

Open Way

Helping people out of poverty

(Charity Number: 1122055)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

31st July 2021

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Charity accounts preparation &
independent examination service

Open Way

(Charity Number: 1122055)

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Open Way

helping people out of poverty

Registered charity 1122055

**Trustee's Annual Report for the period:
1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021**

Reference and Administration details

Name:

Open Way

Other names charity is known by:

None

Address:

26 Spring Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. OX14 1AQ
openway@hotmail.co.uk

Charity Number:

1122055

Names of the trustees who manage the charity:

Nicholas Osborne (chair)

Maria Lopez (Trustee)

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity:

None

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others:

None of any kind

Names and addresses of advisers:

Independent Examiner

Karen Wood ACMA

Outsource VSCE Support CIC, 29 Millfield Road, York. YO23 1NH

Banker:

CAF BANK Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4JQ

Name of chief executive:

Nick Osborne (Chair of Trustees)

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:

Trust Deed

How the charity is constituted:

Trust

Trustee selection methods:

Appointed by existing trustees

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief of poverty and suffering related to the lack of basic needs for people of any age or cultural background in poor countries with the aim of bettering their present situation and improving their chances of future self-reliability.

To advance the education of the public in poor countries in the subjects of: health; and the conservation of the natural and physical environment.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

Helping people out of poverty in Ethiopia by:

- Providing medical help.
- Providing free pre-school education in poor rural villages.
- Tackling malnourishment.
- Helping the vulnerable and the elderly.

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Achievement and performance

Introduction

It has been a tough time in Ethiopia since our last update to say the least!

Many people have been displaced and are facing extreme food shortage due to the disastrous civil war that began in Tigray in November 2020. More and more soldiers and civilians are being drawn into the conflict and the shadow of the war is now looming fully across Ethiopia. The situation in Addis Ababa has been very tense as rebel armies have expressed their determination to march upon the capital and seize control and people have been living in fear. There are deep ethnic tensions in the country which are not going to be easily resolved and it is difficult to know how the situation will play out. Anyhow, there may be signs of the situation calming down, so let's hope that things start to settle.

In the Sidamo region (about 300 km south of Addis Ababa) where most of our projects are based, the impact of the war is less direct but is being felt economically.

Unfortunately, the summer maize harvest in the area where we are working was lost due to too little rain. Our Ethiopian colleagues tell us that the situation has been more difficult than ever and that for some time people have been coming to our headquarters in Teferi Kela in desperation to plead for food for their families. This is a new situation for us that we haven't seen in past years. The winter coffee harvest which is occurring now is going well so that will help alleviate the situation.

There was a very worrying time in September when Mulu (our Ethiopian director) was struck down by Covid and spent two weeks in hospital in Addis Ababa on oxygen. Thankfully, she has fully recovered. In true Mulu-style, she had not informed us (or even her family!) that she was in hospital so as not to worry anybody. We only found out when we phoned her up to discover her in hospital and over the worst of the illness, so I guess we can only thank her for this secrecy as we would have been very worried had we known earlier.

So, on the note of Mulu's recovery we can turn to positive news and a summary of Open Way's activities over the last year or so. Thanks to Mulu and her colleagues in Ethiopia; and our supporters in the UK (that's you!), Open Way has helped more people with emergency assistance and development work than ever before. As you know, the work of Open Way is very simple and aims to meet the most basic needs: food, sanitation, shelter, medical help, and education. This simple and inexpensive help is life-changing and, sometimes, life-saving, so please read the following and enjoy a warm feeling about what your generosity has enabled.

Education project

Schools

Open Way's eight pre-schools were able to re-open in November 2020. Attendance was less stable than in an ordinary year with uncertainty about the pandemic and the outbreak of war. In the first semester, 747 students registered, and this increased to 847 in the second semester.

We followed the government coronavirus guidelines which permitted one student per desk with half the students taking a morning shift and the other half taking an afternoon shift (small classes for once - albeit not for a great reason!). We were happy that we managed to keep our gender policy of having at least as many girls as boys in our schools since reports have suggested that in poor countries the pandemic has kept more girls out of education than boys.

We are pleased to congratulate two of our teachers: Solomon from Hatabo school who obtained a position in a government school earlier this year; and Asamenech, one of our most experienced teachers, who has a new baby.

In October 2021, this school year started with renewed energy, and we have had a lot of demand for places in the schools. This is great and we have taken on a couple of extra teachers. The schools have opened as normal with full classes and well over 1000 students enrolled.

Libraries

We have now built a library at Hatabo school meaning that five of the schools have libraries.

Students use the school libraries to study, read stories, complete homework, play games and watch television. This all offers enormous educational value for the children.

Adults from the villages use the libraries in the evenings to watch (solar powered) television and to get together and meet. This is really valued by local people who otherwise have no such opportunity (there is no electricity in any of the school villages except for Teferi Kela).

Soap provision

In 2019 the Open Way schools received educational resources (laminated flash cards) to teach health and hygiene and the teachers received training. The resources were taken from UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene resources - Edition for Africa. When the schools reopened in November 2020, the heightened awareness around health and hygiene made it a good time to start a soap distribution project in conjunction with hygiene education. Each child received a bar of soap each month to take home. Liquid soap was also made available at all the schools so that the children could wash their hands during the school day. There are no water supplies at the schools, but the children bring a plastic bottle of water to school for drinking, and they use some of this to wash their hands.

The bars that are taken home do not last long since families tend to use them to wash all the clothes of the family. Although this means that the children may not be able to keep

on top of hand washing at home throughout the whole of the month, this laundry opportunity is beneficial. Some of the hygiene education also travels home with the enthusiastic students.

We are continuing the distribution of soap this school year as it can only help in the battle against coronavirus, scabies, and so many other health issues in the community.

Update on well drilling /Jane's memorial

Following the very sad passing away of our trustee Jane Mason in June 2020, we have planned the construction of a well in her memory at Shoecho village using donations given in her memory. Unfortunately, we couldn't yet proceed with this plan as the machine used to drill wells (which is located in a different district) is no longer available to us. This was following a vote by the Sidamo people to come out of the SNNPR region of Ethiopia which created a political separation between us and the drill. There are a few other options on the table, so when the general situation in Ethiopia is calmer and the time is right, we will look forwards to completing the memorial in whatever form it finally takes.

Tackling malnourishment

Grain

As mentioned in the introduction, there has been a worsening situation regarding hunger and malnutrition. Many factors have fed into huge price hikes making life extremely difficult for people. The local cost of grain increased by 80% in a 12 month period!

Each year we help many very vulnerable families with regular nutritional support in the form of grain. These families are selected through our schools. So many families have been in desperation over the last difficult months that we are now sharing those supplies between more families. Additionally, we have diverted extra funds to emergency food and are supporting many more families with a one-off ration of 15 kg of grain.

Seedlings

Providing seedlings is a more economical and long-term help and over the last 12 months we were able to help a total of 401 families in this way with either cassava seedlings in January or false banana seedlings in April.

The recipients of grain or seedlings are selected with help from the teachers who know the village communities very well. People find themselves in all kinds of difficulty and it is very typical that we help widowed parents with several children to support, or people with serious medical difficulties or disability. Our coordinators re-visit some families to evaluate the project and have seen that people make very good use of the seedlings. In the case of cassava, families were able to trade some of their crop for other things such as vegetables or salt, as well as getting a yield of staple food to eat. False bananas provide longer term security.

Providing Housing

In this project, simple timber-framed and metal roofed houses are built as safe and dry shelters for families who are living in uninhabitable dwellings. We have now been doing this for several years. The team work very closely with local village groups such as church groups or elders who can often provide some timber or labour for a house. This assistance helps with the cost since the metal roofing, in particular, has become more and more expensive. The last budget intended for 21 houses ended up building 26 houses and housing more than 100 people.

We are well into our next wave of housing which we hope will achieve a similar result.

Medical Assistance

137 medical cases have been treated over the last 12 months thanks to intervention from Open Way. As usual, people need help for all kinds of conditions from broken bones and simple infections to very serious medical conditions.

Condition	Number of cases
Broken leg	2
Cancer	4
Cataracts	15
Epilepsy	2
Eye conditions (other than cataracts)	5
Fistula	1
Gastritis	8
Glaucoma	9
Goitre	1
Giardia	5
Heart issues	3
High blood pressure	5
Kidney issues	9
Liver issues	1
Lung issues	8
Nerve condition	1
Pneumonia	7
Prostate	1
Scabies	4
Skin condition	2
Stomach (distended)	1
TB	1
Tumour (neck)	1
Tumour (back)	1
Typhoid & Typhus	25
Sexual health issues	10
Viral infection	1
Worms	1
Other wounds	1
Unknown	2
Total	137

Many of these illnesses are often directly linked to extreme poverty, and we are often able to help patients with other additional support. For example, we often provide a grain ration when a patient is ill which helps the patient and his or her family regain some strength.

The medical project is critical for patients and their families who are simply unable to access medical services through a total lack of means. People are generally willing to do anything to get loved ones the medical help they need. Through our housing project we have heard of several cases where people have been forced to sell their plot, which is their only means of livelihood, to raise the funds they need.

Helping the elderly

There is no social security system in rural Ethiopia and so if an elderly person has no one to provide for them, they can find themselves in a very difficult situation at the end of their lives. Open Way has continued to support 16 elderly people who have no family or other support with a small pension and other essentials such as clothes, soap, food and blankets.

Thank you!

It is often quite difficult to quantify the effect of help provided by Open Way. It is always uplifting to hear great news about someone helped by Open Way in the past, whose life has been improved as a result. For example, recently we heard news of three former street children for whom we had organized help during our first visits to Ethiopia. Having reconnected them with their families, Open Way supported them throughout their school years and they have now completed their secondary education and have started work in various trades. They are now supporting themselves and their families.

A huge number of people have now been helped by Open Way in many different ways. All this is possible thanks to the kind donations we receive, so please accept a big thank you from us and our Ethiopian colleagues.

Financial Review

Open Way's reserves remain relatively small, but healthier than in previous years.

Our end of year balance is £9,191.80.

Our aim is to hold reserves of around 4 to 6 months.

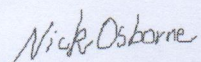
Open Way has no funds in deficit.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick Osborne', written in a cursive style.

Nick Osborne
Chair of The Trustees

Date

13th February 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Open Way

I report on the accounts of: **Open Way**
for the year ended: **31st July 2021** which are set out on pages 10 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

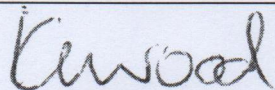
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Karen Wood (ACMA)

Outsource independent examination
service

The Hiscox Building

Peasholme Green

York YO1 7PR

03/03/2022

Date:

Open Way
(Charity Number: 1122055)

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended:

31st July 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Receipts				
Grants	-	33,375	33,375	30,290
Donations - standing orders	5,804	556	6,360	5,726
Donations - one-off	1,284	410	1,694	1,100
Jane Mason memorial collection	-	-	-	5,676
My Donate & Virgin Money Giving	317	-	317	1,029
Gift aid reclaimed	-	-	-	1,854
Total receipts	7,405	34,341	41,746	45,675
Payments				
Grants to project	12,659	34,341	47,000	39,035
Postage & packaging	-	-	-	60
Bank charges & trf fees	196	-	196	160
Independent examination fee	150	-	150	150
Total payments	13,005	34,341	47,346	39,405
Net of receipts/(payments)	(5,600)	-	(5,600)	6,270
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Balance brought forward	14,792	-	14,792	8,522
Balance carried forward	9,192	-	9,192	14,792

Open Way
(Charity Number: 1122055)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:

31st July 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
CAF current account	9,192	-	9,192	14,792
	<u>9,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,192</u>	<u>14,792</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Liabilities				
Independent Examination fee	150	-	150	150
	<u>150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>

Open Way
(Charity Number: 1122055)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended:

31st July 2021

1. Basis of Accounts

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Analysis of Funds

2.1 Details of restricted funds

All funds of the charity are utilised in the alleviation of poverty in Ethiopia. However the charity obtains grants and donations which are restricted for the following purposes:

Education
Elderly & vulnerable
Help to individuals
Medical
Housing

2.2 Movement of major funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted Funds				
General unrestricted funds	14,792	7,405	13,005	9,192
	<u>14,792</u>	<u>7,405</u>	<u>13,005</u>	<u>9,192</u>
Restricted Funds				
Education				
Band Aid Trust	-	10,875	10,875	-
Just Trust	-	1,500	1,500	-
Hazel's Footprints	-	4,050	4,050	-
	-	<u>16,425</u>	<u>16,425</u>	-
Elderly & Vulnerable				
Band Aid Trust	-	15,200	15,200	-
Donations	-	360	360	-
	-	<u>15,560</u>	<u>15,560</u>	-
Help to individuals				
Donations	-	196	196	-
Medical				
Band Aid	-	1,750	1,750	-
Housing				
Donations	-	410	410	-
Total Restricted	<u>-</u>	<u>34,341</u>	<u>34,341</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds	<u>14,792</u>	<u>41,746</u>	<u>47,346</u>	<u>9,192</u>

Approval of Accounts for the year ended:

31st July 2021

The report and accounts were approved at a
meeting of the Trustees held on:

20th Feb 2022

Date

Nick Osborne

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees

21st Feb 2022

Date

Nick Osborne

Print Name

Chair

Position (e.g. Chair etc)