



Thank you
to all
our supporters



It is your donations of
money, time and
expertise that make
possible the work of
our partners in Africa.



In Senegal the Diapalante Community Education Centre improves work prospects by providing free learning for children and adults.

In Mauritania a small project helps widowed or divorced women move towards self sufficiency by rearing goats.

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Opportunities to Help

Diapalante has no paid staff in the UK, we are all volunteers. There are many roles to fill and we are always keen to hear from people who would like to work with us. Some opportunities are highlighted below. If you would like to volunteer your skills, whether they are included in the graphic or not, please get in touch.

VOLUNTEER! find your niche

IT

If you can type a little you can help a lot. Help us create online learning resources for learners in Senegal.



Sewing

If you enjoy sewing will you help us sew reusable period kits for school girls in Senegal? Or design simple sewn items for sale here?



Artwork

We often need simple illustrations for our learning resources for use in Senegal. If you can help please volunteer!



Catering

Could you help with our event catering, cake sales or jam and chutney sales which raise significant income though the year?



Fundraising

Will you use your talents to run a marathon?



organise a cake sale?



or do your own thing to support Diapalante?



Contact liz@diapalante.org or phone on 01462 743091

Message from the Trustees

Partnerships for Change

As trustees we are supported by a range of partners in the UK. The important role of those who donate money to Diapalante is easy to realise - we could do very little without money and endeavour to make best use of every pound we receive. We owe a big thank you to all our donors and hope you will continue to help us support our partners in Africa.

But we also have other equally valued partners in the UK: those who donate goods and those who donate their time and talents. If all the hours of volunteering, within the UK and within our projects were tracked in a similar way to the tracking of financial donations their value would be likely to outstrip that of the financial donations! This year we would like to highlight within the report the huge role of volunteers within Diapalante, both in the UK and in Africa and to acknowledge great value that our volunteers, in their many different roles, bring to Diapalante.

We want all our supporters to know all of their contributions are appreciated, both by the trustees here and by our partners in Africa.

How The Diapalante Community Education Centre benefits from donations of money, goods and volunteering .

All the equipment in the adjacent photos (sewing machines, tables, computers) was donated in the UK.

The sewing machines and computers were also refurbished by volunteers in the UK.

A team of local staff and volunteers and two British volunteers teach at the Centre.

The shipping of donated items, premises rent, utility bills, staff costs etc are paid from funds donated in the UK.



Diapalante Community Education Centre

Open to Everyone

The doors of the Diapalante Community Education Centre are open for all who want to learn, regardless of age or background. The Centre is situated in Kaolack a large city in Senegal, West Africa. Kaolack is the centre of Senegal's "peanut basin". Low incomes mean people work long hours when they have the opportunity, which make catching up on missed education difficult.

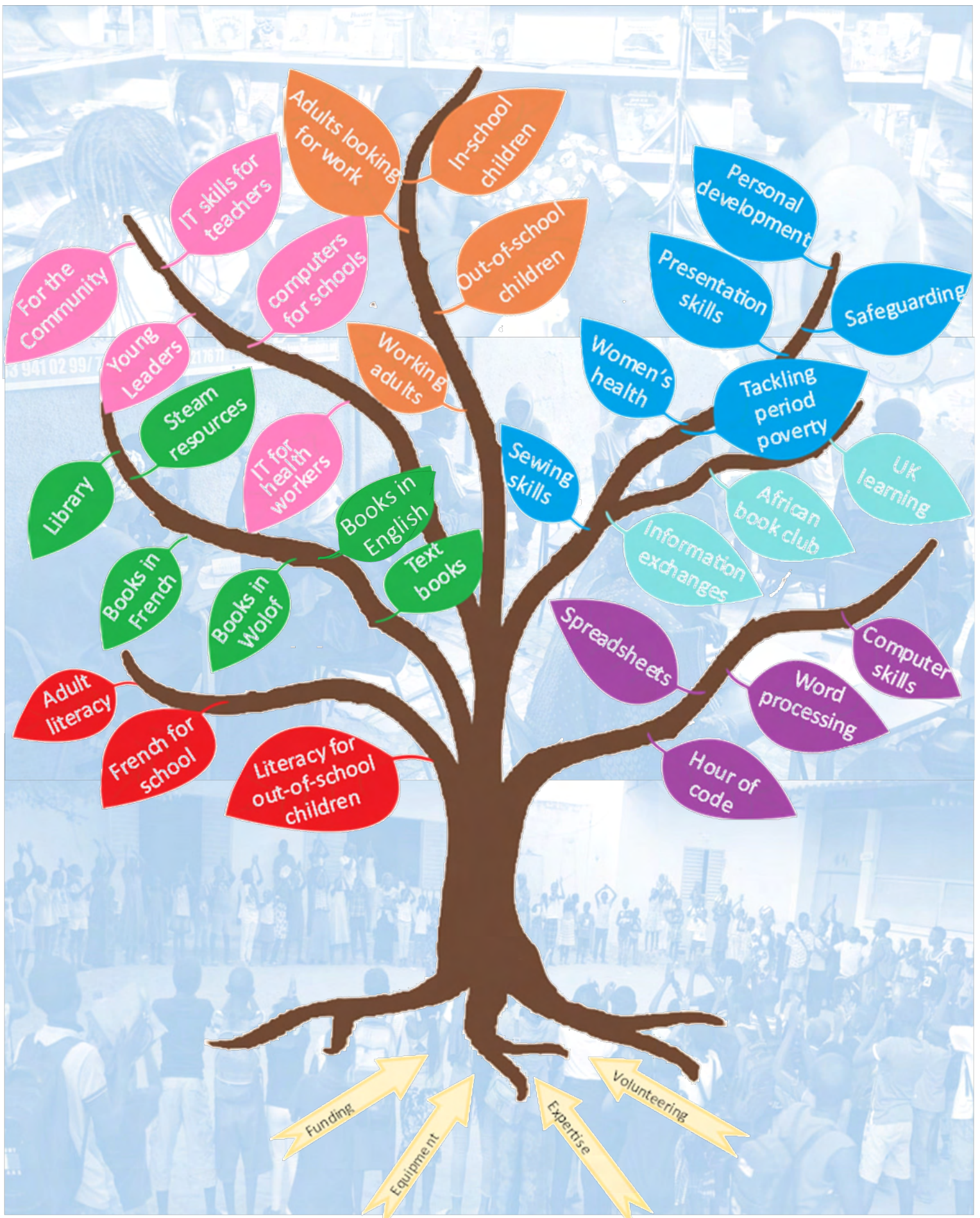
The Centre opens mornings and evenings, 7 days a week. Attendance is free and people drop in as and when they can. Its staff and volunteers help people build the skills and knowledge which help them succeed in life. French is a good example. Many people are held back, in school and in the world of work, by a poor command of French, the national language and no-one's mother tongue. Exams, lessons and books are all in French so without good French success in school or access to "professional" jobs is evasive. The Centre uses books, computers and games - rare resources in schools and homes - to complement our French lessons and provide stress free opportunities to learn.

Helping School Pupils

Teenagers and young adults come to the Centre wanting to improve their school performance. The 'Bac' (equivalent to 'A' levels) is the prized end of school exam. Poorly resourced schools and lower standards of teaching make learning hard. In addition family problems often mean children take on work or caring duties which cause them to fall behind in their learning. The desire to succeed in school is high among the teenagers who come to the Centre. Even so, it is commonplace for youngsters to pass their Bac only after multiple attempts.

The Centre aims to complement what the children learn in school. Diapalante's approach to learning is more informal and interactive. For example, our English classes are much more "hands on" than school involving using English in practical situations, discussions, groupwork etc anything that requires active self expression in English. The computers and the library also provide good opportunities for independent learning.

Learning Opportunities for Everyone



Diapalante Community Education Centre

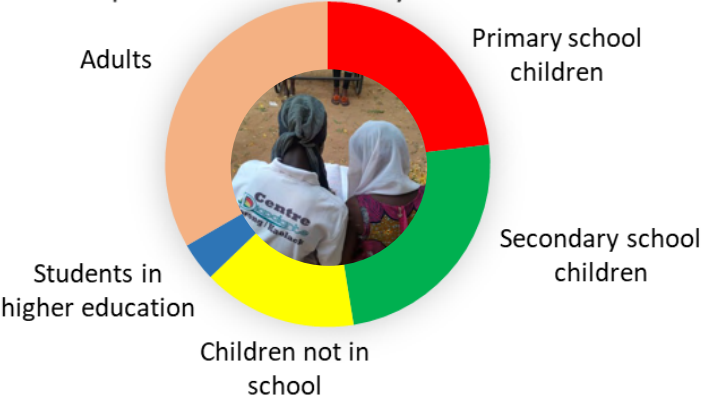
Children and Adults Who Have Missed Out On School

There are still young people in Senegal who do not go to school. Marie’s story shows how important getting a chance to learn can be.

Marie is an apprentice tailor. She is in her late teens but has never been to school because there was no school in the village where she grew up. Marie came to Diapalante in her spare time because she couldn’t take clients measurements as she couldn’t read or write down the numbers on the tape measure. After 3 months she can confidently read and note down the measurements, do some calculations and is proud to be able to write her name. Marie is flourishing with 1:1 lessons focussed on the skills she needs for her work.

Talibes are boys who live in religious school but often get no secular education. On Thursday and Friday mornings, the days when the talibes have no religious studies, the Centre hold special classes for them to learn literacy and numeracy so they can more easily earn a living as adults.

Who comes to learn at the Diapalante Community Centre?



The Centre is a educational space but it doesn’t have the same restrictions as a school. Through Diapalante the local community has access to learning resources not common in Senegal - computers, with internet access, and a small library, games and simple learning resources. Our teaching reflects both

what people want to learn and the knowledge of the staff and volunteers.

Adults and teenagers who come to learn are encouraged to share their knowledge with others. Sometimes intermediate learners help beginners or a learner in one subject is willing to share their expertise in another subject.

Mamadou Kane's Visit to England



Meeting the Farthing Trust



Meeting individual supporters



Re-unions with volunteers



who worked in Senegal for a year before going to university.



Caroline (trustee) and Mamadou (aka Master P, co-ordinator of the Diapalante Community Education Centre) became firm friends during her gap-year volunteering in Mauritania in 2004.



At the wedding

When granted a UK visit visa for Caroline's wedding Mamadou took the opportunity to also meet with Diapalante friends, supporters and trustees.

Volunteers in Senegal



Throughout the year local volunteers have worked alongside the Centre's three staff to broaden the range of subjects taught. They also helped create a small income by hiring out chairs. This summer, during the school holiday, three of the Centre's volunteers organised and ran a training course for teachers and others keen to use computers in their daily work. The 2 month course was very popular - eighty people signed up!

Three groups were taught at the Centre and two groups were taught in a village school. The volunteers were busy teaching three days a week in the village and three days in the Centre. Participants praised Mor and his fellow volunteers, all professional computer 'wizards', for providing this opportunity and are now putting their valued new skills to work in their schools and other workplaces.

About 25 of the Centre's teenagers have trained as "Young Leaders". In our after school activities at a local primary school, each young leader runs an activity for a small group of children - reading, drawing or playing games. The Young Leaders build the children's confidence in speaking and understanding French - no-one's mother tongue but is the national language used in school exams. The Young Leaders programme results in a marked improvement in the children's achievement in the school's end of year assessments.



Two British volunteers live and work at the Centre each year for 10 months before going on to university. Billie and Evie have taught English, computer skills and other subjects. The volunteers and those attending the Centre both benefit from the exchange of ideas, customs and understanding. We thank Project Trust, who place the volunteers with Diapalante, for their long partnership with us - may this continue far into the future.

Volunteering in the UK

Diapalante in the UK is totally dependent on volunteers. Our trustees, themselves volunteers, are supported by a wider group of volunteers. We have no staff. The trustees have control over, and legal responsibility for, the charity's management and administration. Our trustees also organise fundraising events, and work with the Diapalante Community Education Centre to deliver the best learning opportunities that we can. One of our long term volunteers Pat, who has helped the trustees with many admin tasks over the years, became a trustee in July and is a welcome addition to the board.

Our band of catering volunteers have been fundraising throughout the year at events around Ashwell, where they are based. They have been kept busy with varied events providing anything from coffee and cake to Christmas dinners. The Diapalante garden party in August was a successful fundraising day thanks to the hard work of our volunteers. Their highlight of the year is “The WI Christmas dinner because they provide us with a table and expect us to enjoy the meal with them!”.

Some volunteers undertake fundraising activities - “Pam’s jams” make and sell jam, another volunteer organised and ran a tombola, volunteers at a local church ran several coffee mornings. Another collects crayons as part of a recycling project.

Several UK volunteers have helped solve practical problems relating to the Centre. For example sewing and IT support. Thank you to each and every volunteer.

Sad News! In the pre-covid days trustees and other volunteers were able to take advantage of a range of free or very low priced training offered by two organisations in particular: the Small Charities Coalition and The Foundation for Social Improvement. During the height of the pandemic this online training continued and we made good use of it. It was relevant high quality training and helped even the smallest of charities to give due consideration to important topics like safeguarding within our projects. The Foundation for Social Improvement ran series of courses specialising in overseas development projects. As a charity that is run by volunteers we found these courses very useful. Sadly both organisations have been unable to find continuing funding and been forced to close. We will miss their informative and helpful support.

Moving Towards Self-Sufficiency in Mauritania

In Mauritania, the western-most part of the Sahara desert, we are running a three year project which is helping women, who are heads of households, to establish and learn to maintain a small herd of goats. These rural women, often widows or divorcees, generally know the basics of rearing goats but lack the funds to start up a small business.

The project is run by Diallo, a veterinary technician, who has carefully designed the project with reducing levels of advice and financial support as the herds become established over the three years. Now, at the end of year two, the project is going well and the women are increasingly confident in managing their businesses.



Hillcrest Advisory Bureau and Bursary Fund, South Africa

The town of Hillcrest is 20 miles from Durban, South Africa, on the fringe of the Valley of 1000 Hills and area of economic hardship and poverty.

For many youngsters in this Valley education is the only way they will pull themselves out of poverty. The Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund supports these young South Africans through their school life, both with advice and with small grants. Diapalante is not actively involved in this project but we collect donations from their UK supporters and pass these donations on to them enabling HAB&BF to build a fundraising base within the UK.



Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund
A Better South Africa, One Degree At A Time...

Financial Report

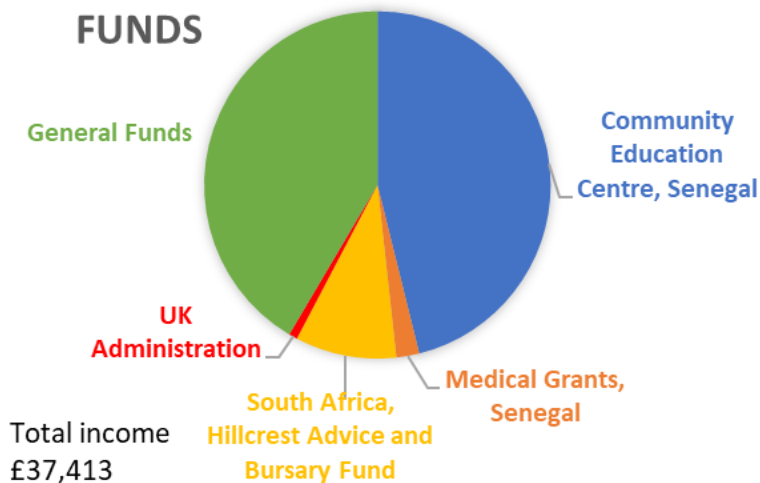
We know that many charities have faced financial hardship this year. However, thanks to your continuing support we have once again had a good

year with sufficient income to meet all our planned expenditure. The finances do not show either the many valuable hours donated by volunteers nor the value of goods (eg computers, sewing machines) donated to us.

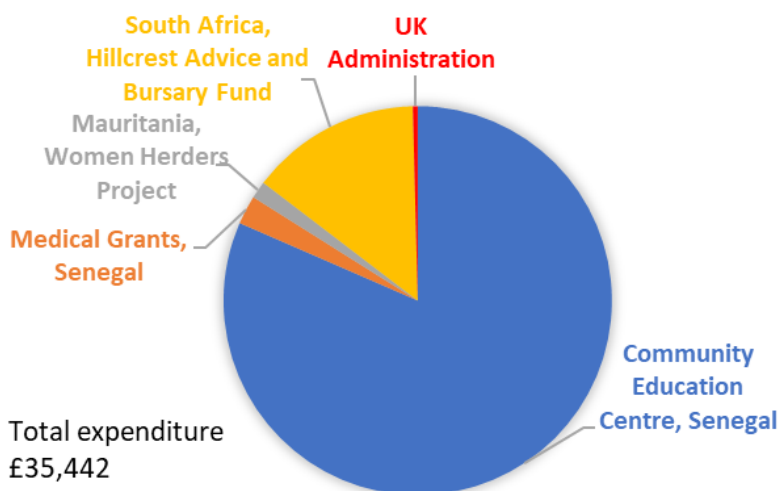
As the charts clearly show the Diapalante Community Education Centre in Senegal is by far our major project. As trustees we feel that in future we wish to concentrate on this partnership rather than working in both Senegal and Mauritania.

We will therefore not be beginning any new projects in Mauritania. We currently support our partner in South Africa by collecting funds in the UK donated specifically to their ongoing project. There are now alternative ways that they could gather funds efficiently so we are asking them to explore these options. All money

INCOME TO GENERAL AND RESTRICTED FUNDS



EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT



collected without a specified purpose is held in the General Fund to fund our work in West Africa.

Governance

Structure

Diapalante is a charitable trust governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 02/08/2005 as amended by Deed dated 04/01/2006 and by Deed dated 15/08/2012.

Diapalante is run by trustees who give of their time freely and no remuneration is paid. Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees and serve for three years after which they may be reappointed. There must always be at least three trustees. At least two ordinary meetings must be held each year to discuss future strategies, projects and fundraising.

The trustees elected to hold their four trustee meetings online this year.

Public Benefit

The trustees have had due regard to the commission's guidance on public benefit. We have taken the guidance into consideration when exercising the relevant powers or duties. Our charitable purpose for public benefit is demonstrated by the activities and achievements summarised in this report.

Safeguarding

Diapalante takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of everyone involved in our programmes, particularly children and vulnerable adults. We work in close partnership with Diapalante Senegal who, funded by Diapalante (UK) run The Diapalante Community Education Centre. The Centre is our main area of interest for safeguarding as large numbers of adults, teenagers and children attend and this year the Centre is implementing the policies we designed together. The results are encouraging and we will be looking to make further improvements to the implementation next year.

Governance

Next year we hope to appoint a trustee whose main responsibility is safeguarding policy and code of conduct and procedures so both sets of documents are aligned.

Risk Management

The trustees have continued to review the risks the charity faces and acted to mitigate the most likely these. The risk of inadequate income due to any future need to cancel planned fundraising events was averted by diversifying our funding streams. The risk of coronavirus impacting on project delivery in Senegal remained (1 Project Trust volunteer and 2 visiting trustees caught the virus in Senegal). However, as here, the infection seems to no longer to pose the threat it did. Nonetheless the threat was reduced by working outdoors where possible and employing extra cleaning and hygiene measures.

Reserves

In establishing a reserves policy and a reserves amount Diapalante is guided by the reserves guidance from the Charity Commission. Our major project, the Diapalante Community Education Centre in Senegal is dependant on Diapalante for all its funding. The project's major expenses are its three staff, the rental cost of the premises and utility bills.

Diapalante aims to hold a reserve of unrestricted funds which is appropriate to allow us to meet 6-12 months budgeted expenditure. For a low risk commitment in 2023-24 the six month reserve of unrestricted funds is calculated at £14,000. In line with this policy our unrestricted fund stood at £19,350 at our year end on 31/08/2023, the annual rent being due shortly.

Administrative Details and Objectives

Charity name:	Diapalante
Charity Number	1112875
Address:	Kirby Manor 73 High Street Ashwell Herts SG7 5NP

Charity Trustees as at 31st August 2023:

Pamela Brannigan	Caroline Chandler
Elizabeth Chandler	Ian Chandler
Emily Charlton	Orlando Gibbons
Alan Muhr	Carol Muhr
Patricia Thorpe (from July 2023)	

Bank	HSBC 1 Market Place Hitchin SG5 1DR
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Diapalante’s Objectives

To further charitable purposes which relieve or combat malnutrition, hunger, disease, sickness or distress.

To help prevent or relieve poverty or financial hardship by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and any necessary support, enabling individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

Accounts



Charity Name Diapalante		No (if any) 1112875	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date 01/09/2022	To	Period end date 31/08/2023

CC16a

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General Funds	15,523	-	-	15,523	6,607
UK Administration	-	298	-	298	503
Community Education Centre, Senegal	-	17,256	-	17,256	29,024
Medical Grants, Senegal	-	800	-	800	1,500
Mauritania, Women Herders Project	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa, Hillcrest Advice and Bursary Fund	-	3,535	-	3,535	3,500
Gifts	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,523	21,890	-	37,413	41,133
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,523	21,890	-	37,413	41,133
A3 Payments					
General Funds	-	-	-	-	-
UK Administration	-	139	-	139	390
Community Education Centre, Senegal	7,670	21,227	-	28,897	32,342
Medical Grants, Senegal	-	850	-	850	1,506
Mauritania, Women Herders Project	510	-	-	510	1,425
South Africa, Hillcrest Advice and Bursary Fund	-	5,046	-	5,046	3,500
Gifts	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,180	27,262	-	35,442	39,164
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,180	27,262	-	35,442	39,164
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,343	- 5,372	-	1,971	1,969
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,007	10,533	-	22,540	20,571
Cash funds this year end	19,350.52	5,160.12	-	24,511	22,540

Accounts

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		19,351	5,160	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds		19,350.52	5,160.12
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
B5 Liabilities				
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's statement

Report to the trustees Diapalante

On accounts for the year ended 31st August 20

Set out on pages 1-2

I report to the trustees of the charity ("the Trust")

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, I have prepared the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I have followed all the requirements of section 145.

Independent examiner's statement The charity's gross income is less than £10,000. I undertake the examination in accordance with the BCOMM.

I have completed the examination and come to my attention. I have disclosed below (*) in respect:

- the accounts of the Charity
- the accounts of the Charity
- the accounts of the Charity concerning (Accounts and the accounts that the accounts considered

I have no concerns with the examination order to enable

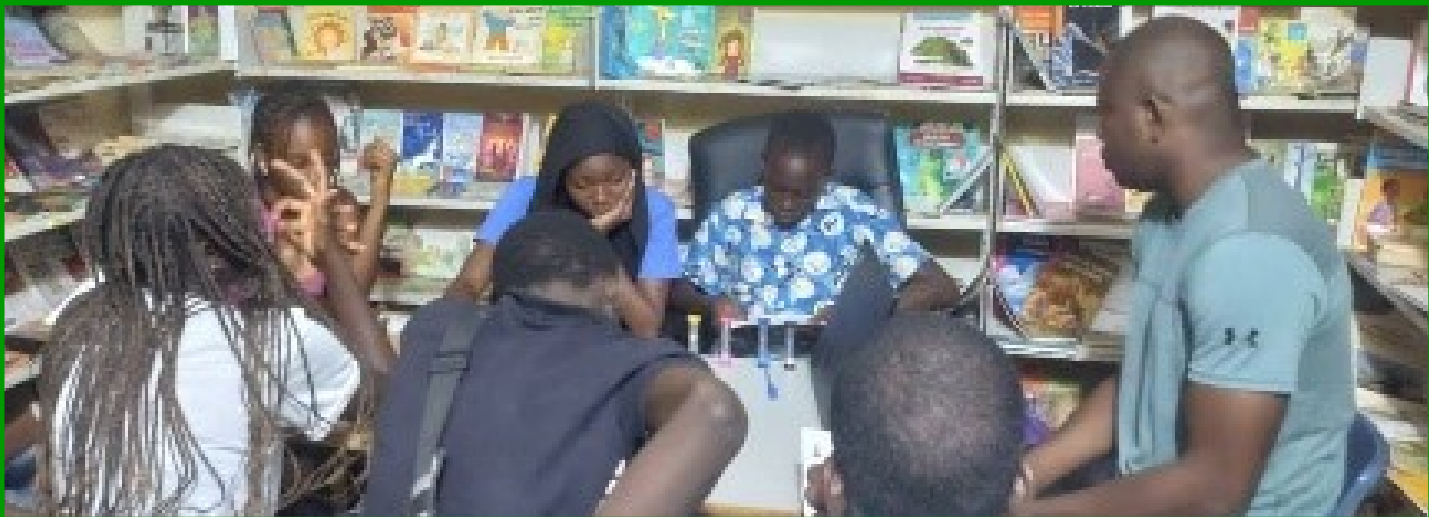
* Please delete the

Signed: [Signature]

Name: [Signature]

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

IER



Accounts

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Examiner's Report

2023 Charity no (if any) 1112875

statements on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31/08/2023.

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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

The charity's income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to carry out this examination by being a qualified member of ACMA, CGMA, or ICAEW.

As a result of my examination, I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that which gives me cause to believe that in any material particular the accounts do not give a true and fair view).

The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements of the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter that I am required to consider as part of an independent examination.

Other matters have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to ensure a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Use words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Noted Date: 11/12/2023

NG PRITCHARD

Address: 6 MILL STREET, ASHWELL,
HARTFORDSHIRE SG7 5LY

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

IER

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Oct 2018





Please consider donating to our work

Every donation counts, every £1. Please help us to support The Diapalante Community Education Centre as it enables and encourages adults and children gain the skills needed to secure better futures for themselves and their families.

If you feel more comfortable giving money as and when you can afford it then please do that. However, if you can give a little every month, this allows us to plan ahead responsibly and ensures that The Diapalante Community Education Centre can continue to help people today, tomorrow and into the future.

- ⇒ 500 supporters giving £5 per month would provide this income or
- ⇒ 250 supporters giving £10 per month or
- ⇒ 125 supporters giving £20 per month

We are grateful for every penny, and also for the many different ways in which people help Diapalante. If you can support us financially – please do. If this isn't for you then keep in touch, **all** support and encouragement is valued by us.

To donate

- ⇒ Go to <https://diapalante.org> and press the donate button (on the top right).
- ⇒ Use our bank details:
Name: Diapalante, sort code: 40-28-14, account no: 51576712
- ⇒ Or post a cheque to our address below:



Kirby Manor
73 High Street
Ashwell
Herts
SG7 5NP

Charity No: 1112875