and diarrhoea, particularly dangerous for very young and older community members, and has released people from gruelling daily walks to collect water.



Borehole digging in progress at Buyaga.

Shelter (Kenya and Uganda)

Advantage Africa responded to numerous requests from the poorest families in our partner communities living in insecure and dilapidated homes and in fear of them collapsing in storms or being burgled. In Makueni County, eastern Kenya, this included new houses for four families of people with disabilities through our partner Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO).

Using local materials and artisans who often donated free labour, these homes were built for around £1,000 each so that these vulnerable families could have secure housing. For example, Ngina, a young single mother with learning disabilities and her elderly and disabled mother, were previously living in a tiny mud shack, but now have a decent home where they sleep feeling safe and peaceful.



Ngina outside her previous unsafe house, her new house and her celebration!

Across Kenya we repaired ten other homes with new roofing sheets, doors, wall and floor repairs and better wheelchair access where needed. 35 very vulnerable families with disabilities, most of whom were sleeping on the ground with rags for bedding were supported with beds, mattresses, blankets, sheets and mosquito nets. Mr Ochieng, an unemployed double amputee with health problems was one beneficiary; working with MWDG we provided him and his two children with mattresses and bedding and continue to monitor their welfare.

Rehabilitation Services (Kenya and Uganda)

We supported our partner KDPO throughout the year to provide assistive devices and physiotherapy despite COVID-19 lockdowns hampering clients' access to their rehabilitation workshop and making community outreach visits difficult. New assistive devices were made for 18 people, including crutches, special footwear and seating aids. We also funded life-changing orthopaedic surgery and physiotherapy for two children to correct clubfoot, and five clients to be fitted for prosthetic legs so that they could walk unaided, some for the first time in their lives.



8 year-old Kioni is delighted to be back at school after her treatment to correct clubfoot.

Our wheelchair programme run in partnership with the NGO Motivation took delivery of 172 robust wheelchairs, mobility tricycles and supportive seating. KDPO's assessments and fitting of these will continue throughout the rest of 2021 and 2022. Advantage Africa's disability programme in Uganda grew this year as our partner SPAU provided wheelchairs for improved mobility and independence in their project communities. Patrick in Nsangala for example was fitted with a sturdy new wheelchair which has transformed his self-reliance and inclusion in community life.



Patrick in his new wheelchair.

SPAU also organised a week-long course with experts from Butabika Hospital for people affected by epilepsy and cerebral palsy in the rural community of Ddwaniro. The training was prompted by the avoidable and tragic death of a young girl called Regina during an epileptic seizure.

The epilepsy course was attended by 79 children and adults (plus carers) who regularly experienced debilitating and sudden seizures in which they lost consciousness and were in danger of injury. The training demystified the condition and provided practical guidance on keeping people safe during seizures and helping their recovery.



Epilepsy training post-seizure recovery position.

The large attendance surprised local community leaders who had no idea that so many people, normally isolated and overlooked, had epilepsy. Single parent Alice, who had been in confusion and despair about her son's daily seizures said *'I have learnt a lot about epilepsy, no one will ever confuse me again.'*

Crucially, each attendee also received epilepsy medication to help them control their condition and a tailored schedule to ensure they had could access timely supplies in future. Out of all the attendees, 77 had never before had epilepsy medication. This included 80-year old Ronald who lost his right hand some years ago when he fell in a fire during a seizure. In the weeks following the training, most of the participants reported that they had experienced no further seizures and that the training and medication had transformed their daily lives. The cerebral palsy training was attended by 18 children and their parents, mostly single mothers. All had faced struggles, discrimination and isolation and were unsure how to help their child with cerebral palsy thrive and develop. Some lived with deep depression. Sylvia's husband left her when Joseph, now aged two was born. She told the group *'I'm tired of suffering. I cannot do anything for myself all the time I'm with Joseph and the worst thing is he cries all the time. I'm tired and desperate.'*

Children with cerebral palsy are often malnourished as they struggle to eat and drink. The training equipped the parents and carers with practical skills to improve their children's nutrition, hand/eye

coordination, seating, mobility and self-reliance. Learning and laughing together, the parents formed firm friendships and strengthened their ability to cope. Grandmother Flora who cares for her young grandson with cerebral palsy said *'We have received wonderful training which is an eye opener to all'*.

Gender-Based Violence (Kenya and Uganda)

Advantage Africa worked throughout the year to tackle gender-based violence, especially against women and girls with disabilities. We supported seven survivors of violence with medical attention, food and security for their homes together with friendship and counselling to help cope with their trauma. The incidents were reported to the police and several perpetrators arrested.

Ruth is a 21 year old mother who was brutally cut across the neck by her husband with a machete in a hideous ritual. The nerve damage meant she lost feeling in all her limbs. Advantage Africa supported Ruth's immediate hospital treatment, a safe place to recover, trauma counselling and physiotherapy using parallel bars installed at her home. Ruth is making a good recovery; she can use her arms again and walk to church. The police are pursuing the case.



Ruth practices walking again after being violently assaulted.

Our training programme in gender-based violence prevention and response for women with disabilities, local leaders, police and medics was limited by COVID-19. However, feedback from meetings we were able to hold suggested that attitudes to violence against women are changing. KDPO's Coordinator Agnes said *'It's no longer me alone that is tackling violence against our members, the women themselves are now taking action. They know what to do and they're no longer afraid to report violations'*.

Incomes



Pig rearing training in Buyaga; piglets being distributed; chicks, feeders and drinkers for poultry-rearing being unloaded.

Sustainable Enterprises for Vulnerable Families (Kenya and Uganda)

Our project, kindly supported by Noel Buxton Trust, to enable 290 vulnerable adults and children in 54 families to start sustainable enterprises from goat rearing in villages around Kibwezi was successfully concluded. In April 2021 the final 14 families in Kanyungu Village were each given four-days' training in all aspects of goat rearing, two immunised female goats and a plastic water storage tank. A male goat was provided for breeding. Subsequent support visits to the project beneficiaries showed impressive outcomes, with 98% of the goats successfully bred and producing up to three offspring each, together with milk for family nutrition and income from milk sales. As the numbers multiply, animals are sold for income or handed on to others to start new enterprises and spread the impact of the project.



Lesah at home with her water tank and some of her goats. The two original goats have since multiplied to six.

Lesah is a young deaf woman and single mother of two. She was never given a chance to go to school because of her disability, and before the project she relied upon relatives for her survival. Lesah's goats have multiplied to a herd of six and she looks after them very well by providing them with grazing and water and checking them regularly for ticks. Lesah sells over a litre of milk a day and her delighted mother says *'My girl used to do nothing, only collect water, but now I'm so happy that she is providing something for us all!'*

In Uganda we supported 135 single parent families in Buyaga with several days' training in livestock-rearing. Equipped with new animal husbandry skills, 40 families started rearing poultry, 25 raising goats and 70 looking after young pigs. All livestock were medicated and the families provided with the initial feeds needed to nurture their young stock. This was the first time any such activity had taken place in Buyaga and most of the chronically poor families had never raised livestock before.

Celia is a widow who cares for five young children. She'd been living a hand-to-mouth existence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Celia started rearing pigs through the project and formed supportive friendships. She now has new hope for the future: *'The pigs will be my source of income and help me to feed my children and pay their schooling'*.



Celia with her pigs in Buyaga.

Following the epilepsy and cerebral palsy training in Ddwaniro, we supported the participants to develop a savings and loans project to improve their self-reliance and meet their basic needs. In May, the first 15 families were trained together in small business and financial management and each received a small capital grant to start their own enterprise such as selling ghee, snacks or clothes.

Formerly vulnerable families have gained self-confidence, dignity and optimism for the future through these income-generating enterprises and their new self-reliance has been invaluable in navigating the ongoing uncertainties of COVID-19.

Building Partners' Resilience and Capacity

In order to achieve our first objective of overcoming poverty for vulnerable people, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan directs us to strengthen the resilience and capacity of our partners to sustain their activities. Our two programme managers did this throughout the year with support towards project planning, management and monitoring. COVID-19 travel restrictions prevented them from making their usual support visits to partners and compelled the adoption of phone and video communications. In some cases we provided help to upgrade partners' IT equipment and fund phone and internet credit to make constant contact possible, even in rural locations with low connectivity. More formal sessions included video training on COVID-19 (staying safe, adjusting project delivery approaches), strategies for organisational resilience and mental health awareness.

Training and assistance were also provided to build partners' fundraising capacity. For example, in Kenya we assisted Rescue Team to write applications to the International Aids Society, AstraZeneca and the Makeni County Government – which funded vital COVID-19 relief. In Uganda we supported SNUPA to secure resources for their annual public commemoration of International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) on 13th June and to successfully apply for funding from the Disability Rights Fund.

Our support for partner staff training enabled Rescue Team's Coordinator Burgwin Muthoka to continue his diploma in HIV Testing and Management and SPAU's Project Officer Sarah to deepen her theoretical and practical understanding of cerebral palsy during a week-long training course in Kiwoko hospital. The course strengthened Sarah's passion to help families affected by disability to have better lives and she can now offer technical expertise and advice across our partner communities.

Advantage Africa facilitated partners' working with delivery providers, most notably Motivation for the provision of wheelchairs in an increasing number of communities across East Africa.

The amazing capability, compassion, hard work and resilience of all our partners inspired us throughout another year dominated by COVID-19.

Changing attitudes, policies and practices

This year, Advantage Africa, its beneficiaries and partners were largely focused on dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and resuming some of the practical long-term projects that were postponed during lockdown. This has meant progress towards our goal of **'changing the attitudes, policies and practices that keep the most vulnerable women, men and children in East Africa in poverty, so that they can secure their rights and meet their basic needs in a sustainable way'** has been somewhat limited. However, some awareness raising, advocacy and campaigning has been possible and resulted in significant achievements:

Advocacy on Albinism (Uganda)

In Uganda, our solar radio distribution enabled our partner SNUPA to interview a sample of families about the impact of the project on the children's education, mental health and daily lives. The compelling evidence collected from this survey was shared with local and national government to advocate for the inclusion of vulnerable groups and highlight gaps in the pandemic response. Such evidence gathering and advocacy was not restricted to the radio project; every practical activity we undertake with SNUPA highlights the immense challenges faced by people with albinism. For example, all skin clinics are authorised by district health authorities and witnessed by local government representatives who go on to become advocates in our call for changed national policy and practice. Each skin cancer operation we support makes allies of surgical teams in addressing the needless early deaths faced by people with albinism across Uganda.



Hasifa, councillor and SNUPA representative speaking at the 2021 commemoration of IAAD.

We also supported SNUPA to mark International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) under the 2021 theme 'Strength Beyond All Odds'. This year their event was live-streamed on Facebook to highlight the challenges facing people with albinism, and called for their full inclusion in COVID-19 emergency relief.



The group of 20 'Youth Ambassadors' after their training.

Health Information for Young People (Kenya)

In Kenya, we began an innovative new digital information project with our local partner Rescue Team in collaboration with ten local youth groups. The project aims to increase understanding of young people's health and development issues by creating and sharing reliable information using mobile phones. Mobiles, alongside social media and virtual groups, are increasingly popular among young people and their use enabled vital health information to be shared while more traditional face-to-face meetings were banned due to COVID-19.

The project began with five days' training for 20 'Youth Ambassadors' on HIV & AIDS, women's rights, gender-based violence and sexual / reproductive health. Participants rated the training as 'excellent' overall, and Emmah of Malavu Jamii Youth Group said: *'I wish we could stay even more, I have learned so many things I never knew'*. The youth groups are now developing creative and entertaining content including drama and animations to share and ultimately reach thousands of young people with potentially life-saving messages.

Preventing HIV and Gender-based Violence (Kenya)

On World AIDS Day on December 1st 2020, Kenya's COVID-19 restrictions precluded the large gatherings which traditionally mark the event. We therefore supported our partner Rescue Team to communicate HIV prevention messages to a mass audience by inviting radio journalists to cover some of their visits to the homes of people living with HIV. Burgwin Muthoka, Co-ordinator of Rescue Team says, *'This was effective in reaching the general public with awareness, advice and information. It got the voice of people living with HIV on the radio in their local language, and they were very open about their HIV status. ENE Radio has over 100,000 listeners in Makueni County so the impact was wide-reaching'*.

As part of our work to tackle violence against women, we supported the drama group Twaweza to produce video clips to share on social media and KDPO and MWDG to appear on four local FM radio stations, overall reaching an estimated 1.4 million listeners in western and eastern Kenya. The information and advice they provided about women's rights and gender-based violence resulted in many women subsequently contacting them for further guidance and support.



MWDG broadcast about violence against women on local radio 'Milambo' in western Kenya.

Creating a more Resilient and Sustainable Organisation

By fulfilling this objective we aim to ensure that Advantage Africa is able to thrive and help vulnerable people in East Africa for many years to come. Unfortunately it has not been easy to strengthen our organisational and financial resilience during such a difficult climate for small charities that includes increasing competition for funds and overwhelming need presented by the pandemic across the world.

However, we did try to strengthen our team this year by approaching a major donor to fund a dedicated project manager to advance our ground-breaking albinism work in Uganda and beyond. Regrettably, despite significant interest being shown, the initiative did not quite fit with the preferred model of the donor. This leaves us with unfilled potential in that area of work and a continued reliance on the charity's founders that sometimes makes it challenging to operate within the reasonable means of our human resources; a future issue to be addressed.

Advantage Africa's albinism work, and our charity's financial stability, also experienced a massive setback with the withdrawal (after it was due to start) of a major grant from the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) for our planned project 'Leaving No Person with Albinism Behind in Uganda' caused by cuts to the UK aid budget. The withdrawal had an immediate impact on 1,000 people with albinism and their family members and a loss of funding to Advantage Africa of approximately £80k per year for the next three years. We spent well over 800 person hours on the application, due diligence and grant set-up processes, at immense cost to our organisation and staff well-being and the withdrawal left us with very little secure funding for our albinism work. We were left in a worse financial position than if we had never applied, at a time when charitable trusts were reporting a three-fold increase in the applications received from charities.

It is a testament to Advantage Africa's financial resilience and the loyalty of our supporters that by the end of the year we had a firm financial commitment from our partner Ultrasun UK to support one crucial element of this project and several trusts had provided grants to mitigate a small part of the first year loss. This ensured that our albinism work would not collapse, and could continue to change many lives; for this we are most grateful.

We fulfilled our goals to make better use of volunteers in our fundraising, strengthen our systems and implement our fundraising strategy by maintaining a diversity of income sources. These activities will be increasingly important in the coming years as the economic and political climate, combined with COVID-19 is not always favourable to our focus on reaching the most vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda.

Concluding Remarks

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 wreaking havoc in our partner communities, bans on travel to East Africa, the withdrawal of a major grant from the FCDO and increasing competition for funds among charities, 2020/21 was a successful year for Advantage Africa. We supported thousands of vulnerable people to improve their lives, including:

- 50 children with disabilities in education and a further 16 made successful transitions from school.
- 22 special education teachers trained.
- Up to 70 children in early years education.
- 420 people benefitting from solar radios/lights.
- 2,122 people received vital COVID-19 crisis relief.
- 270 people had HIV testing and counselling.
- 1,000 people with albinism protected from life-threatening skin cancer, including 26 with surgery.
- 1,600 people accessing safe water.
- 49 families supported with new or improved housing and other welfare.
- 50 children, women and men provided with mobility aids, wheelchairs or corrective surgery.
- 79 people with epilepsy and their carers trained in managing their condition and accessing medication.
- 7 survivors of gender-based violence helped to recover from trauma.
- 204 families (over 1,000 people) assisted to start sustainable enterprises to overcome poverty.
- Over a million people reached with advocacy and campaigning on behalf of vulnerable people.

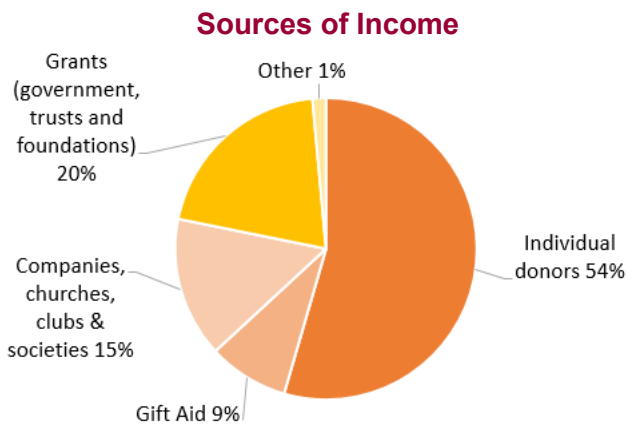
We're grateful to everyone who made this possible including our many individual and organisational supporters. We look forward to 2021/22 with hope that there will be less need for COVID-19 relief and more long-term sustainable development in our partner communities, in fulfilment of our goal of **'better lives for the most vulnerable people in East Africa'**.



Financial Review

Income

Income in 2020/21 was £290k (£282k in 2019/20). Donations from individuals were 25% higher than the previous year (£183k vs £147k in 2019/20) and we also had an increase in donations from non-individuals (£44k vs £37k in 2019/20). This helped offset a significant fall in grants from government, trusts and foundations (£59k vs £95k in 2019/20).



We are very grateful to all the individuals who supported us in the year, including 135 supporters who make a regular monthly donation (126 in 2019/20). There were a lower number of individual supporters making donations in the year (278 vs 319 in 2019/20) but one of these donated over £30k in July, leaving our unrestricted reserves in a stronger position than anticipated at the year end. These unrestricted reserves have given us a solid start to 2021/22 even though fundraising from government, trusts and foundations has become increasingly challenging.

We are also grateful for the support from the below government organisations, trusts, foundations and companies from whom we received donations of £2k and over in the year:

- Church of Christ the Cornerstone
- Coles-Medlock Foundation
- Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission
- Let Yourself Trust
- Mercury Phoenix Trust
- The Community of the Presentation Trust
- The Green Hall Foundation
- Ultrasun (UK) Ltd
- World Day of Prayer

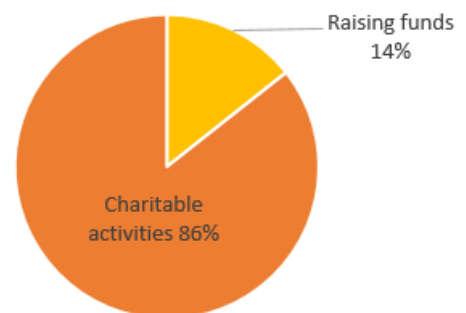
£15k of the £34k grants from trusts and foundations was received in the last month of the year, also strengthening the foundation of our work into 2021/22.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year was £283k (£273k in 2019/20). The higher spend on charitable activities (£243k vs £231k in 2019/20) reflects the partially-resumed programmes delayed in 2019/20 by the COVID-19 lockdowns in Kenya and Uganda. These lockdowns continued to varying degrees in both countries throughout the year, and with them the need for spending on urgent food and hygiene packages.

Expenditure on raising funds decreased slightly to £41k from £42k in 2020/21 (14% vs 16% in 2019/20). There were no public fundraising events held in the year by Advantage Africa or our supporters due to the continued difficulties in safely organising activities involving large groups. We planned to have runners in both the London Marathon and the Great North Run but the places were all deferred until 2021/22.

Resources Expended



Total reserves increased significantly in the last month of the year due to the two donations previously mentioned (£30k unrestricted and £15k restricted).

Restricted reserves at the end of the year were £42k (£31k at the end of 2019/20), and unrestricted reserves were £88k (£92k in 2019/20).



COVID-19 Impact

The urgent needs triggered by COVID-19 restrictions continued in 2020/21 and we supported 355 of the most vulnerable families with food and hygiene packages. We also enabled individuals to access vital medical treatment, funded handwashing stations, educational resources, and in some cases provided shelter and bedding. This was funded by both restricted (£12k) and unrestricted (£10k) funds:

	No. of Families Supported	No. of People Supported	Total £
Kenya: COVID-19 Support			
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS	40	405	2,966
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation	48	355	5,355
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	15	52	2,450
Subtotal	103	812	10,771
Uganda: COVID-19 Support			
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	117	752	7,667
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	135	558	4,811
Subtotal	252	1,310	12,478
Total	355	2,122	23,249
Funded by			
COVID-19 Appeal			5,493
Other restricted funds donated by trusts			6,818
Unrestricted funds			10,939
Total			23,249



Emelda, who was left disabled after being hit by a motorbike, receives emergency food from Shelia and Rodah of MWDC.

Conscious of the need to protect each other and their families, three of Advantage Africa's four staff continued to work fully or partially from home throughout the year and our weekly team meetings took place on Zoom or outdoors when the weather allowed. One meeting was dedicated to supporting the team's mental health.

Low staff numbers and an increased need for staff members' time during the pandemic arising from partners and for fundraising meant that we did not put any staff on furlough.

Income was adversely affected during the year due to the withdrawal of the strategically important FCDO grant (as mentioned in the Review of Activities). Applications to trusts and foundations were also much more competitive and harder to obtain than in previous years, something that has been felt by the whole charitable sector. Throughout the year however, our long-term relationships proved to be invaluable, both with individual donors and trusts that have followed and supported our work in previous years. As a result, the gap created by lower grant income was partially offset by an increase in donations from individuals.

Throughout the pandemic, reserves levels were carefully monitored with the Finance Sub-Committee (consisting of two staff members and three Trustee-Directors) meeting online each month and paying particular attention to unrestricted reserves. The need to use funds to support the most vulnerable was balanced with that of managing risk within agreed levels, ensuring that Advantage Africa remains a going concern.

Reserves Policy

In order to meet commitments to partners in Africa, the Trustee-Directors aim to maintain a level of reserves that will protect the charity against any dramatic fall in unrestricted income or unexpected rise in expenditure. The reserves policy was reviewed by Trustee-Directors during 2020/21 and amended to consider that Advantage Africa's reserves should be maintained at between three to six months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure with provision for projected partner costs. At the year end, the unrestricted reserves were within the range that is compliant with this policy.

Risk Management

The Trustee-Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating in Africa with few employees is exposed. Financial Management Reports and a Risk Register are used to identify and monitor these risks monthly.

Internal Controls

Advantage Africa's documented systems of internal financial controls protect against errors or loss. The controls include the delegation of financial authority amongst the staff and Trustee-Directors.

Trustee-Directors' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustee-Directors to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and income and expenditure by:

1. Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
2. Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Stating whether the applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operating.

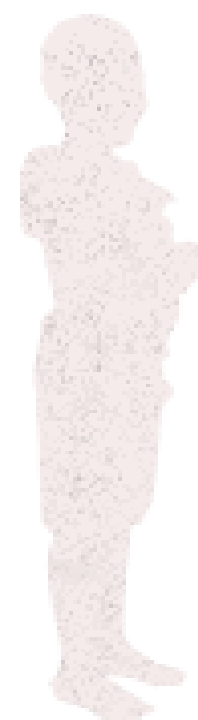
We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustee-Directors on 9th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Pratima Dattani, Chair

Charity number 1092719
Company number 04388034



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Advantage Africa

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2021 which are set out on pages 19 to 28.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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 that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Susan Plumb ACA, ICAEW
Haines Watts
Old Station House
Station Approach
Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DU

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020/21 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	170,295	115,703	285,998	279,086
Charitable activities	3	-	3,739	3,739	2,678
Trading activities	4	333	-	333	191
Investments		97	-	97	442
Total Income		170,725	119,442	290,167	282,397
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	40,704	-	40,704	42,380
Charitable activities	6	133,924	108,799	242,723	230,882
Total Expenditure		174,628	108,799	283,427	273,262
Net income/(expenditure)		-3,903	10,643	6,740	9,135
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		-3,903	10,643	6,740	9,135
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		91,620	31,422	123,042	113,907
Fund Balances at 31 July 2021		87,717	42,065	129,782	123,042

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 July 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31st July 2021 £	31st July 2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	8	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Stock	9	-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	2,659	150	2,809	8,784
Cash at bank and in hand	11	88,709	43,252	131,961	118,366
Total		91,368	43,402	134,770	127,150
Current Liabilities					
Liabilities falling due within one year	12	3,651	1,337	4,988	4,108
Net current assets		87,717	42,065	129,782	123,042
Net Assets		87,717	42,065	129,782	123,042
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted funds: general funds	13	87,717	-	87,717	91,620
Restricted funds	13	-	42,065	42,065	31,422
Total		87,717	42,065	129,782	123,042

For the year ended 31 July 2021, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of Trustee-Directors:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- The Trustee-Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustee-Directors on 9th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Pratima Dattani, Chair

Charity number 1092719 Company Number 4388034

The notes on pages 21-28 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities). The 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), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) 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. The COVID-19 pandemic is a significant economic event for the world and has caused unprecedented uncertainty. It is therefore difficult to evaluate all the potential implications and outcomes to the wider economy and the charity's operations, funding and suppliers. In particular the Trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. They 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. The following accounting policies have been applied in dealing with material items:-

a) Donated and Grant Income

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income from donations includes recoverable Gift Aid which 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. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (as estimated and agreed with the donor).

b) Stocks

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Other Income

Investment income represents income generated by bank interest. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out some of its activities, 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. Income from charitable activities represents income received from consultancy which was undertaken in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred in the strategic management of the charity. Support costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity have been allocated on the basis of the percentage of staff time spent on fundraising, general community development, advocacy and campaigning and Trustee-Directors' activities.

d) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee-Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

e) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets acquired for use by the company are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated useful life unless they cost less than £500 when they are written off on purchase. The depreciation period for equipment and IT is four years.

f) Pension Costs

The company offers a defined contribution scheme for employees after three months' service.

g) Taxation

The company is a registered charity and exempt from taxation under the Income & Corporation Taxes Act.

h) Cash Flow Statement

The company has taken advantage of the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP and has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year.

2. Income from Donations and Grants

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Individuals and associated Gift Aid	158,176	24,993	183,169	113,982	32,856	146,838
Government donors and charitable trusts	5,900	53,266	59,166	26,200	68,643	94,843
Churches, clubs, companies and schools	6,219	37,444	43,663	8,557	28,848	37,405
Total	170,295	115,703	285,998	148,739	130,347	279,086

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Consultancy	-	3,739	3,739	-	2,678	2,678
Total	-	3,739	3,739	-	2,678	2,678

4. Income from Trading Activities

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Sales of crafts and other items	137	-	137	39	-	39
Other, including raffles, admission fees and sales of donated goods	196	-	196	152	-	152
Total	333	-	333	191	-	191

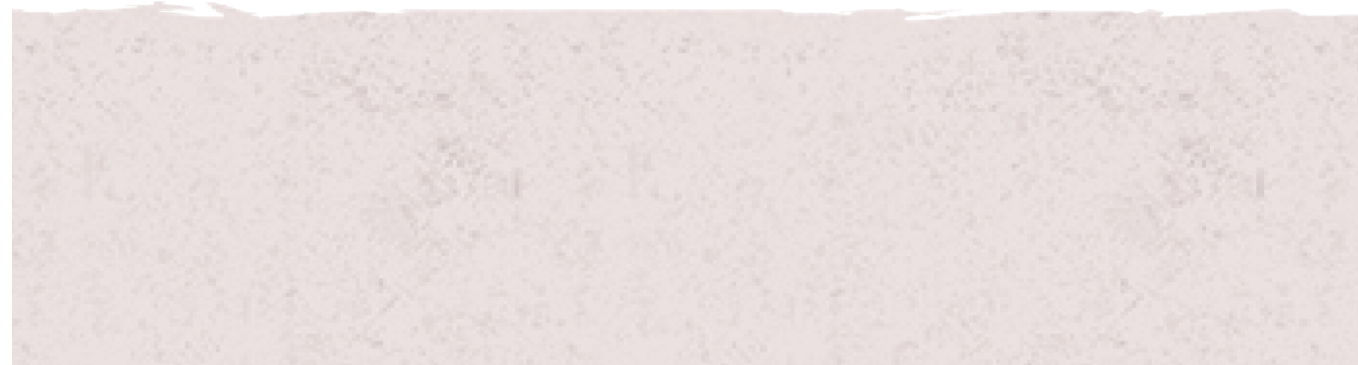
5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Events	-	-	-	638	-	638
Appeals & newsletters	811	-	811	1,744	-	1,744
Salaries	32,955	-	32,955	32,905	-	32,905
Other direct costs	2,323	-	2,323	2,503	-	2,503
Support costs	4,615	-	4,615	4,590	-	4,590
Total	40,704	-	40,704	42,380	-	42,380

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS						
Community development in Africa						
Salaries	60,742	3,620	64,362	60,383	3,688	64,071
Other direct costs	614	349	963	883	2,560	3,443
Grants payable ¹	53,347	104,830	158,177	31,218	111,687	142,905
Support costs	8,326	-	8,326	9,247	-	9,247
Total	123,029	108,799	231,828	101,731	117,935	219,666
Governance costs						
Salaries	3,477	-	3,477	3,365	-	3,365
Accounts and examination	1,207	-	1,207	1,200	-	1,200
Other direct costs	13	-	13	185	-	185
Total	4,697	-	4,697	4,750	-	4,750
Advocacy/campaigns/development education						
Salaries	5,062	-	5,062	5,087	-	5,087
Other direct costs	427	-	427	669	-	669
Support costs	709	-	709	710	-	710
Total	6,198	-	6,198	6,466	-	6,466
Combined charitable activity	133,924	108,799	242,723	112,947	117,935	230,882

¹ Grants are given towards partner organisations once their work has been identified as falling within the objects and activities of Advantage Africa, and when a partnership has been built between Advantage Africa and both the partner and the beneficiary community through visits and detailed project planning. The aims and activities of the project are then defined in a formal agreement which is written, approved and signed by the partner organisation's committee and Advantage Africa's Trustee-Directors and which forms the basis for monitoring. A breakdown of grants payable is shown overleaf.



BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS PAYABLE

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £
Kenya						
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation ¹	15,570	6,708	22,278	14,047	7,565	21,612
Mitaboni Special Education Project	933	1,470	2,403	80	1,570	1,650
Thinu Special Education Project	-	1,214	1,214	378	643	1,021
Kenya Institute for Special Education	1,417	-	1,417	2,373	-	2,373
Rescue Team for HIV & Aids	9,553	4,215	13,768	5,818	4,392	10,210
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	2,595	560	3,155	2,621	275	2,896
Subtotal	30,068	14,167	44,235	25,317	14,445	39,762
Uganda						
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	38,760	3,727	42,487	27,971	3,538	31,509
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	61,544	9,911	71,455	63,586	8,048	71,634
Subtotal	100,304	13,638	113,942	91,557	11,586	103,143
Total	130,372	27,805	158,177	116,874	26,031	142,905

¹ Within grants payable to KDPO is £2,974 paid to Motivation Kenya for import duties on 172 mobility aids distributed by KDPO.

7. Staff and Trustee-Directors

Remuneration paid to key management personnel was £43k (£43k in 2019/20). No remuneration or travel and expenses were paid to Trustees or any person connected to them in either period.

A total of £23,043 (£18,713 in 2019/20) was donated without conditions by Trustees-Directors, key management personnel and their close families.

We are grateful for the assistance of approximately 5 volunteers who contributed their time freely towards helping with fundraising applications and newsletters.

No fees (2019/20: Nil) were payable to Haines Watts, other than for the Independent Examination.

Staff costs were as follows:

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Gross Salaries	96,618	95,351
Employer's National Insurance	4,406	5,309
Pension	4,831	4,768
Total	105,856	105,428
No. of staff	4	4

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

8. Tangible Assets

	Equipment and IT Total £
COST	
At 1st August 2020	5,615
Additions in year	-
Disposals in year	-
At 31st July 2021	5,615
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	
At 1st August 2020	5,615
Depreciation in year	-
Less: Depreciation on disposals	-
At 31st July 2021	5,615
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 1st August 2020	-
At 31st July 2021	-

9. Stock

Sunscreen and lip protection donated by Ultrasun UK for SNUPA to distribute among people with albinism to prevent skin cancer.

		Opening Stock 1st August 2020	Received during the year	Distributed during the year	Closing Stock 31st July 2021
Sunscreen	Value, £	-	2,396	2,396	-
	Units (150ml)	-	4,791	4,791	-
Lip Protection	Value, £	-	461	461	-
	Units (4.8g)	-	922	922	-



10. Debtors and Prepayments

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Prepayments	618	805
Accrued Income	507	5,816
Debtors	-	17
Deposit	600	600
Concessionary loans	-	250
Tax recoverable	1,084	1,295
Total	2,809	8,783

Concessionary loans in 2019/20 comprised a loan of KES 60,000 (£486) made to an individual, enabling them to manage a partner organisation without hindrance. The loan was repaid in instalments in 2020/21.

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Bank operating accounts - UK	89,252	40,330
Bank operating accounts - Africa	5,174	5,566
Bank deposits	37,262	72,164
Petty cash	273	306
Total	131,961	118,366

12. Creditors: Liabilities Falling Due within One Year

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Trade Creditors	2,049	728
Taxation & Social Security	1,651	1,582
Accruals	1,288	1,798
Total	4,988	4,108

As of 31 July 2021, Advantage Africa has a five-year lease of its office premises ending 17th June 2023 with rent payable of £600 per month.

13. Funds

The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance £
Kibwezi Disabled Person's Organisation, Kenya	2,266	2,250	4,516	-	-
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	9,377	-	1,417	-	7,960
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	5	12,110	6,831	-	5,284
Migori Women Living with Disabilities, Kenya	-	250	250	-	-
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	24,816	26,785	34,163	-	17,438
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	-4,576	66,791	51,339	-	10,876
IT Development	-	-	-	-	-
Education Support ¹	438	-	438	-	-
COVID-19 Support ²	-1,267	7,017	5,493	-	257
Other restricted purposes ³	363	4,239	4,352	-	250
Total	31,422	119,442	108,799	-	42,065

¹ The Education Support fund was created in 2019/20 using funds donated in memory of Rosemary Reeder. As well as being a supporter of Advantage Africa, Rosemary was a teacher and so it was requested that the fund be spent in support of education. The remaining funds were spent in 2020/21.

² The COVID-19 Support fund encompasses donations from Advantage Africa's COVID-19 appeal.

³ Other restricted purposes includes our project with Women Challenged to Challenge to protect women with disabilities from sexual violence and support for Mitaboni and Thinu schools in Kenya.

All restricted funds have been spent in accordance with the restrictions placed on them by the donor. Further details of restricted funds are contained throughout the accounts.

The equivalent figures for 2019/20 were as follows:

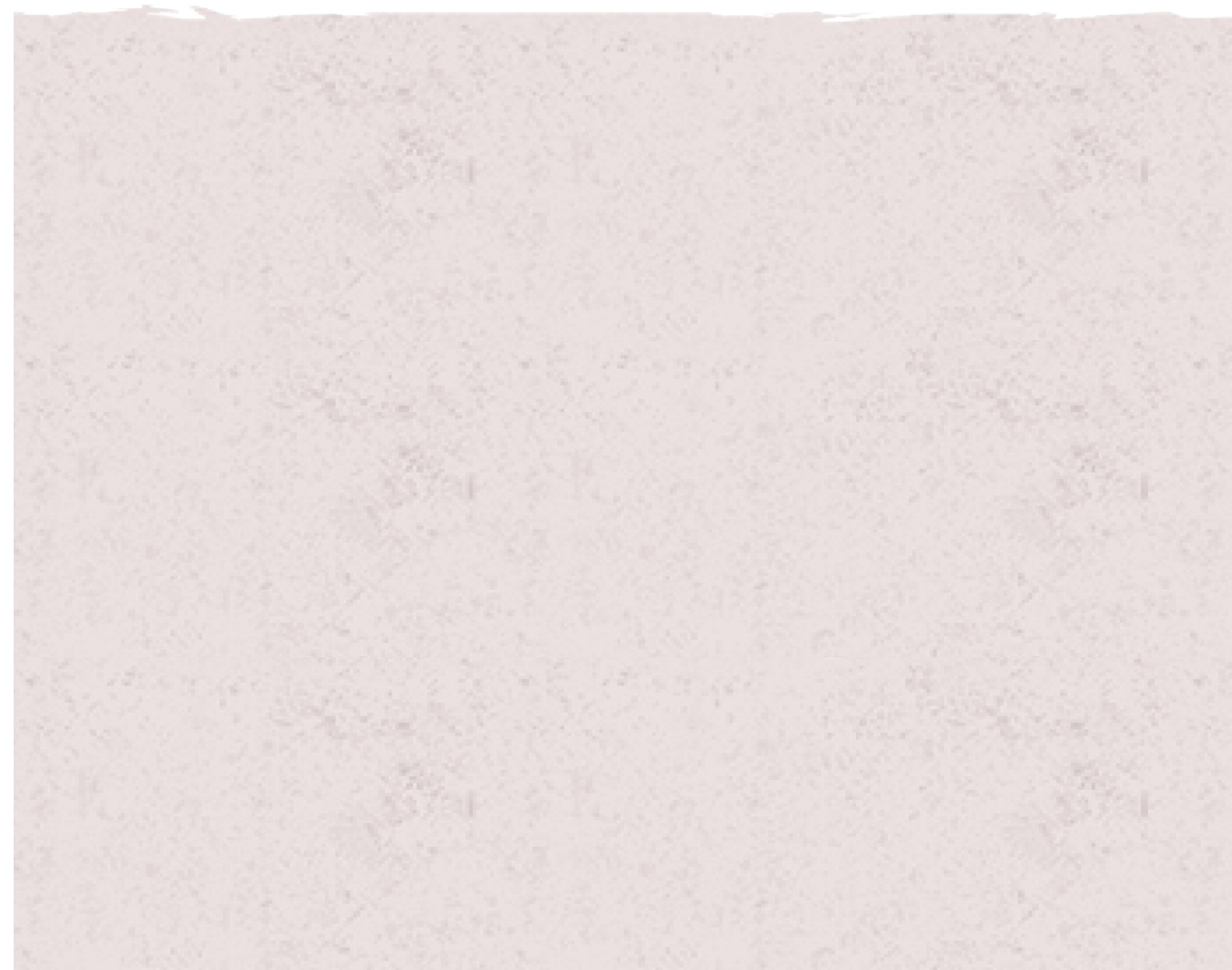
	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/ out £	Closing balance £
Kibwezi Disabled People's Organisation, Kenya	4,308	8,129	10,171	-	2,266
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	4,457	8,613	3,692	-	9,377
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	94	160	249	-	5
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	2,582	44,817	22,583	-	24,816
Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	3,445	47,106	55,127	-	-4,576
IT Development	1,448	-	1,448	-	-
Education Support ¹	-	4,625	4,187	-	438
COVID-19 Support ²	-	16,533	17,801	-	-1,267
Other restricted purposes ³	2	3,041	2,677	-	363
Total	16,332	133,025	117,935	-	31,422

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

	2020/21				2019/20			
	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	43,252	-1,187	42,065	-	24,862	6,560	31,422
Unrestricted funds	-	88,709	-992	87,717	-	93,505	-1,885	92,620
Total	-	131,961	-2,179	129,782	-	118,367	4,675	123,042

14. Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute an amount of £10 if the charity is wound up.





Advantage Africa 
pathways out of poverty

www.advantageafrica.org