



Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From period start date: 01/04/2023 to period end date: 31/03/2024

Charity name: Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Charity registration number: 1142239

Objectives and Activities

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

The charity's objects are to advance the education of disadvantaged children living in northern Uganda through the provision of grants, scholarships and the provision of materials and facilities for education.

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.

The main activities of the charity in the period have been to fund the first phase of the building of a new inclusive secondary school for the visually impaired and other students in the Lira area of northern Uganda and to provide for basic furnishings and educational materials for the school.

Our grants and scholarships for education continue to benefit a number of disadvantaged children and young people.

Statement confirming regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

In carrying out the work of the charity, the trustees pay due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Contribution made by volunteers

Apart from the trustees and management team, the charity has no regular volunteers in the UK. We call on volunteers to help with fundraising events and this support is greatly appreciated. Our partner organisation in Uganda, Itinga Charity Education Foundation (ICEF) is run by volunteers who carry out the day to day work of the charity locally and keep in regular close contact with us. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication which continues to contribute enormously to the success of our charity.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

St. Mary Goretti Secondary School for the blind and other students

The Lira area of northern Uganda has a primary school that has provided education for the visually impaired together with children with other disabilities or no disability for many years. On our visits to Uganda we have been made aware of the need for a secondary school, near to the primary school, to allow for continuity of education and to help prevent children from dropping out of school when they have completed their primary education. After much thought and prayer we decided to partner with the Catholic diocese of Lira to enable the first phases of a secondary school to be built. The school would be owned by the Catholic diocese who have provided the land and, once the school is registered, an application will be made for it to become government aided. (The primary school is Catholic diocese owned and government aided.)

Work on the first phase began in May 2023 and was completed in early February 2024. The school has eight classrooms, a staffroom, offices and toilets. We plan to add more rooms starting with dormitories for the girls and then a library, a braille library and computer rooms. We provided the school with two braille machines and a grant of just under £10,000 for basic furniture and equipment.

The school opened for its first Senior One students in February 2024. By the end of the first term there were eleven students, about half of whom are visually impaired and one is totally blind. One has cerebral palsy. A much bigger intake is expected next year. The school will make a huge difference to the future opportunities of the visually impaired. There are very limited work opportunities for those without education. The school will be a real blessing to the area for many years to come.

St. Mary Goretti Secondary School students

Among the huge challenges for so many families in the area is the payment of school fees, boarding requirements, uniforms and scholastic materials and it became clear that many families were not able to raise enough money to send their children to the school. This was especially so amongst the visually impaired, single parent families and orphans. We have been so grateful for the generosity of a number of supporters who have donated to enable us to give grants to these students for the payment of school fees. Half the students have needed some support. Once support was given with the fees, the families struggled hard to provide the children with some of the items they needed to bring to school. Children who would have dropped out of school completely are now in school.

Scholarships

The charity supported 23 children and young people on full scholarships this year. 10 of these are in tertiary or vocational training colleges and institutions – two studying clinical medicine at diploma level, one studying for a diploma in civil engineering, one started university where he is studying Physics and Maths with a view to teaching when

he has graduated, 4 are studying nursing, one hotel management and catering and one tailoring. We supported 11 children in secondary schools, 4 of whom are totally blind, another has visual impairment and one is severely physically disabled. We supported 2 children in primary schools, one of whom is blind.

With the support of the charity, all the students will complete their education with useful skills that will set them up for a much brighter future than they could have imagined without the support.

We are very proud of one of the students who finished primary school with a grade one pass and is doing equally well in her first year of secondary education. We are also proud of our first student to be studying for a degree at university and of all our students who are choosing careers through which they will make a positive difference within their communities in the future.

For the past 2 years the charity has had to make the decision not to take on new students on full scholarships. We have increasing numbers in tertiary education which is particularly expensive and our regular standing order donations are not keeping pace with the rising cost of the scholarships. We do, however, appreciate our donors who continue to bless the charity and its beneficiaries with their generosity in difficult times. This has made it possible for us to fully support our existing scholarship students.

Achievements against objectives set

We are pleased to have been able to achieve all our objectives for the year. Our scholarship students' fees and related expenses have been paid on time which takes away a lot of the anxiety experienced by so many families in northern Uganda; children who were being kept at home because the struggle to raise the money for fees was too great are now in the new secondary school, and it has been really exciting to watch the first phase of the new school building grow and become ready for its first students who have made a successful start to their secondary education.

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set

We held some small fundraising events during the year. There were 2 coffee mornings with sales tables and a sale of crafts at the Ardingly Christmas Fair. These helped us raise funds for the scholarships. St. Symphorian's Church, Durrington raised some funds for the building of the new school through their alternative Christmas card fundraiser. The students of Ardingly College raised over £1000 through a 24 hour dance-a-thon and a doughnut sale. This, too, helped with funding for the building. A "Buy a Brick" appeal was also very successful in raising funds for the school construction.

Investment performance against objectives

Our investment with CCLA's COIF Ethical Investment Fund has brought in a regular income which has helped to fund the scholarships. Our investment has also risen a little in value.

As can be seen in the accounts, we have used £50,000 of this investment and the funds we had in the Shawbrook savings account to help fund the building of the new school. This does mean that the income we were receiving from investments has been reduced and will be reduced further as the building work progresses.

Visits to Uganda

Communication with our partner ICEF is excellent through the NGO's director Acen Kevin and we are kept fully informed of the progress of all the work taking place with frequent photographs and videos. We also aim to visit at least once a year. The charity chairperson, Belinda, spent just over a week in Uganda in late November 2023. She spent time with the ICEF team, the Catholic diocese project team, and past and present students on Imara scholarships. She visited two primary schools that provide education for the visually impaired and she was able to see the progress being made with the building of the new school.

Looking forward

The charity will continue to work with Lira Catholic diocese on the next phase of the building of the secondary school for the visually impaired and other learners. Phase 2 will be dormitory accommodation for the girls and Phase 3 the braille library, library, and computer rooms.

The charity will continue to support disadvantaged children and young people with grants and scholarships.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The charity's income for the year shows a big increase on the previous year but this is largely because we received a final payment of a legacy and also a generous donation of £10,000. Our Standing Order income was, however, slightly down. As we have some new regular donors, it is expected that it will go up in the coming year. When looking at outgoings, they are almost £120,000 more than our income largely due to nearly £150,000 spent on school construction. We have a reasonable amount left in our current and deposit accounts but we will need to draw more from our CCLA investment as we continue to contribute towards the construction of the new school for the visually impaired and other learners.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves and stating why they are held

The charity's policy is to hold sufficient money in reserve to enable it to meet increases in school fees and the considerable increase in the cost of education as our scholars transfer from primary to secondary school and on to tertiary education.

Amount of reserves held

Not less than the cost of school fees for a year are kept in reserve.

The charity's principal sources of funds

A very important source of funding continues to be the regular monthly donations from individual supporters. The charity also receives a regular monthly donation from a small business. Several one off donations were received during the year, and the final legacy payment.



Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Registered Charity Number 1142239

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended

31st March 2024

	General & Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023-2024	Total Funds 2022-2023
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations from standing orders/direct debits	12,050		12,050	12,210
Other donations	17,297		17,297	4,010
Fundraising Trading	430		430	
Fundraising non trading	263		263	
Gift Aid Relief	2,675		2,675	1,952
Legacy	32,686		32,686	
Investment income	5,088		5,088	5,719
TOTAL INCOME	70,489		70,489	23,891
 Expenditure				
Scholarships and grants	23,410		23,410	24,367
Educational materials	10,939		10,939	2,126
School construction	148,109		148,109	
Ugandan team allowances & expenses	5,453		5,453	5,991
Insurance	747		747	736
Visits to Uganda				2,934
Charges	287		287	225
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	188,945		188,945	36,379
<u>Net expenditure before transfers</u>				
 Transfers				
Transfers between funds				
Shawbrook savings account closed			78,002	
Withdrawn from CCLA investment fund			50,000	
Net movements in funds			128,002	
 Reconciliation of funds	Current Account	Deposit Account	Total	
Total funds brought forward	10,284	40,382	50,666	
Total funds carried forward	17,501	42,711	60,212	



Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Registered Charity Number 114223

Balance Sheet

as at

31st March 2024

Unrestricted	As at 31/03/2024	As at 31/03/2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments:		
CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund	100,000	150,000
Shawbrook Savings A/C		78,000
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>228,000</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand: Current Account	17,501	10,284
Deposit Account	<u>42,771</u>	<u>40,382</u>
	<u>60,212</u>	<u>50,666</u>
Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>160,212</u>	<u>278,666</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted Funds		
Unrestricted – General Fund	160,212	278,666
Designated Funds		
Designated – General Fund		
Restricted Funds		
TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE CHARITY	<u>160,212</u>	<u>278,666</u>

Independent Examiner's report

to the Trustees and Members of

Imara Uganda Education Fund (Registered Charity no 1142239)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that it is good practice for an independent examination to be carried out even though it is not legally required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;**
- to follow the 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 report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matters have come to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and**
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act**

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Mrs Catherine Gleadow
15 Lundy Close
Littlehampton
BN17 6NX
Dated**


16/7/2024
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Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document

Constitution adopted 2nd July 2011

How the charity is constituted

Unincorporated Association

Trustee selection methods

Trustees and Officers are appointed or reappointed by members annually at the AGM.

The charity's organisational structure

The charity is managed by the trustees and officers. As we are a very small organisation, the whole management team is involved in planning, policy making and carrying out the work of the charity.

Officers and Trustees

During the year ended 31st march 2024 the following people served as Officers and Trustees of Imara-Uganda Education Fund:

Officers:

Chairperson:	Belinda Maclean
Treasurer:	Roger Walker
Membership secretary:	Pamela Newnham
Minute secretary:	Marielyn Wood

Trustees:

Belinda Maclean
Sylvia Walker
Roger Walker
David Johnson
Emma Johnson

Relationship with any related parties

We operate in partnership with an indigenous NGO, Itinga Charity Education Foundation which was formed at our request and shares our aims and objectives. ICEF carries out the day to day work of the charity in Uganda.

The charity is working in partnership with the Lira Catholic diocese to enable the construction of the school for the visually impaired and other learners.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Registered charity number: 1142239

Charity's principal address: South Cottage, 90 High Street,

Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TD

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s) *Belinda Maclean*

Full name(s) BELINDA MARY MACLEAN

Position CHAIRPERSON

Date 7/9/24

Signature(s) *Rog Walker*

Full name(s) GERALD ROGER WALKER

Position TREASURER

Date 7.9.24