



**Women's
Education
Partnership**

Annual Report & Accounts 2023

**A Charity Registered in
England & Wales
Nº- 1151145**

Women's Education Partnership

Registered Charity No. 1151145

TRUSTEES 2023

Islam Ali
Simon Boyd
Sue Claydon
Bryony Pike
Anna Snowdon
Abdul Suliman (*Chair*)



Country Coordinator, Sudan
Neimat Issha

South Sudan partners
Gale Emmanuel
Silas Jojo

Web & IT services
Kate Smith

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The Trustees of Women's Education Partnership have approved this report of the charity's activities in 2023. WEP provides education for girls and women in Sudan and South Sudan - from elementary schools and adult literacy to university scholarships. The Trustees have complied with the duty in the Charity Act to have proper regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

Chair's Report

First I optimistically declared 2022 to be "the year of confidence." However, 2023 turned out to be chaotic and unpredictable, owing to Sudan's largest civil war in history. The conflict between two factions of the Sudanese army brought education across the country to an abrupt halt. Schools, universities, and other educational institutions were abandoned as staff and students fled. Universities in the capital cities of Khartoum, Omdurman, and Bahri were looted, and student records were deliberately destroyed, causing further disruption to civilian life.

As a result, many initially fled to more peaceful regions within Sudan, but eventually sought refuge in Egypt, Chad, Libya, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan. For 3 months we lost contact with our students, and our office in Khartoum was ransacked and shut down. In 2020 and 2021, we believed COVID-19 was the most significant challenge to our growth in Sudan—until the civil war erupted. The war shattered our activities, and we were unable to recover in time to resume the academic year.

The war began in mid-April 2023, but earlier in January, I had visited Khartoum and met with the Vice Chancellor of Al-Ahfad University to discuss expanding our teacher training programme. The positive feedback from participants encouraged us to plan further growth. I visited three adult literacy circles led by our new staff member, Aisha, under the guidance of our veteran literacy specialist, Adela. Our country coordinator was training a new recruit to manage the university programme and support scholars studying life-changing degrees at various

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2023

universities in Khartoum. Everything seemed calm at the time, and we even finalized new salary agreements. We were also excited about the upcoming visit of Imogen Thurbon to Khartoum. In South Sudan, our work was progressing as we partnered with reliable collaborators, and a small but effective programme was beginning to take shape. We were reorganizing our activities, moving towards post-COVID recovery.

In London, we celebrated receiving a £10,000 grant from The British and Foreign School Society (now known as the Educational Opportunity Foundation) for our teacher training program. Additionally, we raised approximately £12,000 through The Big Give, matched by the Coles-Medlock Foundation. It finally felt as though the dark cloud of COVID-19 had lifted. However, despite our progress, overall income remained lower than pre-COVID levels, though we were on a recovery path.

Then, in April, the war in Sudan broke out, abruptly halting all of our plans. Due to health reasons, we lost our long-serving and highly experienced treasurer, further weakening our fundraising efforts. The trustees were forced to cease operations in Khartoum, where our office had been ransacked. Sadly, we lost contact with most of our students, though by July we had WhatsApp contact with about half of them.

The funds for the teacher training programme from BFSS had to be refunded. With the war escalating, our staff fled Khartoum for safety, and the office eventually closed. Severance payments were agreed to staff made redundant. Amid these setbacks, however, our activities in South Sudan matured under the guidance of trustee Sue Claydon. Some South

Sudanese scholars began reaching out for support, and others who had sought refuge in Uganda and Kenya during the civil war started returning to cities like Juba, where we were able to provide much-needed assistance.

In South Sudan, we continued supporting KIMU Literacy School and study programmes at the Institute of Health Science in Juba, where we sponsor students pursuing Medical and Health Care studies. We are actively expanding our sponsorship for 2023 and expect further growth in 2024. Our local partner meticulously vets candidates, awarding scholarships based on a combination of academic merit and economic need. We are hopeful that the progress made in South Sudan will bring positive news in our 2024 report.

Supporters and Volunteers

WEP trustees are deeply grateful to all our supporters and volunteers in the UK, USA, Spain, and other countries, as well as in Juba and Khartoum. Without their generosity, none of this would have been possible. We are especially thankful to our regular sponsors, whose consistent support has been invaluable over the years.

During this challenging time, the trustees acknowledge that communication with our volunteers and regular donors could have been better. The gaps in communication were neither deliberate nor intentional. These issues arose largely due to difficulties obtaining reliable information from Sudan, poor internet connections, the closure of academic institutions, and the scattering of our students across several countries.

Trustees

Our success is a testament to the commitment of our six dedicated trustees, each overseeing a vital aspect of our work. Simon Boyd focuses on teacher training and fundraising; Anna Snowdon manages scholarships and safeguarding; Sue Claydon supervises WEP

activities in South Sudan; Islam Ali handles recruitment and induction of new staff; and Bryony Pike provides technical consultation, edits our newsletter, and played a crucial role in supporting our 'The Big Give' campaign.

We are fortunate to have recruited James Oram, a professional financial adviser, as our new treasurer (not a trustee).

Financial Information and Policy

Our charity's main bankers are Barclays Bank in the UK and, in Sudan, the Bank of Khartoum and Africa & Gulf Bank. However, due to the ongoing war, accessing banks in Sudan has become increasingly difficult. We have established a subsidiary, Roots for Development, which administers our programme in South Sudan and banks at Ecobank, Juba.

In 2023, just under 30% of our income came from generous individual donations, for which we are deeply grateful. The trustees maintain a policy of holding reserves to ensure the continuity of long-term scholarship programmes and provide duty of care for our Sudanese staff. We are actively seeking ways to send severance payments to our staff, as Barclays Bank has been reluctant to engage with Sudanese banks during the conflict.

Despite many challenges, WEP's charitable aid in 2023 remained consistent and reliable. We provided material support to our scholars in South Sudan, and moral support to dispersed Sudanese students.

Dr. Abdul Suliman



Chair of Trustees

24/02/2025

Women's Education Partnership

Registered charity 1151145

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

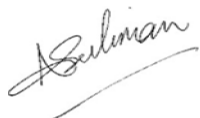
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		General	Designated			
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts		36,895	-	-	36,895	57,081
Grants	2a	-	-	56,000	56,000	86,330
Investment dividends/interest		-	-	-	-	380
Other income		1,513	-	-	1,513	1,961
		38,408	-	56,000	94,408	145,753
Asset & investment sales		-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	2b	38,408	-	56,000	94,408	145,753
Payments						
Charitable Activities	3,4	32,276	-	70,361	102,637	114,360
Fund raising & publicity		-	-	-	-	-
Governance, assurance, UK costs		560	-	-	560	2,795
Other costs		-	-	-	-	-
Currency exchange losses		4,464	-	-	4,464	3,640
		37,301	-	70,361	107,661	120,795
Asset & investment purchases		-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		37,301	-	70,361	107,661	120,795
Excess (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		1,107	-	(14,361)	(13,253)	24,958
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		1,107	-	(14,361)	(13,253)	24,958
Bank accounts & cash at 1st January	7	156,710	3,000	116,121	275,831	250,873
Bank accounts at 31st December	7	157,817	3,000	101,760	262,578	275,831

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Cash Funds					
Bank accounts & cash	7	157,817	3,000	101,760	262,578
Funds on deposit		-	-	-	-
		157,817	3,000	101,760	262,578

The attached **Notes** and **Independent Examiner's certificate** form part of these financial statements

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



Abdul Suliman
Chair of Trustees
Date: 24/02/2025



James Oram
Treasurer
Date: 24/02/2025

Women's Education Partnership

Registered charity 1151145

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Note 1.	Basis of preparation.				
	a.	Basis of accounting. The Accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 on a Receipts & Payments basis.			
	b.	Funds. Trustees are free to use unrestricted funds to further the charity's objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, where the trustees may create a fund for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are spent as directed by the donor.			
	c.	Changes to previous year's accounts. There have been no change to the previous year's accounts.			

Note 2.	Receipts analysis	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2023	2022
		Fund	Fund	Fund		
		£	£	£	£	£
a.	Grants					
	Visual Education Ltd, Oxford					
	- South Sudan tertiary and literacy education	-	-	50,000	50,000	31,659
	British & Foreign Schools Society					
	- Teacher Training	-	-	10,441	10,441	23,384
	British & Foreign Schools Society					
	- Teacher Training REFUND	-	-	(10,441)	(10,441)	-
	Gordon Memorial College Trust Fund					
	- University Scholarships	-	-	-	-	12,050
	Elementary schooling - private donor(s)	-	-	-	-	7,000
	All Saints Educational Trust UK					
	- University Scholarships	-	-	-	-	6,000
	Women's literacy - Imogen Thurbon private donor(s)	-	-	10,000	10,000	3,237
	Women's literacy - Imogen Thurbon private donor(s) REFUND	-	-	(4,000)	(4,000)	-
	Eyecare, Khartoum - private donor(s)	-	-	-	-	3,000
	Women's literacy -	-	-	-	-	-
	Total grant receipts	-	-	56,000	56,000	86,330
b.	Donations					
	Gift Aided donations	22,470	-	-	22,470	32,575
	Gift Aid rebate	-	-	-	-	9,496
	Other donations and fundraising	15,938	-	-	15,938	15,010
	Total donations	38,408	-	-	38,408	57,081
c.	Other income: interest & currency gains (fx)	-	-	-	0	2,341
	Total receipts	38,408	-	56,000	94,408	145,753
	Total donations from individuals as percentage of overall income				51.3%	48.2%

Note 3	Payments analysis	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2023	2022
		Fund	Fund	Fund		
		£	£	£	£	£
a.	Charitable Activities - Education Projects					
	University scholarships, Khartoum	-	-	23,055	23,055	26,516
	Teacher Training, Khartoum	-	-	-	-	28,824
	Elementary Education, Khartoum	-	-	-	-	5,321
	Women's Literacy, Khartoum	-	-	-	-	8,914
	Eye Care outreach, Khartoum	-	-	-	-	4,839
	Covid-19 awareness outreach	-	-	-	-	-
	Cost of delivering education support projects	32,276	-	-	32,276	34,205
	Total education projects - Sudan	32,276	-	23,055	55,332	108,618
b.	Charitable Activities - grantmaking					
	Higher Education univs: Wordwall grant	-	-	37,075	37,075	1,538
	Kimu Literacy School: Other grants	-	-	10,230	10,230	4,203
	Total grant payments - South Sudan	-	-	47,305	47,305	5,742
	Total payments for charitable activities	32,276	-	70,361	102,637	114,360
c.	Governance, assurance, UK costs	560	-	-	560	2,795
d.	Currency exchange losses (fx)	4,464	-	-	4,464	3,640
	Total payments	37,301	-	70,361	107,661	120,795

Women's Education Partnership

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Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

					2023	2022
Note 4.	Aid work - monitoring and support overhead costs.					
	Charitable Activities		IT & comms	Transport & other costs	Total	
		Staff	Office			
	a. Wages, salaries and benefits	£	£	£	£	£
	Locally-engaged staff, Khartoum	16,408	1,408	621	3,336	21,773
	Freelance staff in Sudan	6,868	-	-	-	6,868
	Other locations	-	-	-	3,636	3,636
	Total	23,276	1,408	621	6,971	32,277
						34,205

b. Average number of full time equivalent permanent staff in the year, excluding casual labour, is 2 (There were 4 full time for 6 months then 2 freelance for 6 months) (2022:4)

c. Excludes cost of registering WEP in Sudan (Governance)

Note 5.	Severance pay provision				Charitable commitments
	There is no staff pension scheme but funds are set aside for severance pay awards under Chapter IX of the Sudan Labour Code 1997	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		£	£	£	
	Commitments outstanding at 1 st January 2023	16,034	-	16,034	
	New commitments set aside in year	-	-	-	
	Commitments paid or cancelled during the year	-	-	-	
	Amount of commitments as at 31 st December 2023	16,034	-	16,034	

Staff were made redundant in 2023 without any new salary increase in that year. The brought forward commitment was therefore agreed as the final amount due and was paid to staff in October 2024. This commitment should be borne in mind when reading these accounts.

Note 6.	Trustees' remuneration, benefits and loans	
	a. <u>Remuneration & benefits</u> : No remuneration or other benefits are paid to trustees.	(2022 - Nil).
	b. <u>Loans</u> : No amounts are owing to or from the charity's trustees at any time.	(2022 - Nil).

Note 7.	Bank accounts and cash balances	2023	2022
	Location	£	£
	UK	246,477	255,265
	SUD	16,101	20,565
		262,578	275,831

Due to the troubles referred to in the Trustee Report, we have been unable to obtain updated statements for our bank accounts in Sudan. The figures included in the accounts are based on the last reported balance in April 2023 as adjusted for movements in the exchange rate.

Note 8.	The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012	
	The trustees confirm, in accordance with these regulations that, at year end, the charity did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on its assets..	

Independent Examiner's report

To the Trustees of Women's Education Partnership

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on the previous pages of this report

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 this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is 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 the 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 if 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 statements below.

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 130 of the 2011 Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to 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.

Tracey Nicholls

Tracey Nicholls FCCA

Date: 24/02/2025

for and on behalf of HFL Accountants Limited

HFL House, 1 Saxon Way, Melbourn, Cambs, SG8 6DN