



# **Imara-Uganda Education Fund**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From period start date: 01/04/2024 to period end date: 31/03/2025**

**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 objectives 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 start of the second phase of the building of the new inclusive secondary school for the visually impaired and other students in the Lira area of northern Uganda and to continue to provide 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, local NGO 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 continue to appreciate their dedication and hard work which contributes enormously to the difference we are able to make to the lives of our beneficiary students and schools.

## 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 School – Inclusive education for the blind and other students**

The building of the first phase of a secondary school funded by the charity, offering inclusive education and opened for its first students in February 2024, has proved to be a life-changer for many young people. It offers the hope of an education many could not have dreamed of. By February 2025, the school was educating 43 students in Senior 1 and 2. They include 9 who are totally blind, 13 partially sighted, 1 with sickle cell anaemia, 2 with cerebral palsy, 2 with other physical disabilities and the rest with no disability. Many of these young people are from the poorest of families and some were dropping out of school because their families could not raise the money for fees for their children. Thanks to the support of our donors, we were able to offer school fees grants to enable them to be in school, knowing that without an education there is little opportunity for a blind or orphaned child to reach their potential and lead a fulfilled life. A bright child can be forced to end up begging on the streets. By February 2025, we were supporting 16 students on school fees grants. They include a girl from a family of 9 children 4 of whom are totally blind. She had no Braille teaching before entering St. Mary Goretti School. Now she is learning Braille and how to use a computer with JAWS screen reader for the blind. She says the opportunity has changed her life and is the best experience ever.

A boy orphaned at the age of 4 was supported through primary school by his grandfather and he achieved a Division 1 pass in his Primary Leaving Exams. His grandfather's deteriorating health meant that he could not continue his education and he dropped out of school. With the support



of the charity, he has been given the life-changing opportunity to continue his education at St. Mary Goretti Secondary School.

The school is the only one in the Lira area of northern Uganda offering inclusive education to the blind.

### **Continuing the building programme**

Work is in progress on the building of dormitory accommodation for the girls. When completed there will be 2 dormitories, washrooms, a sick bay and a room for the matron.

### **Provision of educational materials and furnishings**

We received a grant of £1000 from World Day of Prayer and with this we were able to put 2 computers into the school with JAWS screen reader for the blind. With other generous donations, we have been able to supply the school with desks and with bunk beds. Acen Kevin, director of our partner NGO Itinga Charity Education Foundation has done much to create awareness of the school. She was awarded a Changemaker Award Grant by MTN Uganda and the school received more desks and 3 more computers with JAWS screen reader as a result. Other organisations have donated books in Braille and 5 Orbit Reader 20 which are used for making notes in Braille and for reading using an SD card.

## **Scholarships**

The charity supported 20 children and young people on full scholarships this year. Eight of these were in tertiary or vocational training colleges and institutions – one studying clinical medicine at diploma level, one studying Physics and Maths at university with a view to teaching when he has graduated, four are studying nursing, one social work and one tailoring. We supported 10 students 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 these 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. They will make a positive difference within their communities in the future. We are proud of our scholarship students many of whom face physical challenges but prove that disability does not mean inability.

We are not awarding new full scholarships. We are instead giving school fees grants to enable students, many of whom are blind or have other disabilities, to attend St. Mary Goretti Secondary School. 16 students are supported with school fees grants. In most cases the full fees are paid by the charity.

We appreciate the generosity of our regular donors who continue to enable us to make a difference to the lives of these students through scholarships and grants. The former scholarship students of the charity have formed a group which meets once a year. They are in regular contact with each other through WhatsApp so all can continue to feel supported.

## **Achievements against objectives set**

All our scholarship students' fees and related expenses have been paid on time. The 16 students we are supporting with school fees grants are in school and receiving an education that would otherwise have been denied them.

We have been able to supply the scholarship students with all the educational materials they are requested to bring each term.

St. Mary Goretti Secondary School, being a new school, has many needs but gradually we have been able to meet some of these needs through the provision of furniture and equipment.

Phase 2 of the construction, the building of dormitories for the girls, has met with challenges and twice we have had to stop the work while mistakes were being rectified. The actual costs have proved to be higher than the estimates. The challenges have led to delays but progress is being made.

## **Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set.**

Small fundraising events helped to boost our income and together with regular and one off donations they enabled us to meet our objectives for the year. We had a sales table on Ardingly Village Day in July and a sale of crafts at the Ardingly Village Fair. We held a coffee morning with a sales table during the year. St. Symphorian's Church Durrington, raised some funds for beds for the girls at St. Mary Goretti Secondary School through their alternative Christmas card fundraiser. A birthday fundraiser helped us to buy desks for the school. A grant of £1000 from World Day of Prayer enabled us to buy 2 computers with JAWS screen reader for the blind for St. Mary Goretti Secondary School.

## **Investment performance against objectives**

Our investment with CCLA's COIF Ethical Investment Fund has continued to bring in a regular income which has helped to fund the scholarships. We have not taken from the capital during the year but we will need to do so as the building of the school continues into Phase 3.

## **Visits to Uganda**

We were unable to visit during the year but look forward to doing so again very soon. Regular communication with our partner ICEF with photos and videos has continued to keep us well informed of the progress of the school and the requirements and achievements of the scholarship students and those on school fees grants.

## **Looking forward**

We expect Phase 2 of the construction of the secondary school for the visually impaired, dormitory accommodation for the girls, to be completed in 2025. Phase 3 will be the construction of the braille library, library and computer rooms. We expect to be ready to start these rooms in 2026.

We will continue to support existing scholarship students on full scholarships to the completion of their education. Grants to cover school fees will be paid for students at present receiving them and for any new beneficiaries.

## **Financial Review**

### **Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period.**

Our income for 2024-2025 shows an increase in Standing Order payments, fundraising and Gift Aid of £1800, which is encouraging, but after last year's record donations, the figure for this year has dropped by about £12,000. The result of this is that we have very nearly been able to pay scholarships, educational materials and allowances out of income, but have had to take school building costs and sundries out of capital. Despite this, we still have just over £100,000 invested with CCLA, some of which we will almost certainly have to draw on for the next stage of school building costs. While we will eventually have to rethink the way in which we operate, it is remarkable that, as a small local charity, we have been able to fund two considerable school building projects as well as the education of our children in Uganda.

### **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 cost of education when 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 is kept in reserve.

### **The charity's principle sources of funds**

Our main source of funding continues to be the regular monthly donations from individual supporters. The charity also receives a monthly donation from a small business. Several one off donations were received during the year. The charity carries out small fundraising activities.

# Structure, Governance and Management

## Type of governing document

Constitution adopted 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011

## How the charity is constituted

Unincorporated Association

## Trustee selection methods

Trustees 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 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 (ICEF) 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 (England and Wales)

**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' annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature *Belinda Maclean*

Full name(s) BELINDA MARY MACLEAN

Position CHAIRPERSON

Date 30.8.25

Signature *Gerald Pope Walker*

Full name(s) Gerald Pope Walker

Position Hon. Treasurer

Date 30.8.25





# Imara-Uganda Education Fund

Registered Charity Number 1142239

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

|                                    | General & Designated Funds | Restricted Funds       | Total Funds 2024-2025 | Total Funds 2023-2024 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                    | £                          | £                      | £                     | £                     |
| <b>Income</b>                      |                            |                        |                       |                       |
| Donations from standing            |                            |                        |                       |                       |
| Orders/direct debits               | 12,714                     |                        | 12,714                | 12,050                |
| Other donations                    | 5,174                      |                        | 5,174                 | 17,297                |
| Fundraising Trading                | 624                        |                        | 624                   | 430                   |
| Fundraising non trading            | 1,144                      |                        | 1,144                 | 263                   |
| Gift Aid Relief                    | 2,736                      |                        | 2,736                 | 2,675                 |
| Legacy                             |                            |                        |                       | 32,686                |
| Investment income                  | <u>3,631</u>               |                        | <u>3,631</u>          | <u>5,088</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>26,023</b>              |                        | <b>26,023</b>         | <b>70,489</b>         |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                 |                            |                        |                       |                       |
| Scholarships and Grants            | 17,367                     |                        | 17,367                | 23,410                |
| Educational materials/furniture    | 3,238                      |                        | 3,238                 | 10,939                |
| School construction                | 33,939                     |                        | 33,939                | 148,109               |
| Ugandan allowances/expenses        | 5,681                      |                        | 5,681                 | 5,453                 |
| Insurance                          | 744                        |                        | 744                   | 747                   |
| Bank transfer error                | 5                          |                        | 5                     |                       |
| Charges                            | <u>282</u>                 |                        | <u>282</u>            | <u>287</u>            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>           | <b>61,256</b>              |                        | <b>61,256</b>         | <b>188,945</b>        |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>     | <b>Current Account</b>     | <b>Premium Account</b> | <b>Total</b>          |                       |
| <b>Total funds brought forward</b> | <b>17,501</b>              | <b>42,711</b>          | <b>60,212</b>         |                       |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> | <b>12,034</b>              | <b>12,945</b>          | <b>24,979</b>         |                       |





**Imara-Uganda Education Fund**  
**Registered Charity Number 114223**

**Balance Sheet**  
**as at**  
**31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

|   | <b>As at<br/>31/03/2025</b> | <b>As at<br/>31/03/2024</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                       | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>                    |
| Investments                               |                             |                             |
| CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund         | 100,000                     | 100,000                     |
| <br><b>Current Assets</b>                 |                             |                             |
| Cash at bank and in hand: Current Account | 12,034                      | 17,501                      |
| Premium Account                           | <u>12,945</u>               | <u>42,771</u>               |
|   | 24,979                      | 60,212                      |
| <br><b>Liabilities</b>                    | <u>0</u>                    | <u>0</u>                    |
| <b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>  | 124,979                     | 160,212                     |
| <br><b>Represented by</b>                 |                             |                             |
| <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> – General Fund  | 124,979                     | 160,212                     |
| <b>Designated Funds</b> – General Fund    |                             |                             |
| <b>Restricted Funds</b>                   |                             |                             |
| <br><b>TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE CHARITY</b>    | <b>124,979</b>              | <b>160,212</b>              |



## **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 2025**

### **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**

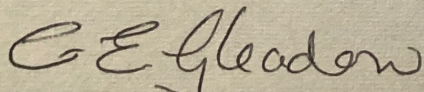
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(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 ..... 07/07/25**



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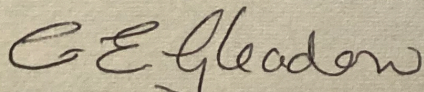
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