

BUILDAID - TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

1. TRUSTEES

Trustees are selected for appointment by the existing trustees having due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for effective administration.

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity operates under the Declaration of Trust made on 7th March 2005 and is administered by the trustees to achieve the charity's objectives.

3. THE BUILDAID MODEL

Our vision is of **a world where everyone can access the vital services that they need.**

Our mission is **to provide sustainable infrastructure and construction aid to people in need around the world.**

We work with local partners, providing construction expertise and funding to build medical, educational and welfare facilities. Our assistance is flexible, tailored to each community's unique needs and ranges across all levels of built environment services, including pro-bono design assistance and project management.

Our work saves lives, creates opportunities, and improves the welfare of people in disadvantaged areas globally.

Our values are:

- **Collaboration** – We thrive through teamwork and partnerships
- **Efficiency** – We act quickly and prioritise urgent projects
- **Diversity** – We don't favour any specific region, ethnicity, or religion for our aid delivery
- **Sustainability** – Our projects are built to last and can be easily maintained

4. THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This year although post COVID-19 was still having a dramatic effect on the charity's activities, reducing our operational abilities as well as our fundraising capacity. More information on this can be found in the Trustees' Annual Reports 2021/2.

This year, our newly expanded Board of Trustees evaluated the charity's strengths and weaknesses and decided on several actions to reduce the charity's running costs and to ensure our long-term sustainability. These actions were:

- Not to replace the staff made redundant in the previous year until reserves recover
- Reduce the hours of the Development Manager moving to casual, zero hours in March 2022
- Continuing with our Trustee accountant for payroll and annual returns
- Focusing on projects with less capital expenditure and with more utilisation of our construction expertise and pro-bono consultation services

These actions yielded very positive results for the charity and have ensured we remain on stable footing.

Our main achievements for this charity year were:

- The completion of two further Sand Dams and subsequent training, planting, and terracing programmes in South-Eastern Kenya
- Cost planning of a new two-storey child oncology unit in Blantyre, Malawi, working in partnership with World Child Cancer.
- Distributing 50 BioLites to families living off-grid in rural Kenya.
- Further developing our project partnerships with Rotary International, World Child Cancer and African Sand Dam Foundation to ensure our projects are beneficiary-led and of maximum impact
- Modernising our accounting systems and financial management by moving over Xero accounting software
- Successfully reducing our running costs to ensure our long-term sustainability
- Carefully sustaining our relationships with several corporate and individual supporters.

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

The board from the previous year was retained with the existing trustees agreeing to serve a further year.

The Trustees are:

Robert Muir – Reappointed February 2022
Benjamin Muir – Reappointed February 2022
Chiara Ronchini – Appointed February 2022
Oliver Greatbatch – Appointed February 2022

As of 28th February 2022, the charity had one part-time employee responsible for day-to-day operations: Fundraising Manager – Ashley Russell was made redundant as was part-time callers. Part-time Development Manager – Katie Muir retained as general manager.

7. PROJECTS

THE STAGES OF A PROJECT

Every project differs greatly from another, but we pride ourselves on our ability to implement a variety of projects for a range of beneficiaries. We operate following a comprehensive system that we use for every project to ensure that it is of the highest quality and has the greatest possible impact.

Stage 1: Pre-Construction

Research and Needs Assessment

Before any visits to potential areas of operation or meetings with potential partners, extensive research must be carried out, especially regarding the national and local issues in the area. It is imperative that we are fully aware of an area's specific needs and are equipped with the appropriate information to discuss methods of addressing these needs. Following this desk-based research, an initial visit takes place and extensive data, both quantitative and qualitative, must be collated for BuildAid records and project justification.

Another vital aspect of conducting research in the local area is to ensure that as many local community members as possible are consulted and involved in the decision-making process. We strive to empower communities and build capacity with our projects, so it's essential that we understand what the entire community needs.

Other research includes:

- Local laws and customs
- Land ownership
- Building regulations
- Tectonic activity and other geographical issues
- Establishing if any local services are operating in a similar capacity to our proposed project(s)

Due Diligence

We ensure that organisations affiliated with BuildAid projects, especially project partners, are scrutinised and researched thoroughly before a project agreement. This includes an in-depth analysis of the organisation's finances and strategy, personnel, policies, references, and a criminal records check. It is especially vital to ensure that organisations have a strict Child Protection Policy that they abide to.

Energy and Sustainability

Our tailor-made approach to construction aid means that we have the flexibility to incorporate innovative solutions to energy waste and environmentally harmful practices. Many areas that we work in have unreliable sources of power and would benefit from harnessing alternative energy sources such as solar. We are developing our capacity as pro-bono design consultants to include strategies for renewable energy use in new buildings and renovations.

As well as the use of renewable energy, our consultancy includes strategies to prevent:

- Infrastructure damage from extreme weather
- Unsafe waste disposal
- Pollution
- Harmful sanitation practices

Project Planning

Once a project has been agreed and our project partners have been suitably assessed, we can begin preparing for the project. This entails:

- Information Exchanges
- Feasibility Studies
- Risk Assessment
- Structural Design Assessment

- Creation of a:
 - a. Building Contract
 - b. Health and Safety Strategy
 - c. Maintenance and Operations Strategy
 - d. Sustainability Strategy

Policies and MOUs

All project partners must sign a legal Memorandum of Understanding with BuildAid to ensure that each party is aware of their responsibilities and the expectations of them. This document is tailored to each project and includes a commitment that partners will adhere to all BuildAid policies and protocols.

Stage 2: Construction

Finance

Project funds are never handled by any agencies, third parties or governments. We use MoneyCorp to transfer money overseas and we require a detailed request from our project partners that specifies the exact amount and proposed use of funds. Project funding is always staged and dependent on progress reports from our project partners.

Monitoring and Reporting

It's vital that projects are carefully monitored, and project partners must meet our requirements for reporting. Partners must report at least weekly on construction progress with photos and videos and consult us immediately with any queries or problems.

Advocacy

Many of our projects relate to key problems in low-income countries, e.g. child exploitation and limited access to education. We believe that working on such projects carries a responsibility of advocating for change and spreading awareness. We use our platform as an NGO to speak to our supporters in the UK about the issues that communities are facing in our areas of operation. We're very active on social media and are constantly expanding our reach and audience. We also speak to members of the public about these issues during our community fundraising activities.

Stage 3: Post-Construction

Evaluation

On project completion, BuildAid and our project partners both complete a project report and evaluation. Here, we review the project outcomes and compare them with the planned outcomes. A further evaluation will take place 5-10 years post-completion in the form of an Impact Assessment.

Monitoring and Reporting

One of our requirements for our project partners is that they must report to us for two years following project completion. This allows us to ensure that the project is serving its intended purpose and helps us to schedule the appropriate time for an Impact Assessment.

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR

BioLites

Working in partnership with Rotary International and Kenya-based community organisation, Light of Maasai, we have been able to purchase and distribute 50 Biolite Solar Home 620 units to low-income families living off-grid in the region of Rombo, Kajiado South.

The BioLite Solar Home 620 transforms off-grid homes by providing a safe, affordable, and reliable source of light and energy. Each unit includes:

- A 6-watt solar panel
- A wall-mounted control box with real-time feedback on sun-strength and battery capacity
- Three daisy-chain hanging lights with 18ft cords, adjustable brightness, and a motion sensor option
- FM Radio
- Two USB ports for powering mobile phones and other devices
-

One unit can power an entire home and dramatically improve a family's quality of life. The lights make housework, childcare and hygiene much easier and safer; give children light for completing homework and allow isolated areas to keep up to date with national news via the radio. These activities are all essential for families' welfare, especially during national emergencies.

This will allow families to keep up to date with national announcements, a free phone charger will provide improved security in their homes and with a light for children to complete homework and exam preparation after sunset.

Child Oncology Unit

We were introduced to World Child Cancer (WCC) in late 2019 and recommended to advise on a possible extension of an existing Child Oncology Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. We completed an initial site visit and survey in January 2020 and compiled a comprehensive report for WCC, advising that a new building be constructed, as opposed to an extension of the existing one..

Last year, we worked closely with our architectural supporters, Inter Urban Studios, to design a new two-storey building to be built in place of the current unit. Inter Urban Studio offered us their services pro-bono for this project. Following the initial concept designs, we worked collaboratively with World Child Cancer to carefully design the layout of the new unit to achieve maximum efficiency and positive impact for service users. This year we became the lead agency for this initiative having undertaken a user group consultation and developed a detailed cost plan. We also have now prepared a case for support and will be launching an appeal for construction costs in 2023.

Sand Dams

We were approached by a representative from Rotary International in 2019 suggesting a potential partnership between BuildAid and Rotary to construct a series of Sand Dams in Kenya. A Sand Dam is a reinforced rubble cement wall built across a seasonal sandy river. The dam increasingly retains sand through each rainy season and the sand then retains water for the dry season. This retention of water recharges the aquifer and therefore provides enough water for tree and vegetable nurseries.

The full programme of sand dams, tree planting and farmland terracing forms a self-perpetuating cycle of water and soil conservation. This conservation reduces time spent collecting water, leaving more time for farming and other essential activities such as learning, studying and childcare. The soil conservation enables farmers to utilise improved agriculture techniques leading to a more secure and diverse supply of food, all year round.

In January 2020, we conducted primary and secondary research into Sand Dams and subsequently met with African Sand Dam Foundation to propose a delivery model. Unfortunately, the planned funding from Rotary International was postponed due to the pandemic. In August 2021, the funding for the first four Sand Dams was approved, and we were able to start work immediately. Construction of the first two Sand Dams and the subsequent training, planting, and terracing programme from Rotary Global Grant 8, was completed in January 2022. At this time, we were able to complete a site visit to inspect these dams and make necessary preparations for the next stage of the programme, a further two Sand Dams. The further two dams are now designed, and we hope to commence works early in 2023.

8. FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

Reserves Policy

Currently, BuildAid holds £15,000 in reserves. This is a reduction from our previous reserves figure of £50,000, due to the effects of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are unallocated funding that has been accrued gradually since the formation of the charity. These funds are specifically for:

- Protection in case of a shortfall in income
- Expenditure in emergencies
- Protection from a specific liability
- Exit costs should the charity need to close

We have revised our Reserves Policy to ensure that we are financially protected enough and not holding funds that could be spent on operational aid.

Fundraising

Despite the ongoing difficulties following the 2020 pandemic and severely reduced fundraising activities, we were able to raise £116,560.06 this year in donations. We've been very fortunate to have the continued support from several organisations and individuals and have been able to maintain our diversified income streams.

Rotary International

We have continued to be supported by Rotary International and have worked closely with them on several projects. This has included a large-scale programme of Sand Dams and the continued provision of BioLites to off-grid homes, both in rural Kenya.

Corporate Supporters

This year, donations from Corporate Supporters totalled £8,000. We're very lucky to have regular support from our 'Corporate Heroes' who make a monthly donation to the charity. Without these committed donors, we wouldn't be able to achieve the impact that we do with our projects. These companies include: DeeDee Dee Ltd and Red Brick Wealth.

Individual Giving

This year, donations from individuals totalled £45,000. We have a small number of individual donors who generously support us with a monthly gift. In addition, we also received a small number of one-off donations throughout the year. These donations have been essential for our survival have allowed us to continue to deliver our projects.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

We have identified and assessed the main risks that we are vulnerable to and the steps that we can take to prevent and reduce the chance of each risk and its effects.

RISK: IT failure

PROTECTION: Back-up of major documents and increased use of cloud-based storage

RISK: Too much reliance on individuals for programme delivery

PROTECTION: Expand Trustee Board and volunteer base to include individuals' construction expertise

RISK: Misuse of funds

PROTECTION: Due diligence for project partners including reference requests

RISK: Drop in income

PROTECTION: Due diligence for project partners including reference requests

10. KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2022/23

- Continue to deliver aid through our own projects and by assisting other NGOs with theirs
- Continue to expand Board of Trustees and further formalise organisational structure
- Maintain existing income streams
- Improve long-term sustainability of the organisation
- Assign clear roles to staff and Trustees, with clear objectives and targets
- Finalise and execute new strategy for the charity

11. DECLARATION

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert K Muir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert K Muir
Chair to Trustees

BUILD AID
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

	2023	2022
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Donations	116,560	61,043
Total Receipts	116,560	61,043
PAYMENTS		
Charitable Activities		
Programme Staff	7,605	-
Programme Delivery	55,592	33,870
Compliance and Policy	292	1,274
Office Costs	6,119	4,982
JRS Grant	-	-
Total Charitable Activities Spend	69,607	38,541
Support costs		
Fundraising Expenditure	-	33,218
Management	1,177	1,262
Office Staff Costs	2,233	10,228
HR Consultants	-	-
Accountancy	-	-
Pension	-	-
Bank charges	106	363
Recruitment	-	-
Insurance	1,035	913
Marketing	-	176
JRS Grant	-	18,964
Total Support Costs	4,551	26,196
Total Payments	74,159	64,737
Net Receipts / Payments	42,401	- 3,694
Funds Bought Forward	34,848	38,542
Funds Carried Forward	78,231	34,848

BUILD AID
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

	2023	2022
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Cash Funds	78,231	34,848
Represented by;		
Net receipts to date	78,231	34,848

BUILD AID
REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BUILD AID CHARITY NUMBER 1108811
ACCOUNTS TO 28th FEBRUARY 2023

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

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

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and to state whether matters have come to our attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- accounting records were kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do accord with the accounting records.

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



Kate Elsmore
ICAEW Chartered Accountant