



ANNUAL ²⁰²⁰/₂₀₂₁ REPORT



For the long term rehabilitation of Northern Uganda's ex-child soldiers



The trainees are growing increasingly excited about the benefits of planting trees, which are good for food, for health, for income and for the environment.



The Seeds of Development Spread Beyond the Model Farm

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Actions speak louder than words, and we have begun to see encouraging signs of the truth of this in 2020 to 2021. This year we began to shift our focus from the classroom to the field. There is a local custom, known as ‘Kalulu’ through which neighbours gather together on one farm to give practical assistance with difficult tasks (there are no machines here!). The same group then visits the other farms until all have received help. It is a powerful and enlightened practice of community support.

In the true spirit of Kalulu, we sent out small groups to the farms of each of our third year trainees. The groups, supported by members of our team, help to dig water-harvesting ditches, plant trees and carry out other practices they have been learning on the Regenerative Agriculture Course. The feedback from these visits has been deeply encouraging.

Many of the trainees, it turns out, have caught the vision for tree-planting and on their farms new copses of fruit trees are growing healthy and strong. Compost is being created, mulch is being applied to degraded soil and grey water is being recycled. These are signs of true development. It is when people begin to see the real benefits for their real needs that behaviours change and hope begins to take root in the region.

At the same time, the dawning reality of Covid-19 has added a new layer of uncertainty to lives already dealing with so much suffering. Yet through all of these challenges, the healthy young trees, growing on the farms and compounds of our trainees, point towards a more resilient and fruitful future.



Evelyn, our project manager, teaching the Sustainable Agriculture Course to the 2020 intake of trainees.

“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.”

HERBERT SPENCER

A message from Evelyn

We are thankful that agricultural work has been deemed a ‘essential activity’ by the Ugandan Government, so we have been able to keep much of the work going on the Model Farm throughout the pandemic.

Third Hope Project Manager, Akoli Evelyn, sends greetings from the team in Gulu.

We are grateful for this time to communicate and to thank each one of you for the support you have given to Third Hope Africa to enable the work here.

We would like you to know that your efforts have immensely impacted the lives of ex-child soldiers. Through the course on Forgiveness and Reconciliation, we have learnt how to forgive others, to understand our hurts, to tell our story and live a life of hope, as well as encourage others to open up about their hurts. Through vocational workshops, we have learnt carpentry and tailoring skills, which we are now ably using to build pieces of furniture and sew clothes.

Then there is the Regenerative Agricultural Course, where we are learning so many good things about sustainable farming like: to dig swales (our water collection ditches), rotational farming, composting and mulching soil, good crops and trees to plant for nutrition.

These skills will stay with us forever and remind us of a group of people who thought of a people they had never seen but chose to help us walk through our troubles to a place of hope - Third Hope.

Indeed, we have seen immeasurable improvement in the general well-being of the trainees and the communities from which they come. Lives have been touched in ways that eyes cannot see or minds imagine.

We thank God for the heart that he has given you to think about us and for your giving treasure and time to support this work of restoration and rehabilitation.

Wapwoyo matek

[We thank you so much].

Akoli Evelyn

(On behalf of trainees and team)



Despite the Covid lockdown, trees still grow. Hundreds of trees on the Model Farm are entering their fifth year and fruit is in abundance.



This was the Year that the Model Farm Burst into Fruit

**“Patience
is bitter,
but its fruit
is sweet.”**

JEAN-JACQUES
ROUSSEAU

The Model Farm continues to be a place of beauty and sanctuary where we are able to continue trialling and refining the sustainable farming practices we teach on the Regenerative Agriculture Course. As we shared in the last annual report, through our experimentation with mulching and composting, the ex-child soldiers experienced a significant increase in the yield of crops such as ground-nuts and maize. There was genuine amazement at the results and it has increased the trainees’ confidence in what they are learning and strengthened their determination to make a positive difference on their own land.

Having dug well over a kilometre of rainwater-harvesting ditches, known as ‘swales’, on the Model Farm, we are now beginning to see a real impact on productivity as a result of this simple farming technique. Trees have grown well, even through the dry season, and fruit is in abundance. Although the effect of swales is undeniable, it has taken until this year for the ex-child soldiers to begin to dig their own. Creating swales is hard work, and no over-stretched farmer is going to take on the back-breaking task of digging them until he or she is fully convinced of their efficacy!

Our naturally constructed buildings continue to offer beautifully cool teaching spaces, despite the burning African sun, and this year we have been able to completely re-roof the Learning Circle where all the agricultural teaching, the trauma counselling course and the vocational workshops take place.

In November 2020 we welcomed 16 new ex-child soldiers for the 20/21 Training Course which was received with great interest and energy. We also continue to support all our graduates in their vocational training and are seeing their progress and increased self-confidence as they practise these skills.

You can read more here:

<https://thirdhope.org/partners-in-hope/>



Many thanks to all who joined our **'Let's Get to Gulu'** campaign where, during lockdown, supporters took to their bicycles or put on their walking boots to help us cover the 6000 miles to Gulu. We are already over half way so will be picking up the challenge again as we are determined to get all the way there!

Fund Raising that Focuses on Tenacity and Trees!

“By perseverance the snail reached the ark.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

This year we have focused our attention on two new fund-raising efforts in response to the realities that are emerging on the ground in Uganda.

The first, **'Partners in Hope'**, is born out of an increased realisation of the long-term nature of the work. We have always known this in theory, but we are now seeing in reality just how important it is that we think in terms of years and decades, not weeks and months.

We are therefore hoping to widen our support base of monthly givers in order to provide valuable stability and security to the whole team as we plan for the future. With this in mind, we have developed a new facility on the website to enable supporters to set up monthly giving.

Our second fund-raising effort is **'Trees for Transformation'**. This has been inspired by the enthusiasm with which the trainees have taken to planting new saplings on their own land. This has led to neighbouring farmers coming to them for advice. The region has become dangerously denuded of trees so this represents an enormous opportunity. The trainees make the best teachers and through them the hopeful message of the benefits of trees can spread quickly and efficiently.

We want to encourage this as much as we can, as these are the first signs of a true transformation in how the ex-child soldiers are seen in the community. Where they were once regarded as a danger, they are now being seen as agents of hope and change. *Trees for Transformation* aims to enable partners to help us empower the trainees to become trainers in the community.

Maintaining our Local Focus Means Achieving a Greater Impact



The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, have provided an effective and clear way to understand the process of development in its many and varied facets. We are encouraged that, three years into our active training programme, we are already making a tangible contribution to every one of the SDGs.

Here are just a few of the ways that Third Hope is helping contribute to the long-term rehabilitation of ex-child soldiers and, through them, to bring lasting improvements to the wider community.

1 NO POVERTY 	<p>Empowering women with vocational skills</p> <p>Teaching about the importance of small-scale rural businesses</p>	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<p>Encouraging ex-child soldiers to set up community training groups</p> <p>Providing low tech affordable solutions</p>
2 ZERO HUNGER 	<p>Improving rural food security by teaching sustainable farming</p> <p>Encouraging the use of resilient indigenous crops</p>	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<p>Working exclusively with the poorest sector of society</p> <p>Building confidence and self worth in ex-child soldiers</p>
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<p>Training on nutrition, especially to women with children</p> <p>Teaching disease prevention and reproductive health</p>	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<p>Encouraging the use of natural building materials</p> <p>Adopting traditional Acholi modes of consensual leadership</p>
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	<p>Deliver vocational training to improve skills and livelihoods</p> <p>Providing literacy and life-skills training</p>	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	<p>Teaching on the environmental impact of plastics</p> <p>Encouraging the use of low impact materials on site</p>
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	<p>Training women alongside men with equal access to learning</p> <p>Employing women in management positions</p>	13 CLIMATE ACTION 	<p>Pioneering an extensive rural tree-planting programme</p> <p>Delivering training on how climate change affects the poor</p>
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	<p>Providing clean drinking water for several local villages</p> <p>Training and demonstrating the safe use of composting toilets</p>	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	<p>Uganda is land-locked, so little can be done for the oceans, although we do teach and model inland fish farming.</p>
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<p>The whole project is off-grid and powered by solar energy</p> <p>Modelling water harvesting and widespread use of bicycles</p>	15 LIFE ON LAND 	<p>Offering training on the value of trees to the environment</p> <p>Giving practical training on the care and propagation of trees</p>
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<p>Encouraging diversification of skills to expand income sources</p> <p>Advocating actively for the end of the injustice of child soldiers</p>	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<p>Our Peace Centre provides a forum for community dialogue</p> <p>It also encourages analysis of the roots of war in each of us.</p>



Ex-child soldiers, who were once stigmatised and ostracised by the local community are beginning to be seen as agents of hope and change.

A Changing of the Guard

2020 saw changes to the trusteeship in the UK with two trustees stepping back and two new trustees coming forward to join us. With great gratitude for the gift of their time and talents, we bade farewell to Antonia Honeywell and Charlotte Hughes. Their legacy of creativity and compassion will be felt for many years to come.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Ntombizifikile Mkoyana (Fikile) and Barry Horner to the Board of Trustees. Both bring valuable experience and invaluable friendship to the board and we are already gaining strength and encouragement from their compassion, wisdom and energy.

Structure, Governance and Management

Third Hope UK is a Charitable Trust governed by a trust deed. As such it is regulated by the laws affecting charitable trusts in the UK. A body of trustees governs Third Hope. There must be a minimum of three trustees serving at any time. New trustees may be suggested by any trustee and are appointed by consensus of all the current trustees.

Decisions are made at trustees' meetings, with sub committees managing issues of specialist interest. The trustees are responsible for fund-raising and for supporting the team in Uganda, as well as ensuring that income is used to further the objectives of Third Hope Africa, as outlined in its Governing Document.

Third Hope Africa is an International NGO, registered in Uganda, which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the project in Uganda and the delivery of the programme to the trainees. It is funded by Third Hope UK and audited by the Ugandan authorities. Two UK trustees sit on the board of Third Hope Africa.

The Charity is Managed by the Following Trustees:

Peter Iles (since Autumn 2015)
Rose-Mary Salmon (Chair since Autumn 2015)
David Salmon (since Autumn 2015)
Barry Horner (since October 2020)
Ntombizifikile Mkoyana (since December 2020)

Public Benefit Statement

Third Hope has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Financial Review

We have no deficit on our funds at the end of the year. Our funds carried forward are £19,244.22 of which £13,208.25 are unrestricted funds.

Reserves Policy

Third Hope holds in reserve enough to cover staff allowances for three months and for any expenditure to which we have committed.



www.thirdhope.org

UK Office: 16 The Leas, North Bushey, Herts WD23 2DZ

Contact: fiona@thirdhope.org

Third Hope, registered charity no. 1133419

Third Hope Africa, International NGO, no. FORR8830311NB

THIRD HOPE ACCOUNTS

February 2020 – January 2021

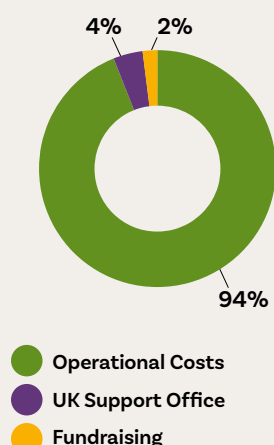
Income

Donations	£32,174.51
Fundraising	£5,442.25
Grants	£4,000.00
Grand Total	£41,616.76

Expenditure

Operational Costs in Uganda	£54,549.41
UK Support Office: Salaries and Office Costs	£2,391.50
Fundraising Costs	£1,195.75
Grand Total	£58,136.66

Breakdown of Expenditure



Regenerative Agricultural Course and Ongoing Training (of 66 Ex-child Soldiers)

Agricultural Training	£7,658.37	13%
Vocational Workshops	£4,351.57	7.5%
Trauma Counselling	£1,466.25	2.5%
Trainees' Work Experience	£9,840.28	17%
Tools, Saplings & Seeds	£2,265.36	4%
Welfare: Food and Hygiene	£3,180.07	5.5%
Literacy Classes	£304.00	0.5%
Beneficiaries Support Fund	£1,636.39	3%
Maintenance of Training Rooms	£4,003.72	7%
Renewable Energies	£820.79	1.5%
Staffing	£16,561.48	28.5%
Monitoring & Evaluation	£2,461.12	4%
Total Operational Costs	£54,549.41	94%
UK Support Office	£2,391.50	4%
Fundraising	£1,195.75	2%
Total Expenditure	£58,136.66	100%

Summative

Balance Carried Forward from 19/20 Accounts	£35,744.12
Total Income	£41,616.76
Total Expenditure	£58,136.66
Balance Carried Forward to 21/22 Accounts	£19,224.22

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds:

Of the balance carried forward, £6,015.97 are Restricted Funds and £13,208.25 are Unrestricted Funds.

Assets:

Third Hope UK is solely a fundraising arm of the work and holds no assets. Third Hope Africa, the operational arm of the organisation in Uganda, holds assets to the value of £30,190.



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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Third Hope For The Year Ended 31 January 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Third Hope UK Trust for the year ended 31st January 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 2011 Act').

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow all the applicable procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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

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:

- the accounting records of the trust were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Clamp".

Date: 9 September 2021

Name: Mrs Tracy Clamp FCCA