



LYRA IN AFRICA

Charity registration number 1146496

Trustees report

FOR THE PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN MONTHS
ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

Lyra in Africa
Registered charity number: 1146496
Address:
Colstrove Farm
Hambleton, RG9 6SL BUCKS

Trustees

Kerstin Britta Olanike da Souza- Akerele
Helene Klausner-Huth
Philip Marsden (chairperson appointed 16/04/2020)
Fiona Sanderson (resigned 30th June 2021)
Maria Spink – founder
Regina Taylor
Michael Wortley

Trustee selection method:

Approaches are made to those the current trustees believe would bring necessary skills to the organisation and if they are willing to put themselves forward their appointment is put to the full board for approval.

Governing document

The Charity was registered on the 21st of March 2012 and is governed by a Trust Deed dated 12th February 2012.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE

The Board takes overall responsibility for Lyra, including responsibility for identifying key risk areas, considering significant financial matters, and reviewing the performance of management, strategic plans and budgets. The Board is also responsible for ensuring that a comprehensive system of internal control policies and procedures is operative, and for compliance with sound governance principles.

The Board meets at least four times a year. During the 18 months period, the Board met six times (One Annual General Meeting, five Ordinary Meetings and one Extraordinary general Meeting) and discussed various matters about Lyra including budgets, funding, operational performance, risk management and risk reviews, safeguarding, tax liabilities, change of financial year, review of general Board affairs and approval of financial statements.

The Board delegates the day-to-day management of Lyra in Africa (Lyra) to the CEO and COO. Members of the senior management team are occasionally invited to attend Board meetings and facilitate the effective control of all Lyra's operational activities.

Lyra is committed to the principles of effective governance. The Directors also recognize the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability.

Lyra in Africa, Tanzania:

In 2015 an affiliated charity – Lyra in Africa Organisation – was established in Tanzania to facilitate the delivery of the UK charity's objectives. It is now well established in the Iringa district with an office and staff to manage projects, such as the construction of hostels, training of digital education in schools and entrepreneurship training to rural youth groups.

The Management of Lyra in Africa in Tanzania is under the National Director and is organized in the following main departments:

- Finance, Human Resources and Administration
- Eco-friendly Construction
- Young people's Livelihoods
- Digital Learning in rural Government schools

Lyra is currently active in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania with the intention to scale into further rural regions in the country.

1. Lyra's VISION AND MISSION

Vision

To create vibrant rural communities by improving education and income opportunities specifically for rural marginalised girls, youth, and women across Tanzania.

Mission

Lyra's mission is to give rural girls and youth equal opportunities to complete their secondary studies and increase their access to social and economic opportunities.

Lyra is currently active in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania with the intention to extend into other rural regions in the country.

2. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Lyra has three interwoven principal activities as detailed below which are implemented by Lyra in Africa, Tanzania:

1. Construction of Hostels for Girls in Government Secondary Schools:

1.a. Lyra builds eco-friendly dormitories so that girls from wide rural catchment areas (where secondary schools serve villages up to 30 km apart), can attend secondary school safely and complete their studies. Lyra works with local government (District Councils) and communities (Wards) and together have constructed eleven hostels in Iringa Region as of 30th June 2021, with a total bed capacity of 842, and occupancy rates of 130%.

Lyra contributes an average of 80% of the total Hostel construction costs, while the District, Wards and other Stakeholders contribute the rest. At a handover ceremony, maintenance and responsibility for the hostels are handed over to the District Authorities and schools.

For our green credentials, as an example, we make and use Interlocking Soil Stabilized Bricks (ISSBs) which are compressed earth- instead of burnt bricks that use natural forest resources, thus stopping deforestation around our partner schools. By training local labourers, we transfer these skills into the communities. We also use biofill digester toilets to stop the use of pit latrines. Water gutters are installed for rainwater collection.

In each of the projects, the Ward Construction Committee members help on the day-to-day supervision of the project, while each School assigns a teacher to be in charge of stock control of all the construction material stored in a safe room at the school. The projects are successfully implemented in a very collaborative way with any arising issues communicated without delay.

For this reporting period, the 11th completed Girls' Hostel was handed over to the Kising'a Community and Iringa District Council on 4th November 2020, whereby 115 girls started living in the hostel on the same day. The total cost of the construction stands at £66,000, of which the largest donor was the Michael Matthews Foundation, funding 84%, with the Iringa District and communities funding the remaining 16%.

In the next reporting period, In the autumn of 2021, Lyra will complete and handover two new hostels, bringing the total to thirteen hostels in eleven schools.

1.b. Girls Sponsorship Program:

Within the hostel program, since 2012, we sponsor girls from the most vulnerable families to stay in our purpose-built hostels. These girls would not otherwise be able to either study or live in the Hostels due to inability to pay hostel fees. In the 18-month period we sponsored approx. 100 girls.

Overall Achievements for Lyra hostels:

As of 30th June 2021, Lyra in collaboration with Local Government Authorities (District Councils) and Communities, have constructed eleven hostels, accommodating over 1,300 girls every year.

- Pregnancies: To-date, more than 3,000 girls have lived in our hostels with no reported pregnancies.
- Drop-outs from hostels: Lyra's evidence shows that hostels are contributing to lowering overall student drop-out rates within our schools, with just two hostel girls dropping out of secondary school to date, compared to more than 800 students between 2014 and 2021 across eight partner schools. This is a strong indicator demonstrating just how critical hostels have been in keeping girls safe and enabling them to continue to learn.
- Academic achievement: Lyra hostels give girls a safe space to live, but also time to study after school and at the weekends. This translates into higher academic achievements for girls living in the hostels. (See below Digital Learning – Academic Performance)

2. Digital Learning Program:

We aim to transform classroom teaching so that girls and boys have a chance to self-study and gain independent relevant skills to work in the 21st Century.

Lyra's Digital Learning Program (DL) comprises two parts: the installation of computer labs with offline, high quality educational content in our partner schools as well as teaching weekly classes in ICT (ICT clubs) after school.

Simultaneously in choosing schools for the construction of hostels, an agreement is signed between district officials and our partner schools that envisage a broader cooperation, including the introduction of digital learning in the schools.

Students and teachers have access to offline, both Tanzanian based curricula content and world-class educational materials (including Wikipedia, Khan Academy). Installation and intensive teacher/ student training are performed in collaboration with a partner, Camara Education Tanzania (<https://camara.org/tanzania/>). Lyra also partners with Shule Direct (<https://www.shuledirect.co.tz/>) for offline Tanzanian curriculum aligned education material.

ICT Clubs: Lyra started ICT and coding clubs in six rural ward secondary schools in 2019. There are weekly training sessions with student club members. Intensive teachers training is provided to ensure sustainability.

This program did not continue in 2020 as schools closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the spring 2021, the Organisation re-started the program, now called ICT Clubs in six secondary schools: Nyang'oro, Ilambilole, Mlowa, Mazombe, Lundamatwe and Lulanzi.

The main aim of these clubs is to promote ICT in Schools in line with Tanzanian Ministry guidelines. The clubs teach the students in ICT, giving them exposure and control of the equipment and, through experimentation, students build skills in problem solving, logical and critical thinking.

Because Lyra's computer labs are accepted by the Regional and District authorities, schools allocate time for digital learning as part of the school remedial classes.

DL Equipment: In 2020 Lyra successfully expanded the digital learning program from eight to nine Ward Secondary Schools in Iringa region, by adding one new Computer Lab at Mlowa Secondary School, in Mlowa Ward, Iringa District. The lab is equipped with a total of 20 Computers and 1 Server. The donor for this three-year program is the British Foreign School Society.

3. Rural Livelihoods Program for marginalized youth- Imarika Kijana (IK)

This program is divided into two interventions - the Imarika Kijana (IK – Strong Youth) Program and the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) Program. During this period the VSLA program integrated with the IK program.

Imarika Kijana (IK) Program: Strong Rural Youth

The IK program was introduced in 2018 to meet the urgent need for supporting rural based youth to develop new business ideas and improve livelihoods within their community. With an increasing large number of unemployed youths, the demand for the program is very high, especially in the rural areas where Lyra is active, as up to 90% of the community members are subsistence farmers.

Implementation of the program has been done in partnership with RLabs Tanzania (www.rlabs.co.tz). Selected rural youth are trained to become our “Core local Trainers” in accordance with the IK Manual.

The IK program has become a signature program for Lyra. With a growing population of unemployed youth who have little or no opportunities, Imarika Kijana restores their hope through an intensive training course in entrepreneurship and business thinking.

In this reporting period, Lyra entered a two-year agreement with the UK's FCDO to train 400 youth in four cohorts. The Core Trainers are delivering the program in their communities. Lyra has trained three Cohorts so far, reaching 1,460 youth during this period.

The program has four core components: i) ‘Grow Leadership’ training, focusing on creating a new open mindset to see the opportunities in one’s own environment ii) business and entrepreneurship mentoring sessions, including use of technology for business; iii) exposure visits to commercial projects (farming, industries, trade shows) and iv) training in the Youth Savings and Loans Groups (YSLA) methodology. In this final module of the 15-module training, youth learn how to save and access loans through their groups. Lyra supports the YSLAs through the first annual cycle of saving and lending funds and continues to monitor their progress for another year.

Of the 1,460 rural based youth that graduated from Lyra’s IK training at least 60% have started a new business, mainly in merchandising, agriculture, tailoring and poultry with more than 50% more than doubling their income

As a result of the IK training, 31 Youth Savings and Loans Associations (YSLAs) were established, with a total of 540 members (69% female and 5% disabled). At the end of the FY, total savings grew from TZS 9.9million (£3,225) to TZS 38million (£12,260) with 80% loaned out to members. Return on savings stood at 11.9%, while average annualized saving per member was TZS 152,711 (£50). This is an achievement for the youth who until now have lived below the poverty line. All YSLAs are registered with their respective District Councils and three have been granted interest free loans from their respective District Councils.

Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs):

In the absence of formal banking structures, in 2012 Lyra started the VSLA program for rural based families and communities to manage their money and access credit to invest in income-generating activities. We support VSLAs to be registered with their respective Local Government Authorities (District Councils), where they can access Government interest free loans to support their businesses.

Lyra continues to provide training to Community Based Trainers (CBTs) who in turn provide support to existing VSLAs, as well as starting new groups in their communities.

In 2020, most of Lyra’s traditional VSLA groups graduated, which implies they are deemed self-sustaining and can register with the local District. They remain supported by a network of 26 trained Community Based Trainers (CBTs), who start new VSLAs in their own communities. The CBTs also work for Lyra in developing the new IK Youth SLAs and guide them through the VSLA Methodology.

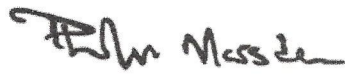
As of June 2021, the remaining 10 supervised VSLAs have a total of 238 members (184 female), with total shares/ assets value of £17,000

3. Reserves Policy:

The Charity operates with limited cash reserves. The Trustees' objectives is to maintain a sufficient balance to meet committed expenditure on current projects and cover foreseeable administration expenses. Major projects and initiatives are met from separate fundraising activities.

Declaration: I declare in my capacity as charity trustee, that the board of trustees have approved the report above and have authorised be to sign it on their behalf.

Signed by Chairperson



Dated: 29.04.2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Lyra in Africa

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the 18 months ended 30th June 2021, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of 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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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.

I note that it is the responsibility of the Lyra (TZ) National Director and the Lyra (TZ) board to ensure that monies transferred to Tanzania are used appropriately in accordance with agreed budgets. I have not examined that expenditure.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 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.



Christopher Whitehead
Chartered Accountant
Hambleton
Henley on Thames
Oxon RG9 6SN

26 April 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

For the 18 months ended 30th June 2021

	Note	30th June 2021			31st December 2019		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £
Incoming resources							
Donations received		78,511	335,164	413,675	72,297	178,738	251,035
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		12,024		12,024	505		505
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	5	90,535	335,164	425,699	72,802	178,738	251,540
Resources expended							
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Grants to Lyra in Africa Organisation, Tanz	6	45,290	198,927	244,217	39,668	178,738	218,406
Hostel Construction & Refurbishment		-	-	-	11,129		11,129
Imarika Kijana youth project FCDO funds			4,421	4,421	-		-
Programme management and M&E		25,280	4,088	29,368	7,300		7,300
<i>Support costs</i>							
Finance & administration		11,488	9,400	20,888	6,601		6,601
Communications & promotion		14,144		14,144	2,188		2,188
Fundraising		5,162		5,162	1,733		1,733
Governance costs		1,465		1,465	3,712		3,712
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		102,829	216,836	319,665	72,331	178,738	251,069
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(12,294)	118,328	106,034	471	-	471
Balances brought forward		22,925	-	22,925	22,454	-	22,454
		10,631	118,328	128,959	22,925	-	22,925
Gross transfers between funds				-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 10,631	£ 118,328	£ 128,959	£ 22,925	£ -	£ 22,925

Balance sheet

	30th June 2021			31st December 2019		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £
Net current assets						
Bank balances	14,291	120,628	134,919	23,653	-	23,653
Less: Creditors	(3,660)	(2,300)	(5,960)	(728)	-	(728)
TOTAL ASSETS	£ 10,631	£ 118,328	£ 128,959	£ 22,925	£ -	£ 22,925
Funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds	10,631		10,631	22,925		22,925
Restricted funds (donated for a specific purpose)		118,328	118,328		-	-
	£ 10,631	£ 118,328	£ 128,959	£ 22,925	£ -	£ 22,925

Lyra in Africa

Notes to the accounts

For the 18 months ended 30th June 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Expenditure represents amounts invoiced, including value added tax which cannot be recovered.

Foreign currency - US Dollars

For expenditure and transfers in US dollars an average exchange set at the beginning of the accounting period is used - for 2020/21 at \$1.20 to £1. Monetary assets and liabilities held in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the rate of exchange ruling on that date. The rate used at 30th June 2021 was \$1.38 to £1 (2019: \$1.20). Any resulting difference on translation is taken through the Statement of Financial Activities, with gains being shown in Other Incoming Resources and losses shown under resources expended

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

2 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

No fees, remuneration or benefits were paid to any Trustee during the period (2019 - £nil)

3 Staff costs

The charity does not employ any staff (2019 - none)

4 Related Party Disclosures

There were no transactions with related parties in the period

5 Income Received

	2021			2019		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Donations	44,729	137,132	181,861	64,063	-	64,063
Grants from other charities	33,782	156,855	190,637	8,234	178,738	186,972
Grants from Government	-	41,177	41,177	-	-	-
Gift aid	12,024	-	12,024	505	-	505
	90,535	335,164	425,699	72,802	178,738	251,540

6 Grants to Lyra in Africa Organisation - Tanzania

Restricted Funds						
Hostel construction	29,609	130,052	159,661	-	145,845	145,845
Youth rural livelihoods	7,229	31,754	38,983		20,016	20,016
Girls sponsorship	5,930	26,047	31,978			
Digital learning	2,521	11,074	13,595		12,877	12,877
Unrestricted Funds						
Programmatic Contributions		-	-	39,668	-	39,668
	45,290	198,927	244,217	39,668	178,738	218,406