



LYRA IN AFRICA

Charity registration number 1146496

Trustees report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022

Lyra in Africa

Registered charity number: 1146496

Address:

Colstrop Farm

Hambleden, Bucks RG9 6SL

Trustees

Maria Spink – founder

Philip Marsden (chairperson appointed 16/04/20)

Emily Echessa (appointed 02/06/20)

Kerstin Britta Olanike da Souza- Akerele (appointed 11/11/20)

Michael Wortley (resigned 14/02/22)

Regina Taylor (resigned 29/04/22)

Joy Aladekomo (appointed 30/01/23)

Trustee selection method:

Approaches are made to those people 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.

ORGANISATIONAL 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 ordinarily meets four times a year. During the 12 months period, the Board met five times (one Annual General Meeting, four 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 recognise 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 organised in the following main departments:

- Finance, Human Resources and Administration
- Eco-friendly Construction
- Young people's Livelihoods and savings and loans schemes
- 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 marginalised girls, youth, and women across rural 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:

2a. Construction of Hostels for Girls in rural Government Secondary Schools:

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 thirteen hostels in Iringa Region as of 30th June 2022, with a total bed capacity of 1098 and occupancy rates averaging 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 Biofil 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 in 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, Lyra's Tanzanian sister organisation completed two more hostels, in Maduma and Ifwagi communities, bringing the total to thirteen hostels.

2.b. Girls sponsorship for ultra-poor girls in government secondary schools:

The sponsorship of girls to stay in hostels saw a brief drop in numbers during the year as our systems identified anomalies giving rise to concern over external management teams involved, particularly at one school. This led to an interim reduction in numbers of girls, an increase in cost and a strengthening around reporting and monitoring. At time of reporting, this situation has been recovered and we sponsor 120 girls to stay in school.

2.c. Digital Learning Program:

Lyra leverages the power of digital technology to transform learning so that students and teachers can self-study and gain relevant skills to prepare them for work in the 21st Century.

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

Lyra expanded the digital learning programme to eight partner schools during the year by installing a further two computer labs.

We train teachers and coaches to help students use tablets and computers for interactive self-study. Students and teachers have access to offline content, both Tanzanian based curricula and world-class educational materials (including Wikipedia, Khan Academy). Installation and intensive teacher/ student training are performed in collaboration with two partners; Camara Education Tanzania (<https://camara.org/tanzania/>) and OTEX Technologies. Lyra also partners with Shule Direct (<https://www.shuledirect.co.tz/>) for offline Tanzanian curriculum aligned material.

ICT Clubs: A total of 434 students (230 girls) participated during the year in weekly ICT club sessions given by Lyra's Digital Learning Coaches and Mentors.

Lyra students participated in several events, including a Robotic workshop where 406 students from five Lyra Schools participated, with the aim of inspiring them to take science subjects. Four Lyra sponsored students attended a 3-month Jovia Program that provides advanced IT and entrepreneurship training to girls and young women aged 17 to 24 who cannot afford higher education or have dropped out of school due to socioeconomic factors. Refresher teacher training courses in ICT were also held through the year.

2.d. Rural Livelihoods Programme for marginalised youth- Imarika Kijana (IK)

This programme incorporates two interventions - the Imarika Kijana (IK - Strong Youth) Programme and the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) Programme.

2.e. Imarika Kijana (IK) Programme: Strong Rural Youth

The IK programme 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.

The IK programme has become a signature programme 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.

The programme aims to empower rural youth and marginalized groups to create sustainable livelihoods in their own communities. Selected rural youth are trained to become our "Core local Trainers". With funding under a two-year grant the programme reached a total of 1,706 youth. Under the same FCDO grant, Lyra assisted in the establishment of 45 savings and loans associations (SLAs) with 891 members.

As part of the programme, business mentors provided training sessions and exposed the youth to existing businesses in Iringa. This resulted in a notable increase in entrepreneurial activity in the project villages in the Iringa region. The end line survey indicated that 81% of graduates established new businesses. 69% of those with existing businesses reported that the IK training improved their business. This increase in entrepreneurial activity resulted in a minimum doubling of incomes for 60% of the participants.

Total savings under the IK programme grew from TZS 10 million (GBP3,333) at the end of June 2021 to TZS 86.95 million (GBP 29,000) at the end of June 2022, with 66% loans to savings ratio.

2.f. 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.

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 2022, Lyra's VSLA groups continued to graduate, becoming eligible for registering with the local District. We support VSLAs to be registered with their respective District Councils, where they can access Government interest free loans to support their businesses. They remain supported by a network of 26 trained Community Based Trainers (CBTs), who continue to 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 2022, Lyra supervises 45 VSLA group with a total of 900 members (609 female), with total shares/ assets value of £37,000.

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 me to sign it on their behalf.

Signed by Chairperson 

Dated: 14.4.23

Independent examiner's report on the accounts to the trustees of Lyra in Africa (charity no 1146496)

Report on the accounts for the twelve months ended 30th June 2022, which are set out on the attached pages.
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30th June 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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: Uzema Ahmad

Date: 14 April 2023

Name: UZEMA AHMAD

Professional Qualification (if any) CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

4 SYON GATE WAY, BRENTFORD, TW8 9DD

Lyra in Africa
Statement of Financial Activities
For the 12 months ended 30th June 2022

		30th June 2022			30th June 2021 (18m)		
	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £
Incoming resources							
Donations received		61,856	81,725	143,581	78,511	335,164	413,675
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		1,133		1,133	12,024		12,024
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	5	62,989	81,725	144,714	90,535	335,164	425,699
Resources expended							
Charitable activities							
Grants to Lyra In Africa Organisation, Tanz	6		150,122	150,122	45,290	198,927	244,217
Research and Training		6,523		6,523	-	-	-
Imarika Kijana youth project FCDO UK pymnt			1,500	1,500		4,421	4,421
Solar Project			13,846	13,846			
Programme management and M&E		19,200	2,354	21,554	25,280	4,088	29,368
Support costs							
Finance & administration		8,112	5,304	2,808	11,488	9,400	20,888
Communications & promotion		4,722		4,722	14,144		14,144
Fundraising		14,848		14,848	5,162		5,162
Governance costs		1,200		1,200	1,465		1,465
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		54,605	162,518	217,123	102,829	216,836	319,665
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		8,384	(80,793)	(72,409)	(12,294)	118,328	106,034
Balances brought forward		10,631	118,328	128,959	22,925	-	22,925
		19,015	37,535	56,550	10,631	118,328	128,959
Gross transfers between funds		(15,873)	15,873	-			-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 3,142	£ 53,408	£ 56,550	£ 10,631	£ 118,328	£ 128,959

Balance sheet

	30th June 2022			30th June 2021		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total £
Net current assets						
Bank balances	6,144	53,406	59,550	14,291	120,628	134,919
Less: Creditors	(3,000)	-	(3,000)	(3,660)	(2,300)	(5,960)
TOTAL ASSETS	£ 3,144	£ 53,406	£ 56,550	£ 10,631	£ 118,328	£ 128,959
Funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds	3,142		3,142	10,631		10,631
Restricted funds (donated for a specific purpose)		53,408	53,408		118,328	118,328
	£ 3,142	£ 53,408	£ 56,550	£ 10,631	£ 118,328	£ 128,959

Lyra in Africa

Notes to the accounts

For the period ended 30th June 2022

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 2021/22 at \$1.30 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 2022 was \$1.22 to £1 (2021: \$1.38). Any resulting difference on translation is taken through the Statement of Financial Activities.

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 (2021 - £nil)

3 Staff costs

The charity does not employ any staff (2021 - none)

4 Related Party Disclosures

There were no transactions with related parties in the period

5 Income Received

	2022			2021 (18m)		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Donations	61,856	38,409	100,265	44,729	137,132	181,861
Grants from other charities	-	34,116	34,116	33,782	156,855	190,637
Grants from Government	-	9,200	9,200	-	41,177	41,177
Gift aid	1,133	-	1,133	12,024	-	12,024
	62,989	81,725	144,714	90,535	335,164	425,699

6 Grants to Lyra in Africa Organisation - Tanzania

Restricted Funds						
Hostel construction		48,499	48,499	29,609	130,052	159,661
Youth rural livelihoods		30,439	30,439	7,229	31,754	38,983
Girls sponsorship		15,854	15,854	5,930	26,047	31,977
Digital learning		55,329	55,329	2,521	11,074	13,595
Unrestricted Funds						
Programmatic Contributions		-	-	-	-	-
	-	150,122	150,122	45,289	198,927	244,216