THE CONGO TREE

England & Wales · Charity number 1152557

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-06-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	84 Kimbolton Road Bedford MK40 2PD
Phone	07752778857
Email	hello@thecongotree.org.uk
Website	www.thecongotree.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND UK BY PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, AND ORGANISING PROGRAMMES OF INFORMAL EDUCATION, MENTORING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS OF: A)ADVANCING IN LIFE AND HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BY DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS INDEPENDENT, RESPONSIBLE AND MATURE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS B)ADVANCING EDUCATION; SPECIFICALLY IN THE AREAS OF PROBLEM-SOLVING, LEADERSHIP, INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AND CREATIVITY IN ENTERPRISE C)HELPING CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUSTAINING EMPLOYMENT OR SKILLS TO INCREASE EMPLOYABILITY D)CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS THE BREAKDOWN OF ETHNIC, CULTURAL AND/OR OTHER BOUNDARIES THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN TEAM AND GROUP WORK ACTIVITIES E)PROVIDING RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN DRC AND UK WHO HAVE NEED BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, POVERTY, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES (INCLUDING LONG-TERM CONFLICT) WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SUCH PERSONS.

Activities: THE CONGO TREE RUNS A LIFE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH USES PEER-LEARNING TO DEVELOP SKILLS IN CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING, STRATEGIC FUTURE PLANNING AND SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING.THE PROGRAMME BEGINS WITH AN INTENSIVE TRAINING RETREAT, ONE FOR LEADER MENTORS AND A SEPARATE ONE FOR YOUNG LEADERS WHO ARE THEN PAIRED UP IN A MENTORING RELATIONSHIP FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD

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OF 12 MONTHS.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND UK
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Bedford
- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£30,594	£37,204	-	-
2024-03-31	£31,839	£30,043	-	-
2023-03-31	£36,259	£28,776	-	-
2022-03-31	£43,059	£38,226	-	-
2021-03-31	£19,937	£24,308	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lucy Bamforth	Chair	2022-05-07
Ai Mee Salt		2024-01-27
Benjamin Bennett Bartlett		2019-03-16
Heidi Bentley		2013-04-08
Hywel Gadd		2024-01-27
STEPHEN DANIEL BAVINGTON		2015-07-19
Uwezo Baghuma Lele		2024-04-20

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THE CONGO TREE

England & Wales - Charity number 1152557

Accounts



THE CONGO TREE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ben Bartlett &
Lucy Bamforth



In many ways, 2024 was as unpredictable as all the years that have come before it – not just for the young people we serve in the DR Congo, but for millions of people around the world. For us, that unpredictability most often came in the form of insecurity in the communities where The Congo Tree works. Sadly, there were points last year when young people we serve were forced to flee their homes in search of safety, amid the ongoing conflict in North Kivu province. That unpredictability meant that our incredible colleagues in the DR Congo had to adapt our programming to make it deliverable to a population on the move, or else postpone activities altogether for the safety of our colleagues and the communities we serve.

At other points, that unpredictability has come in many other forms as well. In 2024, we celebrated more than 1,200 graduates from our WYLD programme since we first began operating in 2013. That is 1,200 lives transformed through access to leadership training, communications and conflict management sessions, and healthy relationships support. In spite of the odds, our colleagues in the DR Congo have continued to deliver high-quality programming in one of the most challenging contexts in the world. In turn, that programming has led to WYLD graduates taking up leadership positions in cultural festivals in Goma, becoming young entrepreneurs, and even running for political office. We never could have imagined that our humble charity could have had such a huge impact! How is that for unpredictable?

Within the pages of this annual report, you'll read about the other incredible impacts we've had throughout 2024. We could not meet those challenges without the generous support of the people who believe in our work. We are so grateful to the those who share their gifts and talents with our team, no matter where in the world they are. Above all, we are grateful to our colleagues in the DR Congo and to the hundreds of young people that we serve. Our work would not be possible without their heart, dedication, and trust in our work.

We know the coming year will continue to bring unpredictability. The security situation in the DR Congo continues to be an ongoing challenge, and there are global shifts that will almost certainly have an impact on us and the young people we serve. But unpredictable can be positive, as you will soon see as you read through this report - it can make us think on our feet, rise up to meet new challenges, and celebrate the wins – big and small – that we meet along the way.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This year has been marked by new challenges, new partners and new projects. The ongoing insecurity in eastern DRC has forced us to find creative ways to engage with young people in our programme sites outside of Goma, while taking the opportunity to train and mentor more facilitators. Reduced regular income and exciting ideas for programming have contributed to brilliant new partnerships with other organisations and donors, with whom we have been privileged to work. Pilot programmes designed by and for our young people have had such a significant impact that they are now part of our long-term strategy and offering for young people in the DRC. I hope you enjoy discovering them!

The challenges remain in 2024 – conflicts in the region fluctuate daily and it is difficult to find funding to continue operating. We will need to continue to think creatively, act responsively and hold on to our values. Values we have recently reflected on, in response to where we have come in ten years and where we would like to go. Following conversations with our youth, our team and the Board of Directors, we have added two: “in service to others” and “Inclusion”. Despite all the challenges, we are committed to being a safe space for all youth and serving our communities to the best of our skills, strengths and vision. I hope you will see these values infused throughout this report.

Before you get reading, I want to take this moment to thank the team who started this all with me, so many years ago – Amy Cummings, Muhindo Malunga and Hebdavi Kyeya. After 10 years of unwavering support, at different points in the year and for very different reasons, they have each decided to step back from their roles as Trustees. Additionally, Jane Searle, who has been with the Board since the very beginning, willingly taking on any role we have asked of her, has decided that it’s time for new Trustees to take the reins. I want to express unending gratitude for these four fabulous humans – for the passion, dedication, and solid foundation that they have given to The Congo Tree.



OUR TEAM

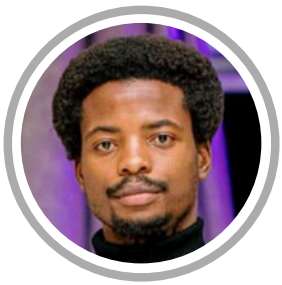
DRC TEAM



Medi Muyisa
Assistant Director



Sage Dunia
Programme Coordinator



Binet Paul
Engagement Officer



Irène Barhabula
Finance Officer



Sephorah Biluge
Organisation Officer

UK TEAM



Harmony Ngwamah
Supporter Engagement Officer



Heidi Bentley
Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ben Bartlett
Co-Chair



Lucy Bamforth
Co-Chair



Steve Bavington



Zach Haider
(to November 2024)



Hebdavi Kyeya
(to January 2024)



Muhindo Malunga
(to January 2024)

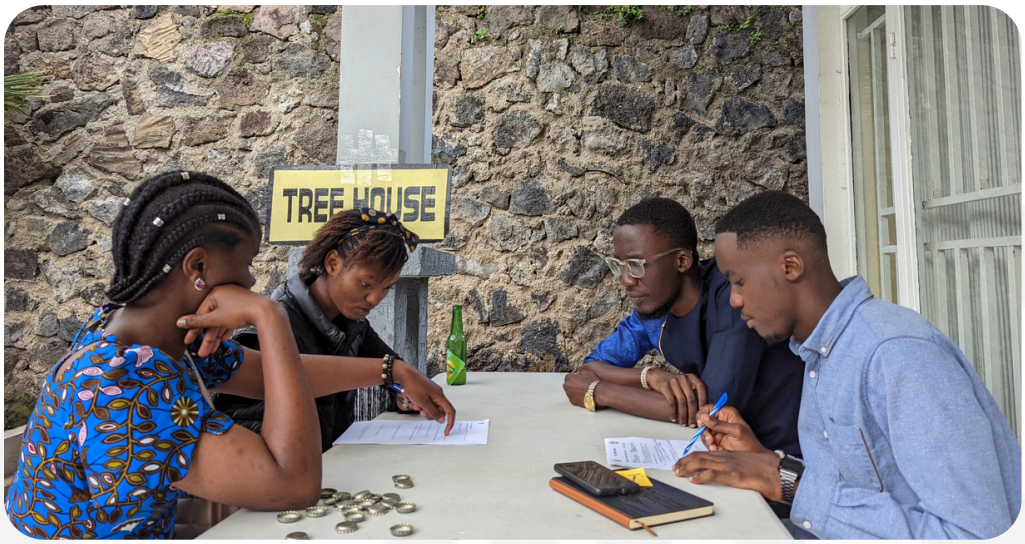


Hywel Gadd
(from January 2024)



Ai Salt
(from January 2024)

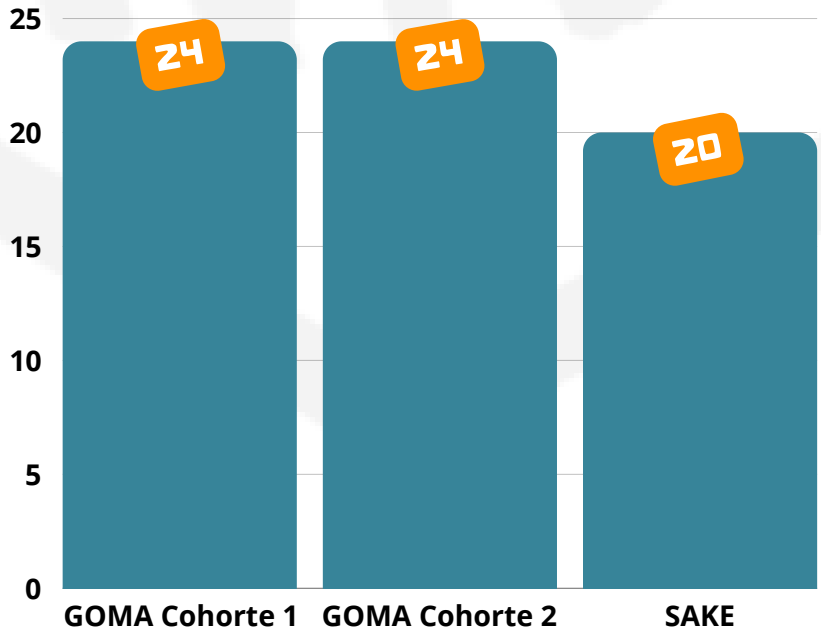
THE WYLD PROGRAMME



WYLD

BE PART OF THE STORY

Working with young people in the DRC, the WYLD programme uses peer learning and teamwork challenges to help young people develop their transferable skills. WYLD helps them to understand their potential role in solving community problems, positioning them as key agents of change. In a context where over 70% of the Congolese workforce is under 30, WYLD responds to current challenges, including the armed conflict in the east of the country. Through our vision and mission, we offer young people the opportunity to become peace-builders and catalysts for change by helping them develop essential skills and inspiring them to achieve greater aspirations.



This year has been particularly difficult in the rural zones of the DRC where we work, with serious and ongoing conflict, and the occupation of many areas by armed groups. The Congo Tree team has increased its efforts to reach out to young people in their, developing their resilience through adapted training and mentoring sessions.

In addition to increasing the five main transferable skills, here are some of the results collected from our young people:

98 % finished their programme

100 % want to continue with the Congo Tree as volunteers

100 % of our young people developed in resilience

100 % have improved their acceptance of others, despite their differences

97 % decided to break their fears and face their challenges



40 Facilitators in Action

The current team of facilitators continues to support with training sessions. Having completed their first year, this team accompanies the young people in the training activities that we organise and each offers **6 volunteer hours of facilitation every month.**

Testimony

For me, facilitating at The Congo Tree is a double opportunity, firstly, it helps me to support new mentees to strengthen their leadership knowledge that I myself have benefited from, and secondly, I am constantly learning from other leaders in the programme. This is a huge benefit for me.

AMINA MURHEBWA

GRADUATION

We are proud to present the 2023 WYLD graduates. These exceptional young people have come a long way and have developed leadership skills that will guide them into a bright future.

We celebrated their determination, commitment and passion for positive change. They have taken on challenges, pushed their limits and flourished as true agents of social transformation.



SAKE

Through our partnership with Uhuru Knowledge Center, we have met resilient youth in Sake. Building confidence and self-esteem is our priority. Through our pilot WYLD programme in this area, we are mentoring a new generation of leaders who can impact the city of Sake and be part of history, thanks to funding from **Travers Smith**.





TREE OF LIFE

The Tree of Life programme is a psychotherapeutic tool that complements the WYLD programme. This program has been of considerable use in this period that has been very difficult, full of atrocities and conflicts, which has caused many people to lose their lives, and others to lose their family members due to the negative forces that operate in our areas. The young people, who are in shock from violence, have received this training as a way of standing with them in their trauma.

This approach is based on:
- Mutual knowledge of origins and identity
- Understanding each other's skills and a clear vision
- Being part of each other's story and creating solutions within the community
- Understanding problems and the blockages to finding

Testimony

"The Tree of Life programme made me discover that challenges always exist in our lives, and I understood that the way I face these challenges will make me a good leader or a bad one. I chose to be a good leader and keep my head high."

68 ***young people in the Tree of Life programme. This training has been an important asset for the psychological and emotional development of the young people.***





MENTORING

34 ***Mentoring pairs, in Goma and in Masisi****

Based on self-assessments and testimonies from young people:

97% *Young people said they had broken away from tribalism and now actively encouraged working with others from different backgrounds*

100% *Young people decided to become actively involved in income-generating activities to support themselves and their families, a decision that stems from their mentoring relationships*

96% *mentioned the importance of integrating gender and gender positivity in their communities*



Mentoring Story

Evodie et Plamedi :

I found my mentoring year an important element that I experienced on my journey. It was an opportunity for me to respond to all kinds of personalities that I might meet. I found that, in my habits, I didn't really let people from certain backgrounds integrate into my life, but finally, I understood that it is quite normal to succeed in living with everyone, without problems and without letting bad influence invade the heart.

*Unfortunately, the active conflict and subsequent displacement of communities in Rutshuru during the year did not allow for youth to come together in mentoring pairs.



ALUMNI

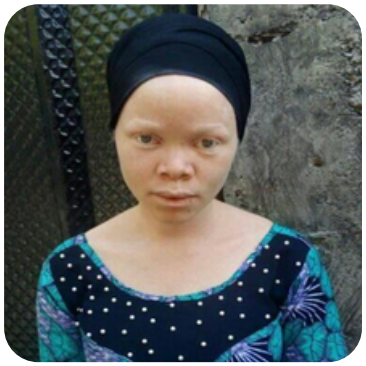
SALEM MUKOKO, cohort 2022-2023

I got to know about The Congo Tree through a friend and it was an unforgettable encounter because The Congo Tree first welcomed me as an intern and then I benefitted from the training in the WYLD program.
At the end of this training, I understood the importance of teamwork but also of having self-confidence as a young person, because with these two elements we are guaranteed to be part of the history of humanity.

Thanks to all that I learned at The Congo Tree, today I am able to positively influence others by initiating different actions such as the peace and security think-tank that I was able to start including all the faculties of the University of Goma, awareness campaigns to raise awareness in order to vote wisely during elections and several other projects in the interest of the students I represent.

To try to solve this problem of tribalism in my circle of influence, I work with several young people from different cultures without any discrimination on the "zero dirt in our avenues" project - not only in my neighborhood, where I am the president of the latter, but also in certain structures such as the Pole Institute in the Access to Justice programme. All this thanks to the training I received from The Congo Tree, which showed me that a leader should be the person who brings solutions and influence others by my actions and not just in words, which is why I will always be grateful to this organisation for everything it has done for me.

SALAMA MULWAHALE Dorcas, cohort 2022-2023



I heard about The Congo Tree from a sister I admire a lot, and I was really interested so I applied for the training and luckily I was selected, and that's how in August 2023 I started the WYLD programme as part of the 'Warriors' promotion with other young people, with whom I learned a lot.

I did not have an easy childhood since I am an albino because many people have a bad conception of us and others are even afraid to approach us and talk to us. All this caused a lot of frustration in my heart and hurt me a lot but with time I grew up and I understood that I was a normal person like everyone else, only with a melanin deficiency.

I really liked the atmosphere in which we spent the training at The Congo Tree because I felt comfortable in the family without being judged. This training on leadership motivated me much more and helped me understand that I am not limited in achieving my dreams and especially the qualities of a good leader that we were taught inspired me and I am determined to put it into practice, to achieve my dreams.

I thank The Congo Tree very much for its support and I am sure that everything I have learned will stay with me even after my studies and into my professional career because I want to work to help others at the international level, and also to support albinos and build an orphanage to bring smiles back to these children.

SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE

Each year we provide young people with the opportunity to solve problems in the community through social action. The goal is not only to solve a real problem, but also to develop teamwork; for young people to experience first-hand the power of team strength and the ability to overcome challenges by working together.

• GOMA

4 Social Actions carried out

1. LISUNGI: This action, which consisted of subsidising women with families in a less stable financial situation, was of great importance to these women and a success.



In total: 5 women were direct beneficiaries of this action, hence 5 households supported.

2. AFIA BORA: This project involves transforming peanuts into peanut butter, under the direction of youth from the WYLD programme.
This creative project allows these youth to offer consumers a natural and organic consumer product.



3. Usafi Kwetu : The young people have worked hard to set up this exciting project to provide an innovative cleaning product for households, starting with training on how to make the product to ensure its quality and effectiveness, as well as knowledge and practice for all.



In total, 12 young people were actively involved in social action projects, which ended with a visit to an orphanage of more than 70 children in difficult situations.

• SAKE

In Sake, the "Vazi Business" project selling clothes was already underway, but unfortunately the security situation disrupted the young people continuing with this project, as it did the other market gardening project.

OUR RESPONSE TO CONFLICT IN DRC

The young leaders of The Congo Tree and those of other organisations, took joint action to bring smiles back to women and girls displaced by the armed conflict in eastern DRC at the Bulengo displaced persons camp, near Goma.

After identifying the real needs, we distributed food and some clothes. We also added to this a short training and information session on sexual health.

We hoped to increase resilience and we believe that this response was an important support during these difficult times these people are going through in displacement camps.

Assisted more than 200 households with required food and non-food items.

More than 50 young people and Alumni of The Congo Tree volunteered at different displacement camps to support vulnerable people.





ACT OF KINDNESS

Near to 25 children (direct beneficiaries)



We are filled with joy to have been able to organise our act of kindness for this year. Spending this day with the children was so rewarding, as we were able to bring smiles to their faces and provide psychological assistance. Their happiness and gratitude are the greatest reward. We are proud to support this cause and hope to continue to bring joy and comfort to these exceptional children. Thank you to all the young people and third-party donors.

MWANZO ENTERPRISE

With the aim of supporting young people with business ideas, we organised an enriching exchange session with young businesses that participated in the Mwanzo Enterprise pilot programme, as well as with other young entrepreneurs. These inspiring entrepreneurs shared their experiences, the challenges they overcame and the successes they achieved through this innovative programme. In preparation for the second cohort, this evaluation session promises to further strengthen the positive impact of Mwanzo Enterprise on the empowerment of youth-led businesses.

We have created more than 25 stable jobs and more than 30 occasional jobs.

We have supported more than 30 business ideas that today want to materialise in the community.



MWANZO ARTISTIQUE

Mwanzo Artistique is a professional and personal development programme designed to support young artists. The programme aims to engage and mentor artists in their creative practice, encouraging them to use their art to guide themselves and others towards problem-solving, peaceful co-existence and mentoring. We also connect young artists with artists from their local community and international artists, to increase their global awareness and shared thinking about community engagement.



A discussion meeting with a number of artists to reflect on the Mwanzo Artistique programme. This was an opportunity to evaluate together the achievements of the previous year and to make a projection for the year to come.

PEACE FOR A FUTURE

Peace For a Future is a programme that aims to place young people at the center of finding solutions to problems related to peace, justice and inclusion in the community. With the experience of historical and current war and tribal conflict in eastern DRC, young people remain the victims and sometimes the perpetrators of the conflict.





Today we are the champions of Resolution 2250 of the UNSC (Youth Peace and Security) because we have supported and accompanied the process of the Implementation of the National Action Plan in the DR Congo (PAN 2250) and also participated in the development of the Operational Plan in the Province of North Kivu (POP2250). We participated in several advocacy, awareness raising, popularisation for the effectiveness of the R2250 of the UNSC.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

We realized that peace can only be achieved if we have the courage to look beyond our differences, listen to each other and recognize the intrinsic value of each individual. The youth emphasized the importance of interfaith and intercultural education to promote mutual respect and acceptance.

Together, we are committed to working hand in hand to build a peaceful future for the DRC.





YOUTH FOR INCLUSION

Youth for Inclusion is a programme aimed at breaking down the various prejudices that prevail in the community and prevent people from realising their potential, such as women and people living with disabilities.

THE SISTERHOOD TABLE

As part of our partnership with Uhuru Knowledge Center for the second cohort of The SisterHood Table program, we facilitated sessions on transformational leadership from April 11-13, 2024.

Together, we worked with young women to cultivate their leadership potential and create lasting positive impact in their communities.



ENGLISH AND BOOK CLUB



Our English and Book Club offers young people a unique opportunity to improve their English skills while cultivating a passion for reading. Each session is designed to encourage active learning and the exchange of ideas, enriching their vocabulary and cultural understanding.

UK EMBASSY

We had the pleasure of receiving the delegation from the UK Embassy in the DRC in our "Tree House" office. This was for a moment of exchange with young people but also to understand the impact of our programmes in the community. We were very encouraged by the strong messages of support from this delegation for our work in the DRC.



INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

We were among the organizers of the great Summit "Intergenerational Dialogue in Goma 2023"
This was an opportunity to bring together young people and decision-makers to reflect on the major development issues of the country.



This is an initiative of one of our Alumni, Smith Etumba, who is today a defender of the African Union charter on youth.

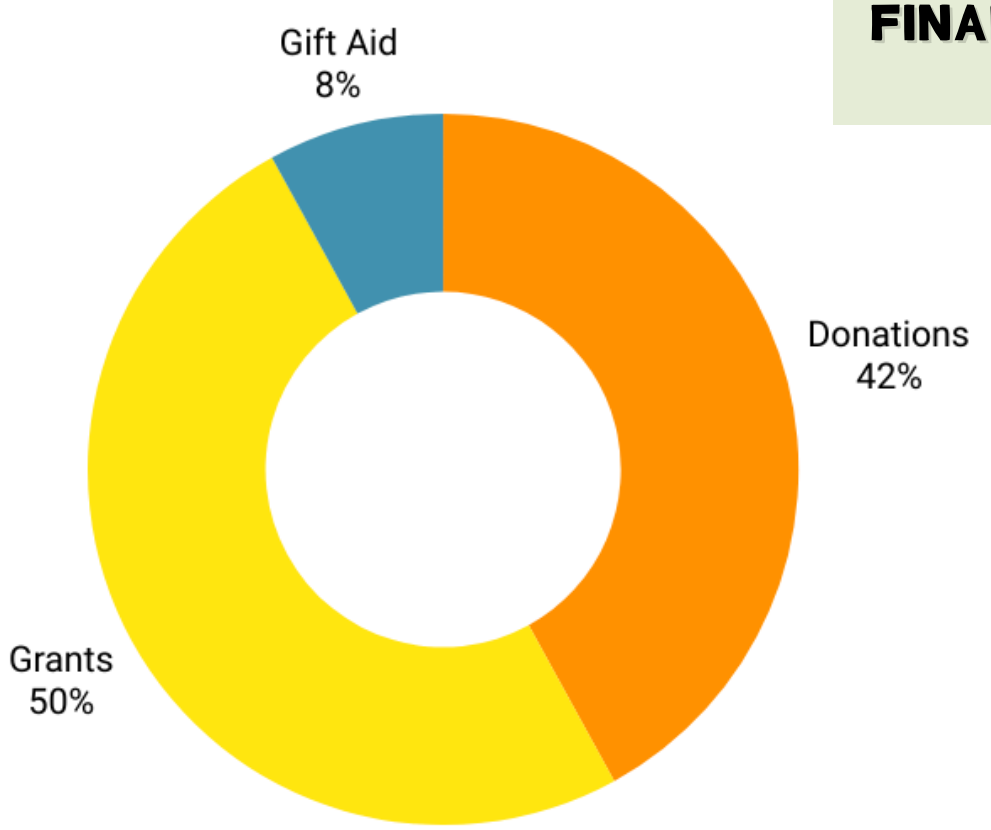
FONDS NGANGI



We are happy to be part of the story of these young beneficiaries of the Ngangi Fund scholarships. We spent a few days with them to equip them with leadership skills but also to allow them to have visions that will help develop the community.

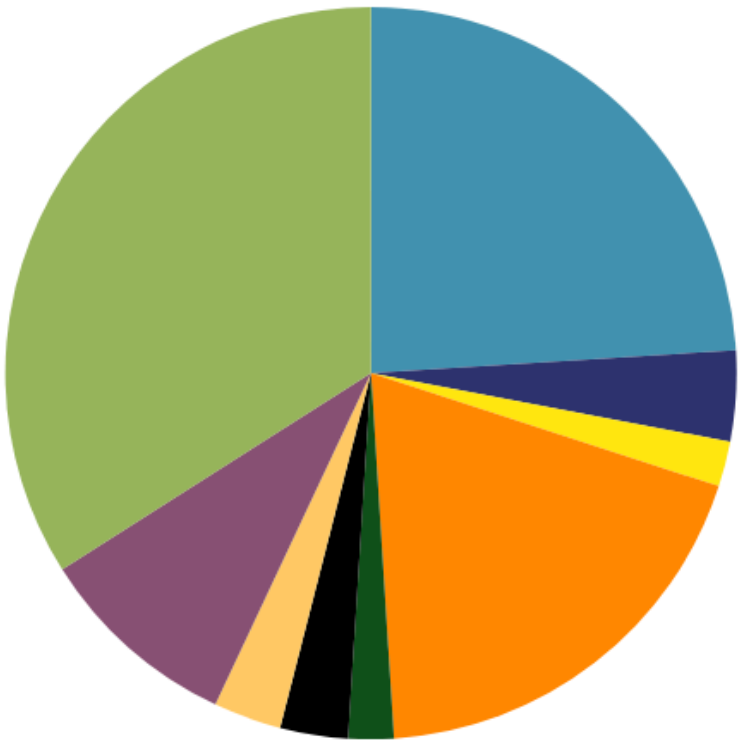
This is an initiative that is currently led by one of our Alumni, Olivier Simweray.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024



Income: £31,839

Expenditure: £30,043



- WYLD programme training and mentoring - 24%
- Internships - 4%
- Social Action Projects - 2%
- DRC support costs - 19%
- Events, marketing and visibility - 2%
- Accountancy and Independent examination fees - 3%
- Bank charges - 3%
- Professional fees - 9%
- Staffing and HR costs - 34%

OUR MISSION

Equipping, inspiring and supporting young leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

OUR VALUES



INSPIRATION: Everyone can be inspired and be inspiring, and everyone is called to inspire in their own environment – it comes from a heart of integrity and plays out at home, in the community and beyond.



STAY YOUNG: We want to embrace the energy and drive of youth, the passion and determination of youth, and capture the hope of youth, who look at the world with fresh eyes – no matter our age.



TOGETHER: We believe we thrive when we come together as individuals, each bringing their own unique qualities that make a strong team. We work together. We think together. We journey together.



INCLUSION: We celebrate the diversity of every individual. We strive to be an organisation that provides a safe, equal and welcoming space regardless of background, experience, race, tribe, ability, wealth, gender, ethnicity, beliefs or of no faith.



CREATIVITY: We believe that everyone is creative in their own way. We know that change often comes from approaching things in a new way. We encourage creative thinking and action.



SERVANT-HEARTED: We aspire to embody and promote leadership that serves with honesty, integrity and compassion. Our actions promote the wellbeing of others in our families, communities and the world.

OUR FOUNDATION

The Congo is rooted in the desire to see positive change in the DRC by developing the skills and realising the potential of young people – the next generation of leaders.

We work to promote leadership that serves with honesty, integrity and compassion. We believe that the figure of Jesus Christ embodies these characteristics, and his example of leadership is reflected in our programmes and organisational values.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS:

Let Yourself Trust
Providing a choice and a chance

Network for Social Change

Souter CHARITABLE TRUST

TRAVERS SMITH

benevity

Stewardship
Active generosity

AVSI
People for development

Hope for All and Together for Development
HATD

UHURU
CENTRE POUR L'EDUCATION CIVIQUE

20 SFVS

DIALOGUE
INTERCULTURATIONNEL

ywl
For Peace

APME/asbl

FONDS NGANGI

JIWE LANGU

Consulat de UK en RDC

Charity Registration No 1152557

Financial statements for
the year ended 31 March 2024

The Congo Tree

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The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

The Congo Tree is a youth development charity based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the UK. Working with young people, particularly those who have grown up in situations of conflict, The Congo Tree trains them as the next generation of leaders, so that they can be the ones to change their world. Through our World Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Programme we aim to inspire, equip and support young people: to inspire young people to see themselves as leaders, to equip young people with transferable life and leadership skills, and to support young people through mentoring, as they step out and get involved creatively in their communities: to 'be part of the story'.

Our approaches are governed by our values and our Christian ethos, valuing the energy and vibrancy of youth, working creatively, sustainably and with integrity, and upholding the principles of togetherness and inclusiveness by welcoming all young people – those who share the Christian faith and those who do not, young men and young women, young people from all backgrounds, tribes and situations. The Congo Tree works both independently and in partnership with local community organisations who have similar or complimentary visions and goals.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

Vision: to inspire, equip and support Young Leaders in the DRC and the UK.

Objectives:

To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in the DRC and the UK by providing advice and assistance, and organising programmes of informal education, physical activities, mentoring and other activities as a means of:

a) Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, responsible and mature individuals who contribute positively to the lives of others;
b) Advancing education; specifically in the areas of problem-solving, leadership, integrity and responsibility and creativity in enterprise;
c) Helping create opportunities for self-sustaining employment or skills to increase employability;
d) Create safe environment that allows the breakdown of ethnic, cultural and/or other boundaries through participation in team and group work activities;
e) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare of young people living in the DRC and the UK who have need by reason of their youth, poverty, social and economic circumstances (including long-term conflict) with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Significant activities

Our main activities come under the banner of the WYLD programme, working with young people as Leader Mentors (aged 18+) or as Young Leaders / Mentees (aged 13-19) in the DRC and the UK.

After an initial extensive training programme, participants are paired in a mentoring partnership for one year, during which they also meet monthly with the wider group for additional training and team-building. All participants are encouraged to get involved in group activities and small social action or creative enterprise projects aimed at community development, for example, volunteering in internal displacement camps in their local area or creating small microloan projects for the benefit of vulnerable members of their community.

We run activities in four locations in North Kivu province in the DRC. Continued and increasing conflict in our rural programme locations of Rutshuru and Masisi significantly restricted and reduced the activities we were able to carry out in these locations in 2023-2024. Through our facilitation team, we kept in contact with all of our young people, continued supporting our facilitators to lead trainings and mentoring where it was possible, and supported them to continue Projet Ecole schools work, we took the restriction to travel to these locations as an opportunity to start activities in a new location and with a new partner – Sake, with Uhuru Knowledge Centre.

The majority or our activities take place in the DRC, but we do hold some supporter events and run information sessions or parts of the WYLD programme in the UK. In this year, our main event was a meal for Supporters based in London, and our AGM was hosted online.

The Congo Tree continues to be funded in the majority by donations from supporters, both individuals and groups. This year, we also gratefully received donations from the following:

- Souter Charitable Trust gave us an unrestricted grant of £2,620 in July 2023, which we used to cover the salaries of our in-country staff and part of our Goma base rent.
- Travers Smith gave us a restricted grant of £1,500 in September 2023, which covered part of our first WYLD programme in new location of Sake.
- We were delighted to be selected to partner with AVSI Foundation on their 1-year pilot WINGS programme in North Kivu, which was funded by CDP. We received the first payment of $15,990 for restricted activities within the WINGS programme, which included needs assessment, supporting beneficiary selection, training of facilitators, transferable skills training for 160 young people and group cohesion activities – the project began in November 2023 and will continue until the end of 2024.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Volunteers

All participants of our training programme are supported to volunteer with us on other activities following their training: they may become Mentors, Facilitators of the WYLD programme, or apply for an internship. In the UK, the trustees work voluntarily, as do the small support team and the Director.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Training and mentoring

- 76 young people were directly supported through our WYLD programmes in North Kivu province.
- We continued to support our existing WYLD cohorts in Goma, and continued to monitor our existing cohorts and support our facilitators in Masisi and Rutshuru amidst increasing conflict.
- We started the training for two new cohorts on WYLD Programmes in Goma, DRC (one in April and one in August), training 56 young people in total: 28 Leader Mentors (18-30 years old) and 28 Young Leaders (13-19 years old).
- We began one new cohort on their WYLD Programme in Sake, DRC, with 20 young people: 10 Leader Mentors and 10 Young Leaders, with our partner Uhuru Knowledge Centre.
- We ensured that 34 Young Leaders were in paired for mentoring with a Leader Mentor. Whilst the global pandemic and local conflict disrupted face-to-face mentoring meetings, we supported young people as to ensure that mentoring happened monthly wherever possible.
- We ran Facilitator training in Goma, including Risk Assessment, Safeguarding and Child Protection training.
- *Mwanzo Entreprise*: We continued to support the development of 30 businesses, 5 with more intensive training and monetary input, creating 25 stable and more than 30 occasional jobs.
- *Mwanzo Artistic:* An evaluation by some of the 50 supported artists from this year's programme supported preparations for the next year of programming in 2024-2025.

Community Engagement/Social Action

- We supported the set-up of 4 new youth designed and led social action/enterprise projects: 3 in Goma and 1 in Sake.
- We continued to support Projet Ecole, our adapted WYLD programme, with 60 students in 2 schools in Masisi.
- We responded to urgent situations of internal displacement due to conflict, by providing for women and children in a local displacement camps. 50 Young Leaders volunteers to distribute food and sanitary items.
- *Peace for a Future*: We brought young people together to discuss solutions for community problems around justice, peace and inclusion, committing to Resolution 2250 (Youth, Peace and Security) and planning for community information sharing and advocacy.
- *Youth For Inclusion*: We worked alongside Uhuru Knowledge Centre to host the Sisterhood Table, to support young women in leadership.
- We celebrated International Day of Kindness through a youth-led social action of vising 25 children in a local orphanage and brought requested items, shared messages of hope and played games.
- We celebrated DRC Independence Day, International Day of Peace and International Women's Day, amongst others, by hosting youth events and conferences to engage and educate our young people creatively in relevant topics.
- We celebrated World Values Day by hosting a Webinar considering 'Stay Young' as a value, which was attended by people from around the world.
- We continued to support team members and alumni involved in community engagement and activism, providing key support and mentoring for young people who are involved in advocacy and discussion in their country, including conferences and local peace-building youth clubs.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Charitable activities (continued)

Additional benefits

- Shared knowledge and good practice through attending a variety of conferences and events focused on the development of young people in DRC and beyond.
- Continued to develop our 'Treehouse' as an office and training space as a youth hub in Goma, where young people can come for support, mentoring, further skills training, and to use a space to start creative enterprises and social action.
- Continued with our English conversation club and Book club.
- Continued to support two Interns - our Engagement Officer and Organisation Officer who worked alongside our DRC Team Leader and Programme Coordinator for 12 months. This included team training sessions, one-to-one mentoring and professional goal-setting. We also recruited a further intern in November 2023 as Finance Officer, with specific responsibilities of supporting our partnership work with AVSI.
- Continued to work alongside local and international partners such as Ngangi Fund, Grand African Project, Hope in Action Together for Development (HATD), University Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL), Uhuru Knowledge Centre, BIFERD , SFVS, L'Union Africaine, and Tearfund.

Other activities

- We adjusted our values as part of our 10-year review, adding 'Inclusion' at the suggestion and request of our alumni and 'Servant-Hearted' at the suggestion and request of our Board of Trustees. 'Christ-Centred' was moved from our list of values and redefined as part of our foundational statement.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity received income of £31,839 for the year (2023: £36,259) of which £14,612 was restricted (2023: £17,272). Total expenditure of £30,043 was incurred (2023: £28,776) of which £16,042 was restricted (2023: £2,730). The net movement on funds for the year was an increase in funds of £1,796 (2023: increase in funds of £7,483).

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves at 31 March 2024 were £18,309 (2023: £16,513), allocated as £5,197 unrestricted funds and £13,112 restricted funds. These reserves are held to be applied in furtherance of the charity's charitable purpose, and are considered by the trustees to be sufficient to support the short term objectives of the charity.

The charity's capital may be applied for charitable purposes or retained by the trustees at their discretion.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees have the power to appoint new trustees who may be appointed at any time. The total number of trustees must be between 3 and 10 and there is no restriction on the length of term of service.

Organisational structure

As a small charity, our organisational structure is compact. Our Board of Trustees are the only voting members, and our risk management procedures are set out in our constitution in line with the recommendations from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity number	1152557
Principal address	c/o 84 Kimbolton Road Bedford, MK40 2PD
Trustees	H Bentley, Trustee and Co-Founder A Cummings, Trustee and Co-Founder (Resigned October 2023) S Bavington, Trustee and Chairperson (Resigned as Chairperson April 2023) J Searle, Trustee and Treasurer (Resigned April 2023) H Kyeya, Trustee (Resigned January 2024) M Malunga, Trustee (Resigned January 2024) S Patel, Trustee (Resigned April 2023) B Bartlett, Trustee (Chairperson from April 2023) L Bamforth, Trustee (Chairperson from April 2023) Z Haider, Trustee (Resigned November 2023) H Gadd (Appointed January 2024) A Salt (Appointed January 2024) U Baghuma (Appointed July 2024)
Independent Examiner	Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA Monico Tunley Limited, Chartered Accountants 19 Goldington Road Bedford, MK40 3JY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 25 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

B Bartlett
Trustee

The Congo Tree

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 15.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn. We understand this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in ay material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do 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.

Except for the matter referred to above, 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.

Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA

Chartered Accountant

Monico Tunley Limited
19 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Date: 25 January 2025

The Congo Tree

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		14,453	-	14,453	18,932
Grants		2,620	14,612	17,232	17,272
Investments		154	-	154	55
Total income		**17,227**	**14,612**	**31,839**	**36,259**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**2**	360	-	360	360
Charitable activities		13,641	16,042	29,683	28,416
Total expenditure	**5,6**	**14,001**	**16,042**	**30,043**	**28,776**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		**3,226**	**(1,430)**	**1,796**	**7,483**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		1,971	14,542	16,513	9,030
Total funds carried forward	**9**	**5,197**	**13,112**	**18,309**	**16,513**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

Of the total income for the year ended 31 March 2023, £17,272 was restricted. Of the total expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023, £2,730 was restricted. The balance of income and expenditure was unrestricted.

All of the activities are continuing.

The Congo Tree

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	**7**	2,247	-
Cash at bank and in hand		18,822	18,073
Total current assets		**21,069**	**18,073**
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**8**	(2,760)	(1,560)
Net current assets		18,309	16,513
Total assets less current liabilities		**18,309**	**16,513**
Total net assets		**18,309**	**16,513**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		5,197	1,971
Restricted funds		13,112	14,542
Total charity funds	**9**	**18,309**	**16,513**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 25 January 2025 and signed their behalf by

B Bartlett
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity has seen a decrease in donations income in recent years and the Trustees have adapted to this and have been successful in seeking additional grant funding to maintain the desired activity level of the charity. The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern as expenditure can be adjusted according to the level of available funds in each year.

1.2 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.

Designated funds, which are also unrestricted funds, represent funds set aside from time to time for specific purposes by the trustees.

1.3 Income

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.

1.4 Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

1.7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Expenditure on raising funds

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Raising donations and legacies		
Support costs	360	360
	360	360

3 Trustees remuneration and benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 amount to £nil in respect of travel costs (2023: £665).

4 Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 6 (2023: 6) which were categorised as the DRC team and the UK team, including interns. No employee is based in the UK (2023: 1) and the remainder in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: none).

5 Expenditure on field costs

Costs amounting to £25,191 (2023: £24,799) were incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Costs incurred in the year are analysed between those incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo and those incurred in the United Kingdom as follows:

2024	Congo	UK	Total
	£	£	£
Accountancy	-	420	420
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	660	-	660
Activity and accommodation costs	5,614	-	5,614
Travelling	925	-	925
Telephone	1,762	-	1,762
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	4,054	-	4,054
Equipment	-	-	-
Refreshments and meeting costs	799	-	799
Visibility	10	120	130
Sundry expenses	-	-	-
Intern stipends	1,107	-	1,107
Staffing and HR costs	9,582	682	10,264
Professional fees	-	2,756	2,756
Insurance	-	-	-
Bank charges	678	154	832
	25,191	4,492	29,683

Within the above expenditure for Congo is £16,042 of restricted expenditure.

Expenditure on field costs (continued)

2023	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	420	420
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	1,189	-	1,189
Activity and accommodation costs	4,465	-	4,465
Travelling	1,352	665	2,017
Telephone	2,016	-	2,016
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,187	-	3,187
Equipment	-	-	-
Refreshments and meeting costs	909	-	909
Visibility	-	24	24
Sundry expenses	-	-	-
Intern stipends	1,361	-	1,361
Staffing and HR costs	9,742	300	10,042
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Insurance	-	497	497
Bank charges	578	151	729
	24,799	3,617	28,416

Within the above expenditure for Congo for the year ended 31 March 2023 is £2,730 of restricted expenditure.

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs

These costs are further analysed by activity category as follows:

2024	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	6,693	-	6,693
Leadership development mentoring	645	-	645
Internship programme	1,107	-	1,107
Social action projects	660	-	660
DRC support costs	5,816	-	5,816
Field trips	-	-	-
UK support costs	-	-	-
Events, marketing and visibility	10	120	130
Insurance	-	-	-
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	780	780
Bank charges	678	154	832
Professional fees	-	2,756	2,756
Staffing and HR costs	9,582	682	10,264
	25,191	4,492	29,683

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs (continued)

Within the above expenditure for Congo for the year ended 31 March 2024 is £16,042 of restricted expenditure.

2023	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	6,389	-	6,389
Leadership development mentoring	337	-	337
Internship programme	1,361	-	1,361
Social action projects	1,189	-	1,189
DRC support costs	5,203	-	5,203
Field trips	-	665	665
UK support costs	-	-	-
Events, marketing and visibility	-	24	24
Insurance	-	497	497
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	780	780
Bank charges	578	151	729
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Staffing and HR costs	9,742	300	10,042
	24,799	3,617	28,416

Within the above expenditure for Congo for the year ended 31 March 2023 is £2,730 of restricted expenditure.

7 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	2,247	-
	2,247	-

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	780	780
Other creditors	1,980	780
	2,760	1,560

9 Movement in funds

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund	1,971	17,227	(14,001)	5,197
Restricted funds:				
Let Yourself Trust	7,270	-	(7,270)	-
Network for Social Change	7,272	-	(7,272)	-
Travers Smith Foundation	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
AVSI Foundation	-	13,112	-	13,112
	16,513	31,839	(30,043)	18,309

The restricted funds that operated during the year were for the purposes as follows:

Let Yourself Trust : To support the Goma base running costs
Network for Social Change : To support the Goma base running costs
Travers Smith Foundation : To support the costs of the new WYLD programme in Sake
AVSI Foundation : To support the costs of the WINGS for Congolese Youth programme

10 Related party transactions

Donations from Trustees during the year amounted to £710 (2023: £2,680).

During the year a payment of £1,200 was made to H Bentley, a trustee, for professional services outside of the services provided for the trusteeship.

THE CONGO TREE

England & Wales - Charity number 1152557

Accounts

Charity Registration No 1152557

Financial statements for
the year ended 31 March 2023

The Congo Tree

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The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

The Congo Tree is a youth development charity based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the UK, working with young people, particularly those who have grown up in situations of conflict, and training them as the next generation of leaders, so that they can be the ones to change their communities and, ultimately, their world. Through our World Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Programme we aim to inspire, equip and support young people: to inspire young people to see themselves as leaders, to equip young people with transferable life and leadership skills, and to support young people through mentoring, as they step out and get involved creatively in their communities: to 'be part of the story'.

Our approaches are governed by our values and our Christian ethos, valuing the energy and vibrancy of youth, working creatively, sustainably and with integrity, and upholding the principles of togetherness by welcoming all young people – those who have a faith and those who do not, male and female, young people from all backgrounds, tribes and situations. The Congo Tree works both independently and in partnership with local community organisations who have similar or complimentary visions and goals.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

Vision: to inspire, equip and support Young Leaders in the DRC and the UK.

Objectives:

To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in the DRC and the UK by providing advice and assistance, and organising programmes of informal education, physical activities, mentoring and other activities as a means of:

a) Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, responsible and mature individuals who contribute positively to the lives of others;
b) Advancing education; specifically in the areas of problem-solving, leadership, integrity and responsibility and creativity in enterprise;
c) Helping create opportunities for self-sustaining employment or skills to increase employability;
d) Create safe environment that allows the breakdown of ethnic, cultural and/or other boundaries through participation in team and group work activities;
e) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare of young people living in the DRC and the UK who have need by reason of their youth, poverty, social and economic circumstances (including long-term conflict) with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Significant activities

The majority of our activities take place in the DRC. Our main activities come under the banner of the WYLD programme, working with young people as Leader Mentors (aged 18+) or as Young Leaders (aged 13-19). After an initial extensive training programme, participants are paired in a mentoring partnership for one year, during which they also meet monthly with the wider group for additional training and team-building. All participants are encouraged to get involved in small social action or creative enterprise projects aimed at community development, for example, volunteering in times of emergency or crisis, often with and through our partner organisations, or creating small microloan projects for the benefit of vulnerable members of their community.

Our activities this year were continuously impacted by insecurity in North Kivu province, which meant that young people on each of our programmes could not meet and train together for some parts of the year. However, we took every challenge in our stride and creatively continued mentoring by phone, began working in schools through our 'Projet Ecole' and 'Tree of Life' programmes, and led an emergency response to support people displaced from one of our sites due to conflict – instigated by our young Congolese leaders. During the challenges of 2022-23, we stayed in contact with all of our young leaders and leader mentors, with all of our cohorts using their creative problem-solving skills to keep linked in with The Congo Tree family. Again, our ability to respond quickly, to adapt and upskill have ensured that our programmes have continued and developed in every area that we work in. This year, we continued developing and evaluating four new youth-designed and led programmes: Mwanzo Enterprise, Mwanzo Artistic, Peace for a Future, and Youth for Inclusion.

During 2022-23 we continued to run supporter and information events virtually, to connect with supporters around the world. The Congo Tree continues to be funded in the majority by donations from supporters, both individuals and groups. This year, we gratefully received donations from the following:

- **Let Yourself Trust**: £10,000, July 2022.
  Restricted funds originally given towards our intended fundraising campaign to purchase a building in DRC. With permission, £3000 was reallocated to core costs for April 2023, with £7,000 remaining in reserve – *to be accounted for in our 2023-2024 accounts*.
- **The Suitcase Coffee Company**: £1054, February 2023.
  Our Charity Partner business made this final donation when they sadly ceased operating. This money was given as unrestricted funds and was allocated to core costs for March 2023.
- **The Network for Social Change Charitable Trust**: £7,272, March 2023
  Restricted funds allocated to our Goma base running costs including salaries, office rental and utilities from May to October 2023 – *to be accounted for in our 2023-2024 accounts*.
- **Voice for Change International**: £553.73, March 2023.
  Unrestricted funds put towards our Goma base running costs including utilities, and phone and internet connection for our staff team – *to be accounted for in our 2023-2024 accounts.*

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Volunteers

All participants of our training programme are supported to volunteer with us on other activities following their training: they may become Mentors, Facilitators of the WYLD programme, or apply for an internship. In the UK, the trustees work voluntarily, as do the small support team and the Director.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Training and mentoring

- 124 young people were supported directly via the WYLD programme in North Kivu province, DRC.
- We continued to support our existing WYLD cohorts in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru to complete their 12-month programme.
- Two new cohorts started their WYLD Programmes in Goma (one in April and one in August), training 56 young people in total: 28 Leader Mentors (18-30 years old) and 28 Young Leaders (13-19 years old).
- We ensured that 62 Young Leaders were in paired for mentoring with a Leader Mentor. Whilst ongoing insecurity in the region continued to disrupt face-to-face mentoring meetings at some points in the year, we supported our teams and Leader Mentors and sent additional phone credit to ensure that mentoring happened when and wherever possible.
- 40 volunteer Facilitators have been active in our project locations.
- We entered out second year of *Projet Ecole* in Masisi with two partner schools for a total of 40 young people, with indirect impact on more than 1300 pupils in the schools.
- Tree of Life programmes directly provided low-level therapeutic support to 144 young people, and indirectly 1500 young people in the community.
- *Mwanzo Entreprise:* we continued to work with five start-up businesses run by teams of WYLD programme Alumni, giving them business training, support and mentoring, and office space with internet connection and reliable electricity. We worked with the organisation 'Jeunes Visionaires' to provide 3 months of intensive enterprise training. In addition to the five start-ups who gained intensive support, we also accompanied 10 further companies through the various training courses. 50 young people took part each month in the team-building courses. Thanks to the businesses we have supported, we have generated 40 stable jobs and over 90 casual jobs.
- *Mwanzo Artistic:* We worked with young artists in various disciplines in order to have positive impact on the community through the arts. Support includes setting up and working in partnership to promote arts events, and mentoring for young artists. We supported 50 artists and put on three well-attended events, in partnership with 'L'Institute Francais', including a Slam Poetry competition.

Community Engagement/Social Action

- We continued to support team members and alumni involved in community engagement and activism, providing key support and mentoring for young people who are involved in advocacy and discussion in their country, including conferences and local peace-building youth clubs.
- We supported the set-up of five new youth designed and led social action/enterprise projects in Goma.
- *Peace for a Future*: aiming to increase learning and action towards peace-building in North Kivu province, we celebrated International Peace Day and Day for Youth with conferences/forums, informative film screenings and discussion groups, and acts of kindness in the community. Being a structure of reference for young people, we were present in several advocacy events for the participation of young people in the decision-making bodies of the DRC. From this, several regional and continental conferences have been organised, for which The Congo Tree was present.
- *Youth for Inclusion*: This group aim to combat prejudice in the community, inspire young leaders to become allies of marginalised groups, and encourage their participation in our programmes. This includes marginalisation due to gender, ability, or background. We ran events on International Day of the Girl Child, ran a breast cancer awareness campaign, ran informative film screenings and supported partner Enable Disable Action (EDA) on events.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Charitable activities (continued)

Community Engagement/Social Action (continued)

- In response to the emergency created by armed conflict in the Rutshuru area of North Kivu province in May 2022, 60 of our Alumni volunteered in internal displacement (IDP) camps to support displaced people fleeing war. Two major actions were organised - in May and December 2022 - supporting people with food through emergency meal distributions, until other humanitarian organisations took over. We also took time to listen and share messages of hope.
- We returned to support young people impacted by the volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in May 2021. We ran follow up sessions to the Tree of Life with 120 young people within schools directly impacted by the eruption, with our partner Michelle Smith and Global Grace Fellowship.

Additional benefits

- Worked with local and international partners including: Ngangi Fund, Grand African Project, Hope in Action Together for Development (HATD), University Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL), Uhuru Knowledge Centre, BIFERD , SFVS, L'Union Africaine, and Tearfund.
- Recruited, trained and supported three Interns - our Engagement Officer, Organisation Officer, and Inclusion Officer who worked alongside our DRC Team Leader and Mentoring Officer for 12 months. This included team training sessions, one-to-one mentoring and professional goal-setting.
- Shared knowledge and good practice through attending a variety of conferences and events focused on the development of young people in DRC and beyond.
- Continued to develop our 'Treehouse' as an office and training space as a youth hub in Goma, and to develop our English conversation club and Book club.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity received income of £36,259 for the year (2022: £43,059) of which £17,272 was restricted (2022: £4,263). Total expenditure of £28,776 was incurred (2022: £38,226) of which £2,730 was restricted (2022: £4,263). The net movement on funds for the year was an increase in funds of £7,483 (2022: increase in funds of £4,833).

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves at 31 March 2023 were £16,513 (2022: £9,030), allocated as £1,971 unrestricted funds and £14,542 restricted funds. These reserves are held to be applied in furtherance of the charity's charitable purpose, and are considered by the trustees to be sufficient to support the short term objectives of the charity.

The charity's capital may be applied for charitable purposes or retained by the trustees at their discretion.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees have the power to appoint new trustees who may be appointed at any time. The total number of trustees must be between 3 and 10 and there is no restriction on the length of term of service.

Organisational structure

As a small charity, our organisational structure is compact. Our Board of Trustees are the only voting members, and our risk management procedures are set out in our constitution in line with the recommendations from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity number	1152557
Principal address	c/o 84 Kimbolton Road Bedford MK40 2PD
Trustees	H Bentley, Trustee and Co-Founder A Cummings, Trustee and Co-Founder (Resigned October 2023) S Bavington, Trustee and Chairperson (Resigned as Chairperson April 2023) J Searle, Trustee and Treasurer (Resigned April 2023) H Kyeya, Trustee M Malunga, Trustee S Patel, Trustee (Resigned April 2023) B Bartlett, Trustee (Chairperson from April 2023) L Bamforth, Trustee (Chairperson from April 2023) Z Haider, Trustee (Resigned November 2023)
Independent Examiner	Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA Monico Tunley Limited, Chartered Accountants 19 Goldington Road Bedford MK40 3JY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 27 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

B Bartlett
Trustee

The Congo Tree

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 15.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn. We understand this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in ay material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do 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.

Except for the matter referred to above, 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.

Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA

Chartered Accountant

Monico Tunley Limited
19 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Date: 27 January 2024

The Congo Tree

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		18,932	-	18,932	43,027
Grants		-	17,272	17,272	-
Investments		55	-	55	1
Other income		-	-	-	31
Total income		**18,987**	**17,272**	**36,259**	**43,059**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**2**	360	-	360	508
Charitable activities		25,686	2,730	28,416	37,718
Total expenditure	**5,6**	**26,046**	**2,730**	**28,776**	**38,226**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		**(7,059)**	**14,542**	**7,483**	**4,833**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		9,030	-	9,030	4,197
Total funds carried forward	**9**	**1,971**	**14,542**	**16,513**	**9,030**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

Of the total income for the year ended 31 March 2022, £4,263 was restricted. Of the total expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022, £4,263 was restricted. The balance of income and expenditure was unrestricted.

All of the activities are continuing.

The Congo Tree

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	**7**	-	3,297
Cash at bank and in hand		18,073	6,513
Total current assets		**18,073**	**9,810**
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**8**	(1,560)	(780)
Net current assets		16,513	9,030
Total assets less current liabilities		**16,513**	**9,030**
Total net assets		**16,513**	**9,030**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		1,971	9,030
Restricted funds		14,542	-
Total charity funds	**9**	**16,513**	**9,030**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 27 January 2024 and signed their behalf by

B Bartlett
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity has experienced a significant decrease in donations income as a result of the various economic factors within the UK during the later part of 2022 and onwards. The Trustees have identified that this may have an effect on the charity's ability to carry out future activities at the current level and are taking steps to seek additional funding in order to ensure the continuation of the charity. The increase in restricted income is a result of these actions. These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which is still considered appropriate at the time of signing.

1.2 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.

Designated funds, which are also unrestricted funds, represent funds set aside from time to time for specific purposes by the trustees.

1.3 Income

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.

1.4 Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

1.7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Expenditure on raising funds

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Raising donations and legacies		
Support costs	360	508
	360	508

3 Trustees remuneration and benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 amount to £665 in respect of travel costs (2022: £3,880).

4 Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 6 (2022: 6) which were categorised as the DRC team and the UK team, including interns. 1 employee is based in the UK (2022: 1) and the remainder in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2022: none).

5 Expenditure on field costs

Costs amounting to £24,799 (2022: £27,152) were incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Costs incurred in the year are analysed between those incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo and those incurred in the United Kingdom as follows:

2023	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	420	420
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	1,189	-	1,189
Activity and accommodation costs	4,465	-	4,465
Travelling	1,352	665	2,017
Telephone	2,016	-	2,016
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,187	-	3,187
Equipment	-	-	-
Refreshments and meeting costs	909	-	909
Visibility	-	24	24
Sundry expenses	-	-	-
Intern stipends	1,361	-	1,361
Staffing and HR costs	9,742	300	10,042
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Insurance	-	497	497
Bank charges	578	151	729
	24,799	3,617	28,416

Within the above expenditure for Congo is £2,730 of restricted expenditure.

Expenditure on field costs (continued)

2022	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	612	612
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	3,986	-	3,986
Activity and accommodation costs	6,878	-	6,878
Travelling	1,145	3,880	5,025
Telephone	1,780	-	1,780
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,470	111	3,581
Equipment	121	-	121
Refreshments and meeting costs	538	42	580
Sundry expenses	-	-	-
Intern stipends	920	-	920
Staffing and HR costs	7,534	3,760	11,294
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Insurance	-	468	468
Bank charges	780	133	913
	27,152	10,566	37,718

Within the above expenditure for Congo for the year ended 31 March 2022 is £2,705 of restricted expenditure on emergency response costs, £116 of restricted expenditure on telephone costs, £83 of restricted expenditure on social action activities, £500 on staff costs and £859 of restricted expenditure on equipment.

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs

These costs are further analysed by activity category as follows:

2023	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	6,389	-	6,389
Leadership development mentoring	337	-	337
Internship programme	1,361	-	1,361
Social action projects	1,189	-	1,189
DRC support costs	5,203	-	5,203
Field trips	-	665	665
UK support costs	-	-	-
Events, marketing and visibility	-	24	24
Insurance	-	497	497
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	780	780
Bank charges	578	151	729
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Staffing and HR costs	9,742	300	10,042
	24,799	3,617	28,416

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs (continued)

Within the above expenditure for Congo for the year ended 31 March 2022 is £2,730 of restricted expenditure.

2022	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	8,117	-	8,117
Leadership development mentoring	151	-	151
Internship programme	920	-	920
Social action projects	3,986	-	3,986
DRC support costs	5,543	-	5,543
Field trips	-	3,880	3,880
UK support costs	-	153	153
Events, marketing and visibility	121	-	121
Insurance	-	468	468
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	972	972
Bank charges	780	133	913
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Staffing and HR costs	7,534	3,760	11,294
	27,152	10,566	37,718

Within the above expenditure for Congo for the year ended 31 March 2022 is £2,705 of restricted expenditure on emergency response costs, £116 of restricted expenditure on telephone costs, £83 of restricted expenditure on social action activities, £500 on staff costs and £859 of restricted expenditure on equipment.

7 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	-	3,297
	-	3,297

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	780	-
Other creditors	780	780
	1,560	780

9 Movement in funds

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund	9,030	18,987	(26,046)	1,971
Restricted funds:				
Let Yourself Trust	-	10,000	(2,730)	7,270
Network for Social Change	-	7,272	-	7,272
	9,030	36,259	(28,776)	16,513

The restricted funds that operated during the year were for the purpose of funding the Goma base running costs.

10 Related party transactions

Donations from Trustees during the year amounted to £2,680 (2022: £9,142).

During the year a payment of £1,200 was made to H Bentley, a trustee, for professional services outside of the services provided for the trusteeship.

THE CONGO TREE

England & Wales - Charity number 1152557

Accounts

THE CONGO TREE



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

This year has been another groundbreaking year for Congo Tree as our young people continue to show us why we need to keep doing what we are doing, and more. Each story and message paints a picture of dynamism, strength, courage and creativity despite all the challenges young people face in eastern DRC. Our exceptional team is motivated and has given their all this year despite political uncertainty and economic pressures.

STEVE BAVINGTON

The fact that Congo Tree continues to gain momentum and grow, impacting thousands of lives for good across North Kivu is due to the intelligence of the team and the openness of our young leaders and mentor leaders. The positive difference the team, facilitators and young people are making in families and communities will go down in history as individuals and whole communities discover the power of teamwork, trust and solidarity. We are very grateful to every supporter and partner who has contributed to this work. Your donations have changed not only the lives of the people mentioned here, but also the lives of all the young people we have helped - we can't do this without you. On behalf of the Board, I thank each and every one of you for being part of this story.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



MEDI MUYISA
Assistant Directeur

We have once again experienced and celebrated the different skills of young people in their own ways in our communities. A special year with specific circumstances for the Congo.

The DR Congo continues to go through moments of serious instability in its eastern part. North Kivu, the region where we run our activities, is not spared. The region of Beni continues to count hundreds of people massacred every day, but also the territory of Rutshuru and Masisi still has armed groups that greatly destabilise the peace of the population. Young people are both victims and perpetrators in these wars, which also limits their ability to think beyond and have big visions. In addition, the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano has devastated the northern part of the city of Goma.

Thanks to The Congo Tree, young people have demonstrated that they are drivers of change. We have inspired and equipped our youth, and from their sides they have been solutions for the community. We have celebrated the success and achievement of our Young Leaders. Today we are a benchmark organisation for youth because our way of doing, acting and inspiring is creative and participatory. Our team in the DRC has become even more motivated and passionate about this work which is of great importance to the youth. We will never stop saying thank you to all the supporters who keep on accompanying us and being part of the history of many. We are very proud of you.

THE STAFF AND BOARD OF THE CONGO TREE

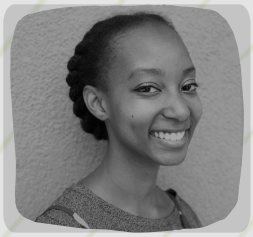
DRC TEAM



Medi Muyisa
Assistant Director



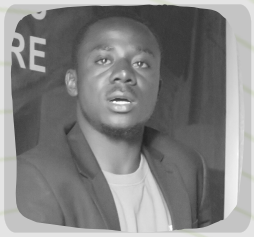
Sage Dunia
Programme Coordinator



Philippa Zawe
Communication Lead



Kaley Grace
Communication Officer



Merveil Bahati
Engagement Officer



Alice Mitulo
Organisation Officer

OUR TEAM IN MASISI AND RUTSHURU





UK TEAM



Chloe Russell



Anna Galloway



Harmony Ngwamah

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Steve Bavington
Chair



Heidi Bentley
Director



Jane Searie



Hebdavi Kyeya



Any Cummings



Sarah Patel



Ben Bartlett



Zsuzsanna Jakabfi



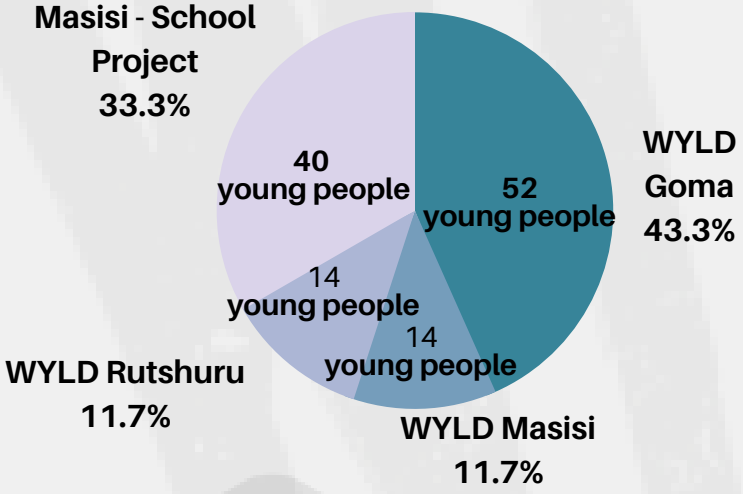
Muhindo Malunga

THE WYLD PROGRAMME

The WYLD programme is the central pillar of The Congo Tree's work. WYLD enables us to deliver on our vision of inspiring, equipping and supporting young people through personal development, teamwork, challenges and discussion groups that promote peer learning, as well as helping young people to understand their role in solving problems in the community and thus being a major agent of change.

There are many challenges facing communities in the DRC and the hope for change lies with the youth, who make up more than 70% of the active population. The very context of the country means that young people find themselves neglected and unsupported. Youth are today both the victims and the perpetrators of various atrocities within the community. Through our vision and mission, we give young people a chance to be the authors of change and develop different skills that are useful to many. The WYLD Programme is a direct response to the various challenges facing the youth of this country.

This year we have directly reached 120 young people through our programmes, and indirectly we have reached over 1500 young people in the community through our actions.



120 young people in our programmes







INSPIRE SUPPORT EQUIP | THE YOUNG PEOPLE

THE WYLD PROGRAMME

Despite a more difficult context in our areas of activity, notably increased insecurity in Rutshuru and Masisi, and also the volcanic eruption near Goma city. During this year, our team in DRC was even more determined to achieve a great impact in the lives of young people and also at the community level.

Leadership capacity

96 %

Say that the amount of knowledge learned in leadership is very developed



Pleasure in the programme

95 %

Of our young people enjoy being part of the WYLD programme.

Content of the programme

98 %

Say that the content of the programme is very important and interesting for our young people in relation to their situation or need

The WYLD programme helps young people to develop at least five transferable life and leadership skills: communication, creativity, problem solving, entrepreneurship and leadership with integrity. Each year we ask our young people to assess their progress in the above skills and we register the results.

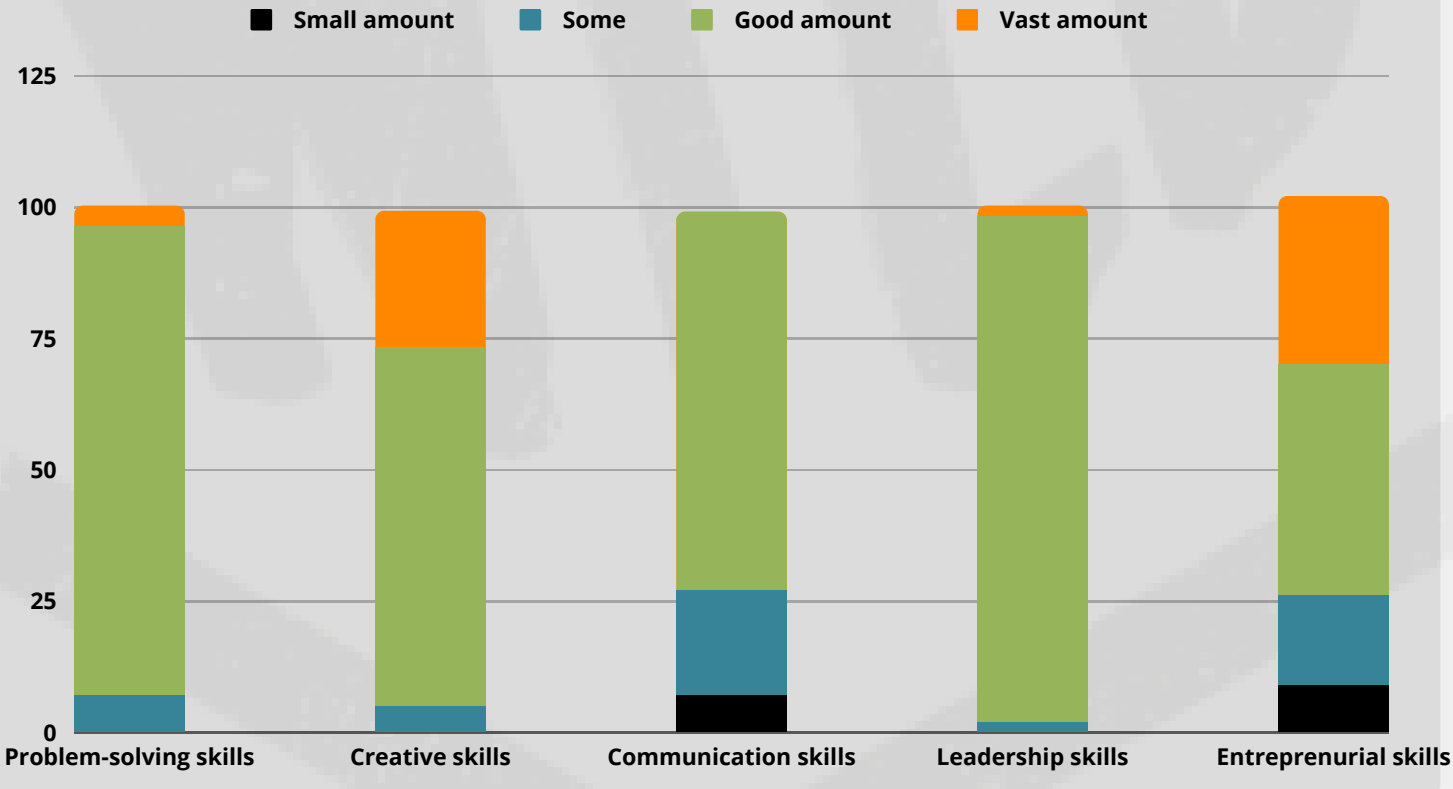
THE WYLD PROGRAMME



Goma / Training of the WYLD programme with Young Leaders and Leader Mentors

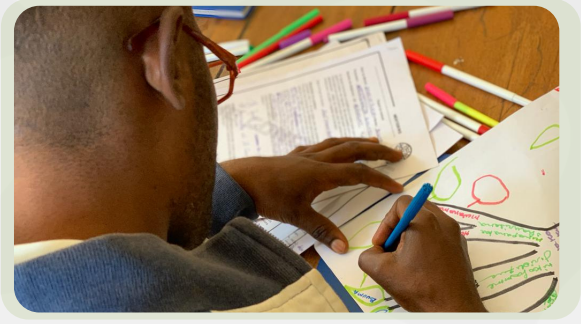


Rutshuru / Training of the WYLD programme with Young Leaders and Leader Mentors



TREE OF LIFE





Identity is the basis for the development of one's circle of influence and personal development. Tree of Life is a psychotherapeutic tool, additional to the WYLD programme run by The Congo Tree.

Tree of Life is a direct support to our mentoring scheme, as it helps the young people in the programme to better understand each other and to overcome the traumas of conflicts experienced in the community. This is based on :

- Mutual knowledge of each other's background and identity
- Understanding of each other's other unknown skills and having a clear vision
- Being part of each other's history and making solutions in the community
- Insight into problems and prevention of solutions

Direct impact

280 young people

affected in a direct way

Impact indirect

1400+ young people

affected in an indirect way

MENTORING

Each participant in our WYLD programme is placed in a mentoring pair, either as a mentor or mentee depending on their age, experience and abilities.

They are required to meet for at least one mentoring hour per month. At the end of the year, we found that the majority of our young people were meeting much more than that.

Goma

52 young people or 26 mentoring pairs

Masisi

14 young people, 7 mentoring pairs

Masisi-Projet Ecole

40 young people or 20 mentoring pairs

Rutshuru

14 young people, 7 mentoring pairs

During the year 2021-2022, the mentoring scheme has been very successful. From the beginning to the end of the mentoring relationships, the young people have challenged each other and experienced positive change. Beyond having the time to meet at the beginning of each month for the monthly meeting, the young people made solid and encouraging relationships.

In Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru, the Leaders Mentors and Young Leaders have had a considerable positive impact. Despite the worrying situations of the war in Rutshuru and Masisi, and also despite disruption caused by lava flow from the volcanic eruption, the mentoring groups continued their monthly discussion activities at times through messages and phone calls. No mentoring sessions were missed - 100% of the mentoring pairs met regularly in some capacity during each month. The total number of young people involved in the mentoring programme is 120, making 60 mentoring peers involved during the year 2021-2022.







MENTORING STORIES



Aristote and Rodrigue

Aristoste and Rodrigue

Goma

The mentoring programme is essential for me. By meeting my mentor, my learning level in school improves. His technical language makes me understand more about the subject I am learning. I am doing the technical section in electrical studies. In our schools in Goma, the teachers give a lot of theory and little practice. Before, every time I needed to put what I learned into practice, I lacked someone who could help me to apply myself better, someone to guide me and refer to, to do better. Rodrigue is an important connection for me to reconcile my theories with my practice. In our mentoring goals for the year, my main target is that I become a good technician. I hope to end my time in the mentoring program with an excellent level of electrical experience. Since the beginning of the mentoring, I have already installed in more than 6 houses here in the city of Goma.

Binite and Salama

Masisi

" I went through a very difficult phase financially in my family. I am 14 years old, and I realised that I should continue to study so that my future would not be ruined. Due to the financial challenges, I was at the point of giving up school - while we pay $15 per term, I didn't know if it would be possible for me to complete the school year. None of my relatives were able to help and support me.

When I met with my mentor, Salama, in February 2021, she gave me some guidance that was beneficial to me, which I will share with you: to take someone else's money on credit and start a micro-business, part of the interest from which I would use to pay back the lender and part to pay my expenses. I borrowed some money and start selling vegetables every afternoon after school. At the beginning of my vegetable business it was a bit difficult to combine studies and business, but now it's going well. I have achieved a real stability in my studies, in my emotional life, and also I don't have as many financial worries! "

95 %

of our young people said they were satisfied with their mentoring experience

FACILITATORS





89%
of young people appreciate the way our facilitators work

25 Facilitators
for Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru (volunteers).

Our team of volunteer facilitators is getting stronger and even more committed to young people. Facilitating sessions with The Congo Tree is about transferring skills to young people whilst also continuing to learn and improve oneself - these are the first objectives we set for all our facilitators. This year, we graduated 15 facilitators - who have started the programme since 2018 and have given lots of their time for the development of the youth. 15 Ambassadors in the community to help The Congo Tree to have even more impact. Together we celebrated the success and impact that these young leaders have had on the work of The Congo Tree. Today, we have 25 facilitators for Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru. Our facilitators are the first references for our youth in their leadership in the community.

"*Thanks to my experience in facilitating sessions, today I am able to speak confidently in public and also develop my self-esteem. I know that the knowledge I have passed on to the young people will help them to become solution-makers in the community.*"

Baby Kitambala / *Facilitator*

SCHOOL PROJECT - PROJET ECOLE



Our WYLD school project is a great success in Masisi Territory. 40 children have been directly reached by *Projet Ecole* with over 1100 children indirectly reached and influenced positively by children on the project at school level.



" Having my students in this programme has made me think twice about the way we teach in our schools. Getting children to understand who they are by discovering their strengths and weaknesses will make them people with better self-esteem. Today I see these young people taking the lead in solving problems in school. We believe in them and know that they are catalysts for development in our communities. "

Patrick Muhindo / *Teacher*

Change

92 %

of students in the project are now authors of positive change in their schools

Peaceful cohabitation

96 %

of students are now advocating peaceful cohabitation between different tribes at the community level

Continuity of the programme

100 %

of students want to continue with the programme to learn more about personal development

Impact

40 children directly reached

+1100 children reached indirectly through the positive influence of project children at school

"Discovering who I am and my role in changing the situation in my community, starting with my school, is the most important thing I have learned with The Congo Tree. I am taking the lead and will influence my colleagues towards positive change.

Tuliza / *Student from Masisi*

ALUMNI



Andy Best Kanku

I went through the WYLD programme at The Congo Tree and it was like a catalyst for me because, through the different training sessions, I discovered the two great values embedded in me - inspiration and creativity.

Before I went through The Congo Tree programme, I had so many unstructured ideas in my head that I found it difficult to put things into practice but now, with what I have learned and especially from working as a team, I have become involved with others and we have now initiated two community projects together, one of which is agricultural field to help solve the problem of famine. Malnourishment is a serious problem for my community, so I decided to grow beans. By increasing the production of beans in my country, it will lower the price, which is currently very high, and I will be able to save thousands of children in the community. Today, I am proud to be part of the solution.

Archange Lwanzo



We were all inspired and encouraged by this young leader. Archangel is a young person in the ongoing programme at The Congo Tree, since September 2021. For much of this time, she has also been working in Kigali, Rwanda, as a school teacher. Kigali is 300 kilometres from the city of Goma.

From the very beginning, she was greatly inspired by the training that she received. Knowing who she really was - her strengths and her weaknesses - she set a vision with small, short-term goals. Determination and self-confidence made it possible for her to keep moving forward in her life. Through what she had learned in The Congo Tree's programmes, she was able to impress her new employer and succeeded in being offered a teaching role at the school. Most importantly, and what inspires us all, is that she travels 300 kilometres every month to attend our monthly meetings.

We asked her why she travels so far, from one country to another, here is her answer:
"*My participation in each monthly meeting is very important not only for me but also for my teammates. I learn a lot from the training sessions which develops my professional skills but also improves how I live with others. Developing my character will allow me to be an outstanding person in the community, capable of helping others. I am not only learning for myself but also learning for others. The experiences of others will allow me to challenge myself and overcome my difficulties.*"

SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE

Each year, we give young people the opportunity to solve problems in the community through social action. The objective is not only to solve the problem but also to develop teamwork; for young people to practically experience the strengths and the overcoming of challenges by working together. During this year, 6 social actions have been implemented in communities in Goma, Rutshuru and Masisi.

- **Rutshuru**

  70 households supported in agriculture in Kisisile

The village of Kisisile is located around 10 kilometres from Rutshuru Centre. It is a small village with a little more than 2000 inhabitants and whose main livelihoods are agriculture. After a time of serious conflict and displacement of the population from the village they call home, our young leaders in Rutshuru decided to use their social action challenge to help. Working with the chief of the village, they coordinated support for 70 households who had just returned to their village without any seed for their fields. The distribution of seeds for beans was to meet the need for food but also for community reintegration after moments of war. More than 500 people were impacted by this social action project, which continues to this day in the village of Kisisile to support families in difficulty.





We believe that what our young people are doing in Kisisile will not only solve problems in the village and wider community of Rutshuru but will also inspire many others of their age to do the same and take responsibility for the community. We are proud of this new generation who are able to work within their community and do great things to help others.

- **Masisi**

10 young people are supported in their income generating activities.

The youth in Masisi have decided to continue with micro-credit projects for other young people. With young people susceptible to making poor choices when facing the challenges of poverty, supporting youth entrepreneurship is the only way to help them become autonomous and give them better options for the future. Through their social action challenge, our young people have decided to directly support 10 young people in their entrepreneurship, indirectly impacting more than 80 people connected to their households.

The aim was to influence other young people to do the same, to work together to solve the problems in their community.



Thanks to The Congo Tree, I have become an entrepreneur. I sell phone credit and this makes me financially independent. Today, I am an inspiration to many young people in my community. I can no longer be manipulated and end up in armed groups because I have a job that gives me money.

Young entrepreneur / Masisi



"The funds received from The Congo Tree have enabled me to fulfil my dream of being a young entrepreneur in my village. I have become a positive example and role model for many in my community. I am also solving problems in my community because my pharmacy and the sale of medicine helps many sick people."

Joseph , young entrepreneur / Masisi

- **Goma**

35 children reintegrated into their families

Children separated from their families - because of displacement, poverty or other reasons - is a big problem in the city of Goma. There are many children living on the streets, alone or in groups, who are fending for themselves - this is dangerous for them and also problematic for the community. One team of young people decided to try to reunite some of these children with their families. Talking and understanding the problems of street children was an important objective of this project.

Thanks to this team of young people, 35 children were reunited with their families. Some of these children are going to continue with studies and others have been supported to start work. All of the children have been referred to the organisation *Un Jour Nouveau* for continuous psychological follow-up.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION

In May 2022, the city of Goma came under fire from the Nyiragongo volcano, located just 10 kilometres from the city centre. More than 5,000 households were left homeless and 14 people died when this uncontrollable disaster plunged the city of Goma into crisis. As always, the lava found a new path, and this time it was the northern part of the city that was affected, close to the airport.





With problem-solving being one of the most important lessons in our WYLD programme, young people mobilised to put into practice what they had learned. Over 60 young people, current and alumni together, volunteered to bring food and water to displaced families. This is what we got involved with:

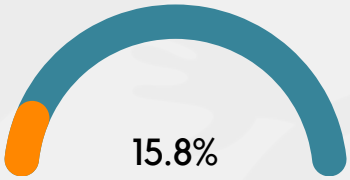
- Worked with our partner Uhuru Center, in Sake town to give food and water to more than 1000 people during their evacuation from Goma
- Supported with community health education in area where displaced people had found refuge
- Distributed sanitary products and gave information on menstrual hygiene issues to women and girls who were displaced - reaching more than 1000 young women
- Identified 20 families of the youth of The Congo Tree who had lost their homes and all their belongings in the eruption and were in real difficulty. We gave each family $75 so that they could meet their urgent needs to enable them to start again
- Worked with Michelle Smith to run Tree of Life trauma therapy and WYLD problem-solving sessions with 120 young people is schools that had been destroyed or impacted by the lava flow. With this programme, we also reached at least 600 people in the community indirectly.





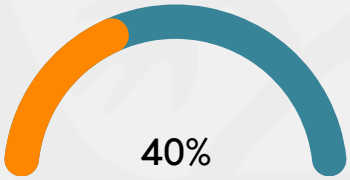
MWANZO ENTERPRISE

In the DRC, unemployment is a serious problem in urban area, affecting mainly young people aged 15 to 24.



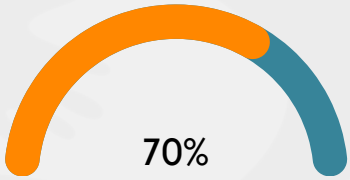
15.8%

youth unemployment rate in the DRC



40%

of the population live in urban areas



70%

of the population live in extreme poverty, on less than $2 USD per day

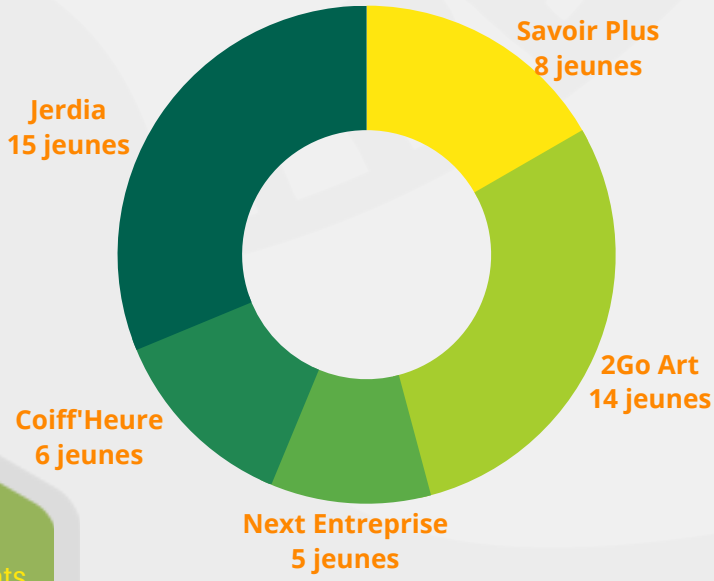
Since January, we have welcomed 5 companies to use a co-working space in our Treehouse: Savoir Plus Corporation, Next Entreprises, 2GO Art, Coiff'Heure and Jerdia have been actively demonstrating the importance of the Mwanzo Entreprise programme, which has supported them with training and mentoring, a physical address, and a good working environment, allowing their credibility and reputation to increase.





Youth Employability

This programme is designed to help young entrepreneurs. We want to help lower the unemployment rate among young people in the community. This table shows the extent to which this problem is being solved step by step with these 5 enterprises:



Impact of the Programme

72%

The programme helps companies so far to improve their organisational capacity and vision and especially the capitalisation of working time

Corporate customers

Savoir Plus : 42 clients
2Go art : 45 clients
Next Entreprise : 30 clients
Coiff'Heure : 47 clients
Jerdia : 200 clients

The programme offers monthly entrepreneurship training sessions to provide each business with the tools they need to develop and grow.

MWANZO ARTISTIC

Mwanzo Artistic is a professional and personal development programme designed to support of young artists in the province of North Kivu. The programme is aims to engage and mentor artists in their creative practice, to encourage them to use their art to lead themselves and others towards problem resolution, peaceful cohabitation and mentoring. We also connect young artists with artists from their local community and international artists, to increase their global awareness and thinking together about community engagement.





Musika na Kipaji

We accompanied the *Musika na Kipaji* festival, a series of artistic activities focused on presenting female artists and with the aim of equipping young women to explore and utilise their potential. Some of our young people and team performed in this festival, including: Esther Abumba, Philippa Walusimbi, Aminah Murhebwa.



Festival Amani

The Amani Festival takes place every year, bringing music, dancers, comedians and other talented artists to Goma for 3 days each February. The name of the festival comes from the Swahili word for "peace" and promoting peace is one of the festival's main aims. Every year, many of our young people volunteer to help run the festival.



Impact Mwanzo Artistic

70+ young people

regularly participated in our performances at Tree House

8 Young Artists

have been supported in their creativity

Diversification of different cultures

in the community through art with one message: "love"

PEACE FOR A FUTURE

Peace For a Future is a programme that aims to put young people at the centre of finding solutions to problems related to peace, justice and inclusion in the community.

The DRC, especially the eastern part, has experienced several wars and tribal conflicts. Young people remain the victims and perpetrators in these wars. We want to break the cycle of the violence that they experience, and see young people at the forefront of peace-building in the DRC.

100+
national and foreign armed groups in Eastern DRC

+ 600 million young people living in fragile and conflict-affected environments worldwide

60%
of the population in DRC estimated to be under 18 years old

Conference on the International Day of Peace



To celebrate this day we organised with the African Union, UK in DRC, Cordaid, EDA and the presidency of the DRC a day of reflection with more than 200 young leaders from different civil society structures in Goma city.

International Youth Day



International Youth Day is an international day celebrated around the world on 12 August.

We got together and discussed two themes: "**Youth involvement in the development of North Kivu**" and "**Responsible understanding of the Vaccine19** ".

ENGAGEMENT
300+ young people
commit themselves to becoming peacemakers in the community

ADVOCACY
Many pleas to authorities for the involvement of young people in discussions and actions for peace



YOUTH FOR INCLUSION

Youth for Inclusion is a programme aiming to break down the various prejudices that are prevalent in the community which prevent people from achieving their potential, such as women and people living with disabilities.

○ International Girls' Day / Breast Cancer Awareness



The International Day of the Girl has been celebrated every year on 11 October since 2012. Around the world, girls and young women face challenges specific to and because of their gender. This day celebrates girls and raises awareness of some of the challenges they face.

○ International Women's Day



International Women's Day, also called International Women's Rights Day in some countries or regions such as France or Quebec, is celebrated on 8 March every year. Celebrated with the aim of empowering women, we dedicate the month of March for the promotion of women's rights and the value that they bring to every organisation and community.

150+ young girls become aware of their important role in solving problems in the community

Inclusion of 16+ young people with disabilities in our programmes

Fight against prejudice against girls and women in the community (culture, church etc.)





PARTNERSHIPS



We were received by the administrator of Masisi Territory. Here is what he said to us: "The hope of Masisi at the moment lies in this youth who are the new generation that your organisation is training for the change of character. With a new way of seeing the world, of changing things and approaching different situations, Masisi will be able to produce useful young people in North Kivu, and in DRC in general."

Military Administrator of Masisi



Our partner, the ULPGL University, through its Young Leaders Incubator programme, has enabled us to reach many young people at university level. Several activities of scientific exchange and debate between young people were organised to give a free space of expression to the young people.

We have to say here that 3 of the young people who lead this programme within the University are Alumni of the WYLD Programme. Inspiring many other young people is our priority.



Uhuru Centre, our base partner in Sake, is a leading youth organisation in the area. During this year, we have organized some exchanges with the youth in Sake to understand what their vision and hope is for their community. In the future, we hope to start a WYLD programme with the young people of Sake (28 kilometres from Goma) in partnership with Uhuru Centre.

FINANCE REPORT

INCOME

Total income: **£43,059**



Volcano Emergency Appeal: £3760

**Not including accrued Gift Aid*

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure: **£38,226**



DRC Costs Include:

- Programmes
- DRC Team salaries and stipends
- Monitoring and evaluation visits (including UK Director visit)
- The Treehouse – rent and maintenance
- Volcano response
- DRC bank fees

UK Costs Include:

- Accountancy
- Insurance
- UK bank fees
- Visibility / events / fundraising
- UK Team Leader salary
- Assistant Director mentoring support

Carried into 2022-23: **£9,030**

BEWYLD

#bepartofthestory

We couldn't do any of what reported on without the amazing financial support of generous people - thank you to everyone who has given to us in 2021-2022!

If you are thinking about giving to The Congo Tree, we would like to invite you to come and be WYLD with us, by supporting a place on a WYLD programme for only £120 / $150 or £10 / $12,5 per month!

Each cohort in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru comprises 12 young leaders.
We need supporters like you to give the leaders of tomorrow a life-changing experience.
Alternatively, you could support an Intern for £30 / $40 per month. Find out more at:

www.thecongotree.org.uk/donate

And there are loads of other ways that you can get involved!

- Volunteer with the UK Team
- Get sponsored for us
- Host us or run a fundraiser for us
- Support a young entrepreneur or team with a specific social action / creative enterprise project
- Gifts in kind
- Invite us into your school

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact us at: *hello@thecongotree.org.uk*



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS:

Charity Registration No 1152557

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Financial statements for
the year ended 31 March 2022

The Congo Tree

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

The Congo Tree is a youth development charity based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the UK, working with young people, particularly those who have grown up in situations of conflict, and training them as the next generation of leaders, so that they can be the ones to change their world. Through our World Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Programme we aim to inspire, equip and support young people: to inspire young people to see themselves as leaders, to equip young people with transferable life and leadership skills, and to support young people through mentoring, as they step out and get involved creatively in their communities: to 'be part of the story'.

Our approaches are governed by our values and a Christian ethos, valuing the energy and vibrancy of youth, working creatively, sustainably and with integrity, and upholding the principles of togetherness by welcoming all young people – those who share the Christian faith and those who do not, male and female, young people from all backgrounds, tribes and situations. The Congo Tree works both independently and in partnership with local community organisations who have similar or complimentary visions and goals.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

Vision: to inspire, equip and support Young Leaders in the DRC and the UK.

Objectives:

To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in the DRC and the UK by providing advice and assistance, and organising programmes of informal education, physical activities, mentoring and other activities as a means of:

a) Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, responsible and mature individuals who contribute positively to the lives of others;
b) Advancing education; specifically in the areas of problem-solving, leadership, integrity and responsibility and creativity in enterprise;
c) Helping create opportunities for self-sustaining employment or skills to increase employability;
d) Create safe environment that allows the breakdown of ethnic, cultural and/or other boundaries through participation in team and group work activities;
e) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare of young people living in the DRC and the UK who have need by reason of their youth, poverty, social and economic circumstances (including long-term conflict) with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Significant activities

Our main activities come under the banner of the WYLD programme, working with young people as Leader Mentors (aged 18+) or as Young Leaders (aged 13-19) in the DRC and the UK.

After an initial extensive training programme, participants are paired in a mentoring partnership for one year, during which they also meet monthly with the wider group for additional training and team-building. All participants are encouraged to get involved in group activities and small social action or creative enterprise projects aimed at community development, for example, volunteering in times of emergency or crisis, often with and through our partner organisations, or creating small microloan projects for the benefit of vulnerable members of their community.

The majority or our activities take place in the DRC, but we do hold supporter events and run information sessions or parts of the WYLD programme in the UK. The worldwide pandemic due to COVID-19 continued to restrict some of our face-to-face activities during the year.

In the DRC, our activities were impacted by COVID-19, insecurity in parts of North Kivu province and the surprise volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in May 2021, which meant that young people on each of our programmes could not meet and train together for some part of the year. However, we creatively continued mentoring by phone, trained facilitators to run programmes in new ways, and even led our first emergency response to support people impacted by the eruption and subsequent evacuation of Goma city – instigated by our young Congolese leaders. Again, our ability to respond quickly, to adapt and upskill have ensured that our programmes have continued and developed in every area that we work in. During the challenges of 2021-22, we stayed in contact with all of our young leaders and leader mentors, with all of our cohorts using their creative problem-solving skills to keep linked in with The Congo Tree family. During 2021-22 we continued to run all supporter and information events virtually, which also helped to connect supporters around the world.

The Congo Tree continues to be funded in the majority by donations from supporters, both individuals and groups. This year, we also gratefully received donations from the following:

- Voice for Change International gave us £2,156.91 in September 2021, which was put towards our Goma base running costs including utilities, and phone and internet connection for our staff team.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Volunteers

All participants of our training programme are supported to volunteer with us on other activities following their training: they may become Mentors, Facilitators of the WYLD programme, or apply for an internship. In the UK, the trustees work voluntarily, as do the small support team and the Director.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Training and mentoring

- We continued to support our existing WYLD cohorts in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru to complete their 12-month programme. The continuing global pandemic meant graduation ceremonies were restricted in size, but we happily graduated 120 young people during the year - 40 Leader Mentors and 80 Young Leaders across our WYLD programmes and *Projet Ecole*.
- We started the training for two new cohorts on WYLD Programmes in Goma, DRC (one in April and one in September), training 52 young people in total: 26 Leader Mentors (18-30 years old) and 26 Young Leaders (13-19 years old).
- We began one new cohort on their WYLD Programme in Rutshuru, DRC, with 14 young people: 7 Leader Mentors and 7 Young Leaders.
- We began one new cohort on their WYLD Programme in Masisi, DRC, with 14 young people: 7 Leader Mentors and 7 Young Leaders.
- We ensured that 52 Young Leaders were in paired for mentoring with a Leader Mentor. Whilst the global pandemic and local conflict disrupted face-to-face mentoring meetings at some points in the year, we supported our teams and Leader Mentors and sent additional phone credit to ensure that mentoring happened when and wherever possible.
- We ran Facilitator training in Goma for our Rutshuru facilitation team, including Risk Assessment, Safeguarding and Child Protection training.
- We launched *Projet Ecole* in Masisi with two schools for a total of 40 young people.
- We launched a new project called *Mwanzo Entreprise*, to work with five start-up businesses run by teams of WYLD programme Alumni, giving them business training, support and mentoring, and office space with internet connection and reliable electricity.
- We launche a new project called *Mwanzo Artistique*, to work with young artists in various disciplines in order to have positive impact on the community through the arts. Support includes setting up and working in partnership to promote arts events, and mentoring for young artists.
- We launched a new project called *Peace for a Future*, which aims to increase learning and action towards peace-building in North Kivu province. So far, Young Leaders have been invited to take part in conferences and celebrate internationally recognised days together in a co-ordinated way.
- We established our *Youth for Inclusion* group, who aim to combat prejudice in the community, inspire young leaders to become allies of marginalised groups, and encourage their participation in our programmes. This includes marginalisation due to gender, ability, or background.

Community Engagement/Social Action

- We continued to support team members and alumni involved in community engagement and activism, providing key support and mentoring for young people who are involved in advocacy and discussion in their country, including conferences and local peace-building youth clubs.
- We supported the set-up of six new youth designed and led social action/enterprise projects in Goma, Masisi, and Rutshuru.
- We trained more Facilitators from our WYLD Alumni, increasing our team to 25 volunteers across our bases in North Kivu.
- We celebrated various International days, including Peace Day and Day for Youth with conferences/forums, informative film screenings and discussion groups, acts of kindness in the community.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Charitable activities (continued)

Community Engagement/Social Action (continued)

- We responded to the emergency created by the volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in May 2021 by:
  - Giving $75 each to 20 families connected to The Congo Tree and in need of urgent support.
  - Supporting our partner, Uhuru Centre, with finance and volunteers for food and sanitary product distributions and community education about sanitation and nourishment during the evacuation of the Goma population to the town of Sake, reaching more than 1000 displaced people.
  - Running Tree of Life trauma therapy programmes with 120 young people within schools directly impacted by the eruption, with our partner Michelle Smith and Global Grace Fellowship.

Additional benefits

- Shared knowledge and good practice through attending a variety of conferences and events focused on the development of young people in DRC and beyond. Our Assistant Director visited Kinshasa in February 2022, to take part in a conference of Presidents of the African Union, which included and invitation to speak and being on the panels for discussions around peace and informal education for young people, organised in part by one of our WYLD Alumni.
- Continued to develop our 'Treehouse' as an office and training space as a youth hub in Goma, and to develop our English conversation club and a Book club.
- Recruited, trained and supported three Interns - our Engagement Officer, Organisation Officer, and Communication Officer who worked alongside our DRC Team Leader and Mentoring Officer for 12 months. This included team training sessions, one-to-one mentoring and professional goal-setting.
- Hosted our previous UK Team Leader in Goma for eight months with a new job description of Communication Lead, in order to equip and support our DRC team to take on responsibility of all charity communications going forward.
- Continued to work alongside local and international partners such as HEAL Africa, Hope in Action Together for Development (HATD), University Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL), and Uhuru Knowledge Centre. We have also formed positive relationships with the military administrators in Masisi and Rutshuru.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity received income of £43,059 for the year (2021: £19,937) of which £4,263 was restricted (2021: £520). Total expenditure of £38,226 was incurred (2021: £24,308) of which £4,263 was restricted (2021: £520). The net movement on funds for the year was an increase in funds of £4,833 (2021: decrease in funds of £4,371).

RESERVES POLICY

The total reserves at 31 March 2022 were £9,030 (2021: £4,197), allocated as £9,030 unrestricted funds and £nil restricted funds. These reserves are held to be applied in furtherance of the charity's charitable purpose, and are considered by the trustees to be sufficient to support the short term objectives of the charity.

The charity's capital may be applied for charitable purposes or retained by the trustees at their discretion.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 March 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees have the power to appoint new trustees who may be appointed at any time. The total number of trustees must be between 3 and 10 and there is no restriction on the length of term of service.

Organisational structure

As a small charity, our organisational structure is compact. Our Board of Trustees are the only voting members, and our risk management procedures are set out in our constitution in line with the recommendations from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity number	1152557
Principal address	Floor 8 One Colmore Row Birmingham West Midlands B3 2BJ
Trustees	H Bentley, Co-Founder A Cummings, Co-Founder S Bavington, Chairperson J Searle, Secretary (Treasurer from 24 July 2021) H Kyeya S Patel Z Jakabfi (resigned 24 July 2021) B Bartlett M Malunga (appointed 5 July 2020)
Independent Examiner	Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA Steve Monico Limited, Chartered Accountants 19 Goldington Road Bedford MK40 3JY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 26 January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

JA Searle

J Searle
Trustee

The Congo Tree

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 8 to 15.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn. We understand this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in ay material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do 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.

Except for the matter referred to above, 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.

Louise Tunley

Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA

Chartered Accountant

Steve Monico Limited
19 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Date: 26 January 2023

The Congo Tree

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		38,764	4,263	43,027	19,935
Investments		1	-	1	2
Other income		31	-	31	-
Total income		**38,796**	**4,263**	**43,059**	**19,937**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**2**	508	-	508	609
Charitable activities					
Social action projects and grants		339	83	422	651
Other		33,116	4,180	37,296	23,048
Total expenditure	**5,6**	**33,963**	**4,263**	**38,226**	**24,308**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		**4,833**	**-**	**4,833**	**(4,371)**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		4,197	-	4,197	8,568
Total funds carried forward	**9**	**9,030**	**-**	**9,030**	**4,197**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

During the year ended 31 March 2021, £520 of restricted donations income arose and £520 of restricted expenditure on charitable activities arose. The balance was unrestricted.

All of the activities are continuing.

The Congo Tree

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Debtors	7	3,297	1,049
Cash at bank and in hand		6,513	3,928
Total current assets		**9,810**	**4,977**
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(780)	(780)
Net current assets		9,030	4,197
Total assets less current liabilities		**9,030**	**4,197**
Total net assets		**9,030**	**4,197**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		9,030	4,197
Total charity funds	9	**9,030**	**4,197**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 26 January 2023 and signed their behalf by

JA Searle

J Searle
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

After the year end the charity has experienced a significant decrease in donations income as a result of the various economic factors within the UK during the later part of 2022. The Trustees have identified that this may have an effect on the charity's ability to carry out future activities at the current level and are taking steps to seek additional funding and reduce costs in order to ensure the continuation of the charity. These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which is still considered appropriate at the time of signing given the action the trustees are taking to increase income and reduce costs.

1.2 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.

Designated funds, which are also unrestricted funds, represent funds set aside from time to time for specific purposes by the trustees.

1.3 Income

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.

1.4 Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

1.7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Expenditure on raising funds

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Raising donations and legacies		
Support costs	508	609
	508	609

3 Trustees remuneration and benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 amount to £3,880 in respect of travel costs (2021: £908). This included exceptional travel costs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the requirement for a hotel quarantine.

4 Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 6 (2021: 5) which were categorised as the DRC team and the UK team, including interns. 1 employee is based in the UK (2021: 1) and the remainder in the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, the UK based employee was based in the Democratic Republic of Congo between April and August 2021.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2021: none).

5 Expenditure on field costs

Costs amounting to £27,152 (2021: £19,169) were incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Costs incurred in the year are analysed between those incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo and those incurred in the United Kingdom as follows:

2022	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	612	612
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	3,986	-	3,986
Activity and accommodation costs	6,878	-	6,878
Travelling	1,145	3,880	5,025
Telephone	1,780	-	1,780
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,470	111	3,581
Equipment	121	-	121
Refreshments and meeting costs	538	42	580
Sundry expenses	-	-	-
Intern stipends	920	-	920
Staffing and HR costs	7,534	3,760	11,294
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Insurance	-	468	468
Bank charges	780	133	913
	27,152	10,566	37,718

Within the above expenditure for Congo is £2,705 of restricted expenditure on emergency response costs, £116 of restricted expenditure on telephone costs, £83 of restricted expenditure on social action activities, £500 on staff costs and £859 of restricted expenditure on equipment.

Expenditure on field costs (continued)

2021	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	420	420
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	651	-	651
Activity and accommodation costs	6,381	-	6,381
Travelling	1,236	908	2,144
Telephone	1,250	-	1,250
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,903	2	3,905
Equipment	143	-	143
Refreshments and meeting costs	547	-	547
Sundry expenses	97	150	247
Intern stipends	731	-	731
Staffing and HR costs	4,003	2,204	6,207
Insurance	-	468	468
Bank charges	227	18	245
	19,169	4,530	23,699

Of the travel costs during the year ended 31 March 2021, £520 was restricted. The remaining costs were unrestricted.

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs

These costs are further analysed by activity category as follows:

2022	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	8,117	-	8,117
Leadership development mentoring	151	-	151
Internship programme	920	-	920
Social action projects	3,986	-	3,986
DRC support costs	5,543	-	5,543
Field trips	-	3,880	3,880
UK support costs	-	153	153
Events, marketing and visibility	121	-	121
Insurance	-	468	468
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	972	972
Bank charges	780	133	913
Professional fees	-	1,200	1,200
Staffing and HR costs	7,534	3,760	11,294
	27,152	10,566	37,718

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs (continued)

Within the above expenditure for Congo is £2,705 of restricted expenditure on emergency response costs, £120 of restricted expenditure on telephone costs, £83 of restricted expenditure on social action activities, £500 on staff costs and £859 of restricted expenditure on equipment.

2021	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	8,489	-	8,489
Leadership development mentoring	378	-	378
Internship programme	731	-	731
Social action projects	651	-	651
DRC support costs	4,547	-	4,547
Field trips	-	908	908
UK support costs	-	152	152
Events, marketing and visibility	143	-	143
Insurance	-	468	468
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	780	780
Bank charges	227	18	245
Staffing and HR costs	4,003	2,204	6,207
	19,169	4,530	23,699

Of the travel costs during the year ended 31 March 2021, £520 was restricted. The remaining costs were unrestricted.

7 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	3,297	1,049
	3,297	1,049

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	780	780
	780	780

9 Movement in funds

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund	4,197	38,796	(33,963)	9,030
Restricted funds:				
Emergency response fund	-	3,763	(3,763)	-
Travel costs fund	-	500	(500)	-
	4,197	43,059	(38,226)	9,030

The restricted funds that operated during the year were for the purpose of funding the emergency response appeal following the volcanic eruption and for staff travel costs.

10 Related party transactions

Donations from Trustees during the year amounted to £9,142 (2021: £2,820).

During the year a payment of £1,200 was made to H Bentley, a trustee, for professional services outside of the services provided for the trusteeship.

THE CONGO TREE

England & Wales - Charity number 1152557

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

THE CONGO TREE

www.thecongotree.org.uk
hello@thecongotree.org.uk

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Through a year of global and local turmoil, our team has carried on their fantastic work with the young people in the Congo. I'm constantly inspired by the creativity and dedication of the team and the young people. In Masisi, some inspirational young people started a microfinance project enabling 6 widows to develop small enterprises to support their families – this has now grown to 16 women who are better able to provide for their families.

One alumni commented on, "...the *hope* that the Congo Tree has given me..." and another was now able to, "...give *hope* to others and call them to change". The writer of the book of Proverbs says this, "Hope delayed makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life." My prayer is that The Congo Tree may be a tree of life, and an ever more powerful agent of hope in the years to come.

I commend this report to you. It contains so many stories of changed lives, and communities that are changing because of the inspiring and courageous young people that are part of the story. Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for the part you play in making this happen.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

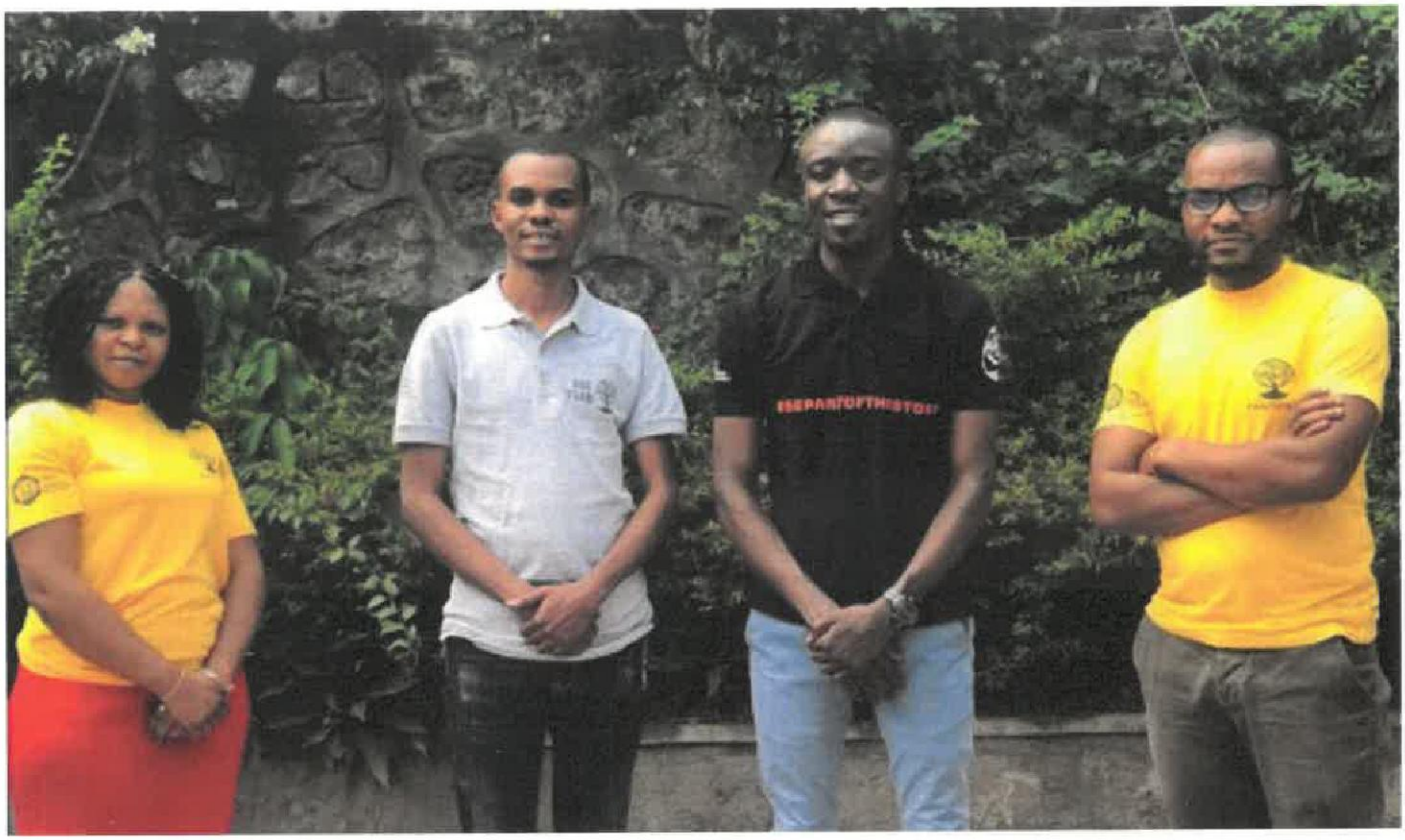


It's clear that this year has been unlike any other in our experience. We've faced challenges, learnt about resilience, and probably felt emotions more keenly than before. We may have developed new skills, connected or reconnected with friends, or finally had a chance to explore things we are passionate about. Hopefully we have uncovered new ways to feel joy, peace and hope. Perhaps in some ways, this year has been like a virtual WYLD programme for us all.

At The Congo Tree, 2020 was a year of creatively exploring how to do what we do in new ways and how to reach our communities from a social distance. We filmed our training sessions, developed poster campaigns to share health information, and sent thousands of WhatsApp messages to support as many young people as possible. This was no small feat, and I am hugely proud of both our team and the young people we work with. In the midst of lockdowns, our programmes remained active with smaller group meetings and many, many phone calls. Developments in technology allowed our teams to connect regularly to problem-solve 'face-to-face' and share messages of hope.

This Annual Report for 2020-2021 is not about the influence of a virus, but about the infectious, empowered, world-changing passion of young leaders for their family, friends and communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE DRC TEAM



It is a great joy for us to be part of the story of so many young people through the WYLD programme in the year 2020-21, a year that has seen many challenges with COVID-19. The months of lockdown encouraged us to be even more creative in our way of doing things, especially to inspire young people to think ahead and persevere to achieve great things. We applied the proverb that says, 'great evils require greater remedies'.

Several strategies were put in place to ensure that we could continue to mentor young people during COVID-19. During this period, security situation did not improve much in the eastern part of DR Congo, with conflict and violence occurring in Masisi and parts of Rutshuru. Our young people have been peacemakers by passing on messages of peace through their families and this has had a considerable impact. This year, we saw first hand that young people remain the only hope to solve many problems in the community and it is our role to boost them so that they can have the confidence, knowledge and skill to take things in hand.

Many thanks to all the friends of The Congo Tree who have accompanied us to be part of the story of the young people in DR Congo in 2020-21.

THE CONGO TREE STAFF AND BOARD

DRC TEAM


Medi Muyisa


Sage Dunia


Liz Kitholu


Toussaint Muvuye

UK TEAM


Philippa Walusimbi


Harmony Ngwamah


Chloe Russell


Anna Galloway

BOARD OF TRUSTEES


Steve Bavington


Heidi Bentley


Jane Searle


Hebdavi Kyeya


Amy Cummings


Sara Patel


Ben Bartlett


Zsuzsanna Jakabfi


Muhindo Malunga

THE WYLD PROGRAMME



The World Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Programme is the core pillar of The Congo Tree's way of working, enabling us to work towards our vision of inspiring, equipping and supporting youth. Through activities, challenges and discussions that catalyse peer learning, this programme helps young people to understand their roles in solving problems in the community. We know that young people are going through many challenges within the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and our role, as an organisation, we are committed to the empowerment of young people, to walking alongside them on their journey and supporting them as they choose the best paths to follow.

This year, The Congo Tree continued with the WYLD Programme in North Kivu, with two cohorts in Goma, and one cohort in both Masisi and Rutshuru. This has allowed us to work with 80 young people, who have actively taken part in the programme and are taking on many of the challenges in the community with visible and considerable impact. In the following pages you will see the results of this year's evaluation of how our young people got on.

Our young people are fully committed to The Congo Tree, to their WYLD programme, and to each other; mentoring has created a bridge and an informal platform between young people from different ethnic groups and backgrounds, particularly in Rutshuru and Masisi; two areas still coping with active violence and conflict, as well as dealing with their respective histories.



Through the WYLD programme, young people learn to regard each other as valued individuals, and as part of a team. They share their perspectives, listening to other points of view and learning from each other. In these conversations and in the supportive, neutral space created by our team, young people are beginning to understand and safely confront their histories, and agree to live together in a peaceful way. Together, they can meet the challenge to fight for a better life and discover the huge and positive impact they can have on building a better world, for themselves and others.

THE WYLD PROGRAMME

The WYLD programme helps young people develop a variety of recognised transferable life and leadership skills including: communication, creativity, problem-solving, entrepreneurial capability and leadership with integrity.

97.5%

said their level of knowledge developed during the WYLD programme a good or a vast amount

94%

said their capacity to resolve problems improved to a good or vast amount

98%

said their leadership skills improved a good or vast amount







THE WYLD PROGRAMME

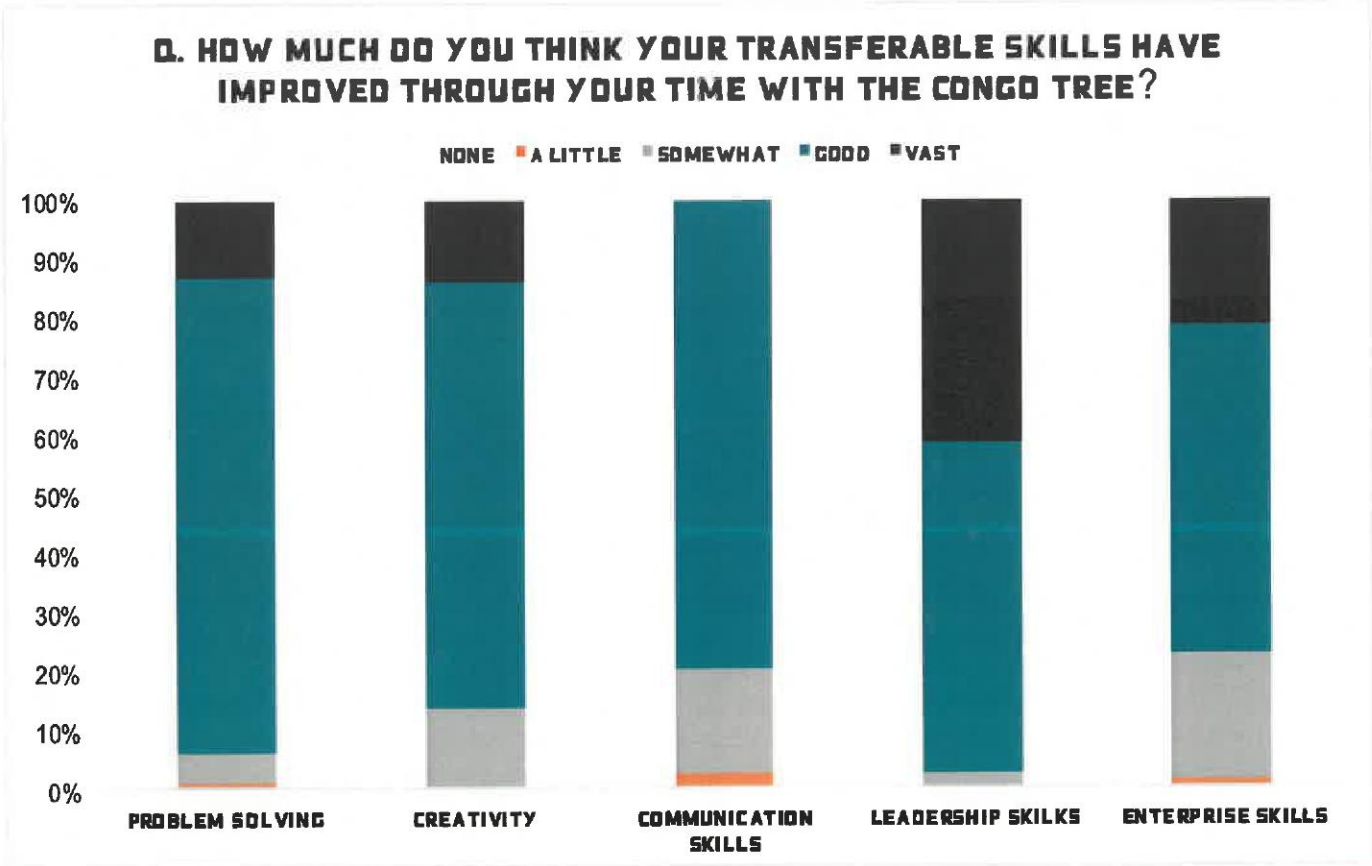
97.5%

said they were mostly or completely pleased with the programme

96.25%

said that the quality of learning was good or excellent

The WYLD Programme helps young people to develop five recognized transferable life and leadership skills: communication, creativity, problem-solving, entrepreneurial capability and leadership with integrity. Each year we ask our young people to evaluate their progress in the aforementioned skills. We have recorded the results below:



THE WYLD PROGRAMME

TREE OF LIFE



The Tree of Life is a narrative and art therapy programme aimed at helping people deal with past trauma and move on with a better sense of identity, increased resilience and hope. As part of the WYLD programme, each cohort goes through a Tree of Life session before their start their mentoring journey.

For so many of the young people, the session has been a helpful and important session in beginning to understand themselves personally, and in getting to know their teammates and mentors. Some of the young people were surprised by other people's stories; to discover how and why others made the decisions or acted in the ways that they did in the situations they faced. They also recognised that life always has its 'storms' and troubles that happen, as well as many moments of celebration and joy.

Through sharing stories with one another, the young people could recognise the challenges that individuals encounter in their communities, to know that they are not alone, nor the only person to experience difficulties.







There is more information on The Tree of Life approach at: www.dulwichcentre.com.au/the-tree-of-life/

FACILITATORS



92.5%

of our graduates rated our facilitators as excellent



Our WYLD programme would not be possible without the outstanding dedication of our Facilitation Team. These leaders have all graduated from previous WYLD programmes and have chosen to give their time voluntarily to share what they have learnt with many more young people in our new cohorts.

Graduates from WYLD can apply for Facilitator Training. Being a training style distinct from teaching or preaching, facilitation requires training, practice and development. At The Congo Tree, we do this with two days of initial training, followed by six months of practicing and developing the skillset alongside our experienced facilitators, who observe our trainees to share feedback and encouragement. After six months and if they have passed our internal assessment, they will have earned their coveted yellow facilitator t-shirt to become an official part of the team!

In December we organised a training session for our team of facilitators in Masisi. This was an opportunity for us to strengthen our existing team of facilitators and equip three new facilitator trainees.





MENTORING

100%

Intend to stay in contact with their mentor or mentee after graduation

From April 2020 to March 2021, we had **40 Young Leaders (YLs)** who were mentored by **40 Leader Mentors (LMs)** in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru.

Every participant in our WYLD Programme is put into a mentoring pair, either as a Leader Mentor or Young Leader (mentee) based on their age, experience and capacities.

The mentoring aspect of our programme is an essential part of each young person's year-long journey, during which Leader Mentors take time to share life with their Young Leader mentees, for at least one hour per month. The majority of mentoring pairs meet beyond one hour per month because of how valuable they found the experience to support them attaining their goals.



Goma

In Goma we had two cohorts participating in the mentoring programme. Each group was made up of 26 young people (12 girls and 14 boys) who are divided into Leader Mentors and Young Leaders.



Masisi and Rutshuru

In both Masisi and Rutshuru we had 1 cohort which comprised of 7 mentors and 7 mentees.

ALUMNI

We are so proud of our alumni and we have close to 1000 alumni since starting our work eight years ago. Our alumni love to stay in touch with us and share their stories of how The Congo Tree has changed their lives and those around them. Here are three stories from this year:

Amos* is a mentee who took part in our programme as a result of our partnership with Heal Africa. Thanks to the social action project challenge run by The Congo Tree, Amos was able to start a small business. They are now making baskets and selling them to support their basic needs.

"For me, the hope that The Congo Tree has given me has allowed my life to have meaning and to discover that, in my weakness, I can still fight hard and become a role model for many people."



Chantal has been gathering young people in her local community to start discussions around personal values and values that are acceptable in the community. She tells us that she was inspired by the mentoring sessions and monthly meetings that she took part in with The Congo Tree to start her own personal project of informing and influencing those close to her - her family and her neighbours.

"I try to be a role model to influence them positively, as well as to see them change, especially in their way of thinking. I would like them to understand community and to make changes according to their individual talents."



Javan says that he was inspired by The Congo Tree to start his own business. In October 2019, Javan started with 5 chicks and at the time of getting in touch with us he had more than 50. He is currently supplying his chickens to different hotels and restaurants in the Rutshuru area, which has enabled him to provide for the needs of his family.

"The challenges we had in the training allowed us to open our eyes and see far into the future because, as leaders, we need to have a vision but also to know how to achieve this!"

*name changed

SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE

The Congo Tree provides each team of young people on the WYLD programme with $100 for the development and delivery of a social benefit project that they design and run. This 'Be Part of the Story Challenge' has three main aims:

- To inspire young people to be a part of changing society from within by modelling what it is to work creatively together for peace, with integrity and for the benefit of their team and the wider community,
- To be a safe space for developing skills and building resilience through the learning around success and failure, and how to support each other in this,
- To be able to support themselves and their families, to practice their skills and create opportunities for future employment.

Marie is a young woman from Rutshuru who is now selling bags of cassava flour. When she spoke to us she was happy to tell us that her bags of flour are the most in demand in her village, because of the quality. She first started with one bag and when she spoke to us she was able to supply five bags. Not only that, she set up a group for 30 young women who want to learn how to better manage their finances so that they can save money for their future plans.

"So my work all day long is to give hope to others and call them to change because they are also capable of doing powerful things and having value in the community."



SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE

MASISI

Microfinance: One of our other groups in this cohort identified six women who lost their husbands as a result of war and thus became the main providers for their family. Our young people gave each of these women a portion of the money to start their own businesses. With this input, the women have been able to purchase food for the family, pay for health care and schooling.

Each month the women reimburse the young leaders and then the young people select other vulnerable women that they can support to start a business. They have encountered some challenges due to insecurity, which meant there was a break in repayments. However with an increase in stability, the projects have been able to continue as planned. At the point of writing they have supported 16 women in total.

GOMA

Ndazi (donuts) : One of our groups identified that one of the biggest problems in their community was children dropping out of school due to a lack of financial provision.



This group decided to use their money to make and sell donuts commonly known in Goma as Ndazi. With the profits made they were able to cover school fees for five vulnerable children.



Miel (honey): Another group identified the need to substitute sugar for honey to improve the diet of the local population. As a result they created their own honey and distributed among 20 pilot households, educating each of them of the importance of the substitution for their health and wellbeing.

COVID-19

CAMPAIGN AGAINST COVID-19 (CAMPAGNE ANTI-COVID-19) JUNE 2020



In April 2020 we launched the Anti-COVID-19 Campaign. There were two main aims of the campaign. The first was to make people more aware of the necessary hygiene measures in order to protect themselves and others from the virus. The second aim was to guard people against the misinformation that was circulating in the community by providing the right information and myth-busting.

Several strategies were employed to spread the message in the community. This included sharing images on social media, Google forms, a video message and a message of hope. Our campaign engaged people far outside of Goma and beyond the Democratic Republic of Congo, reaching all the way to organisations in France and the US.



Social Media: within three months, more than 7458 people were reached via our Facebook page, including 723 young people who have gone through the WYLD Programme. We recorded over 6000 views of the social media posts detailing the importance of wearing masks, washing hands and respecting social distancing rules.

Google Form: In May 2020, our team launched a Google form to assess the level of understanding of COVID-19 and to better understand the false information that was being circulated in the community. Over 427 responses were received. There were many messages of gratitude and the team made sure to respond to participants with the correct information.

Video Message: In June 2020, the team created different videos illustrating the best personal responses in different social scenarios and shared them on social media. Scenarios informed about and highlighted the importance of hygiene practices and wearing masks.



Message of Hope: These were formed and delivered by the young people themselves. They shared them with each other and with supporters around the world.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



ACTS OF KINDNESS

As we do every year, our Day of Kindness with gave our young people the opportunity to show love to other people in their community. In 2020, we visited 90 vulnerable children to give them clothing, food and shared a message of hope for a better future. We also played games and saw many smiles!



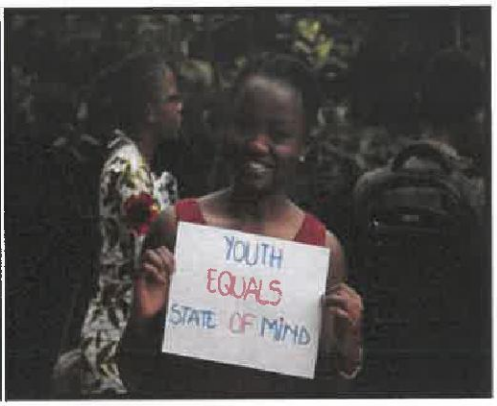
INDEPENDENCE DAY

30 JUNE 2020



BOOK CLUB

15 JULY 2020



WORLD YOUTH DAY

12 AUGUST 2020



BEWYLD SPRING FEST

20 MARCH 2021



AYA

JULY 2020



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

8 MARCH 2021

PARTNERSHIPS

BBOXX



In February, we had the pleasure of meeting with BBOXX. They are an energy company that has taken on five of our WYLD alumni as staff. Like us, BBOXX work to equip and inspire young people. We wanted to acknowledge this amazing work with a certificate.

"We find a big positive difference in the way young people who have gone through The Congo Tree work: they are innovative, can work well in teams and above all, know how to discover a problem to which we can find solutions. Their way of communicating with others is unique and this makes them more accepted by their colleagues." - Mrs Divine Alice Kabolette, Chief Of Culture and People at BBOXX.

Administration of Rutshuru



We have been working in Rutshuru for three years and in that time we have developed a good reputation, to the extent that the Administrator of the Rutshuru Territory had some encouraging words to say about us.

"You are a great organization and you have been doing great things for the community. All these young people that you are mentoring are useful for the development of our territory. The youth has the strength but also has great visions for considerable change.

Investing in youth is a huge benefit for the country. I am simply asking you to continue to do even more, to reach out to areas of conflict, to talk with youth and inspire their way of seeing things. Any problem in our community is first and foremost an economic one. If you work with young people and they can be creative and solve their economic problems themselves, you will be doing an extraordinary job."

PARTNERSHIPS

Butembo-Beni



In February 2021, the DRC team visited the towns of Beni and Butembo to do a study and assessment of the areas' needs. The towns of Beni and Butembo have been through the Ebola virus crisis which led to many deaths in the community with more than 2500 deaths. The crisis put a stop to many activities, halted economic growth, in turn affecting the development of the young people in the area.

We hope that with the programme that we run at The Congo Tree, we can adapt our programme to support the specific needs of the young people in the towns of Beni and Butembo. The visit in February 2021 was the beginning of our conversations with the administrative authorities on the possibilities of organizing the WYLD Programme for the young people of Butembo. We also had a meeting other organisations that work with young people and presented them with certain methods they could implement to encourage the young people that they work with.

RAKI

We were proud to take part in the 2020 RAKI conference in Goma, where we sat on the expert discussion panel and took a number of our young entrepreneurs and their goods to share ideas with and learn from others.







FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Total income: **£20,216**



Many thanks to our donors:

Souter CHARITABLE TRUST

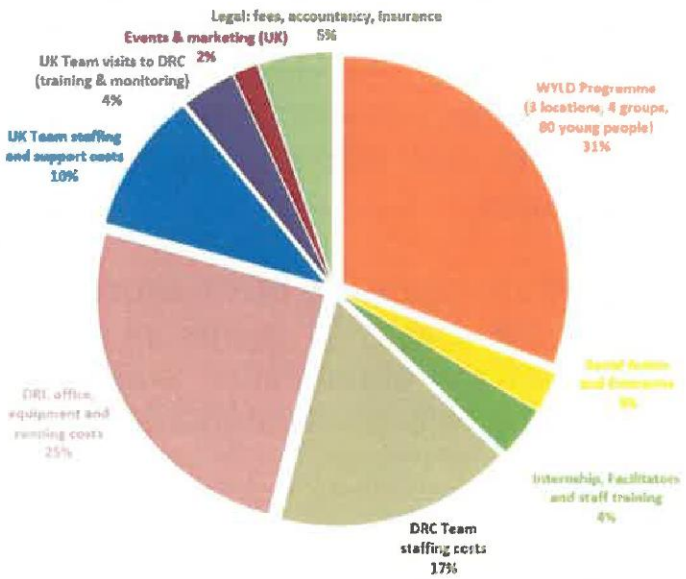
PIMCO

TRAVERS SMITH

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure: **£23,825**

83% TO DRC



Carried into 2021-22: **£2,140**

STRATEGIC REPORT

In May 2019, we established a new three-year Strategic Plan for the sustainable development and expansion of The Congo Tree in DRC.

Our Aims 2020-21

Aim #1: Growing the WYLD Programme

⇒ We continued the WYLD Programme by recording short videos of our monthly meetings in response to the COVID-19 restrictions.

⇒ Whilst working with restrictions, we managed to start two new cohorts in Goma in July and September 2020.

⇒ We were unable to hold graduation ceremonies this year due to public gathering restrictions. All of our programmes were extended by three months to support young people during this difficult time, and as soon as we can, we planned for future celebrations. The first of these celebrations saw our young people in Rutshuru receiving their certificates in February.

Aim #2: Supporting our Alumni

⇒ A good response from our alumni to out Anti-COVID-19 Campaign.

⇒ We continue to see good engagement from a number of our alumni who have returned to join our Facilitation Team.

Aim #3: Sustainability, securing our future and good reputation in DRC

⇒ We have had much recognition for our efforts in COVID-19 prevention. We were asked to attend an invite-only meeting with the North Kivu Governor's Office with around 20 specialist INGO's, to discuss how young people could be involved in informing and educating communities. We shared our activities so far and also learned what others were doing - it was encouraging, good for networking and potential partnership working.

⇒ We received the Hope Prize by the organisation Congo Excellence for the positive way in which we represent young Congolese people to the world.

⇒ We are now officially registered with the Division of Youth in North Kivu province.

Aim #4: Supporting our teams: staff and volunteers

⇒ The UK and DRC teams increased their use of Zoom meetings to get to know each other better, strengthen the teams and instigate more shared working. We also undertook virtual training together.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Aim #5: Programme Development

⇒ Our Mentoring Pack has been reviewed as we work towards further development of the mentoring scheme.

⇒ We recorded key aspects of our monthly meeting sessions as videos that could be shared on social media while restrictions prevented us from meeting together with our young people.

Aim #6: Creative Enterprise and Social Action

⇒ COVID-19 limited the activity of some of the projects, with restrictions in mind, it was reported that the teams performed well in most locations.

⇒ New projects were set-up by the new WYLD programmes, including the Ice Cream project and other case studies shared in this report.

⇒

Aim #7: Partnerships

⇒ Relationships with existing partners such as HEAL Africa have been solidified following the success of the joint WYLD programme, whilst new relationships have established with a number of other youth development organisations - both local and international.

⇒ A new partnership was established in Butembo in order to prepare for our pilot programme.





#BEWYLD



Come and be WYLD with us and support a place on a WYLD programme for only £100 / $120 or £8 / $10 per month!

We have cohorts of young leaders in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru. We need supporters like you to give these leaders of tomorrow a life-changing experience.

#BEPARTOFTHESTORY

We couldn't do any of what we have reported on without the amazing financial support of generous people - thank you to everyone who has given to us in 2020-21!

If you would like to start giving, or even increase your support, you can find all the information you need at:

www.thecongotree.org.uk/donate

And there are loads of other ways that you can get involved!

- Volunteer with the UK Team
- Join or support our Board of Trustees
- Get sponsored
- Host us or run a fundraiser for us
- Support a young entrepreneur or team with a specific social action / creative enterprise project
- Gifts in kind
- Invite us into your school

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact us at:
hello@thecongotree.org.uk

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS:

African Youth Architects
For quality education and entrepreneurship

NEW LIFE IN A NEW GENERATION
UN ESPOIR AU LIEU DU DÉSESPOIR

HEAL AFRICA
Health + Education + Action + Leadership

CENTRE POUR L'EDUCATION CIVIQUE

Hope for All and Together for Development
HATD

RAKI
RENCONTRES D'AFFAIRES AU KIVU

gnwp
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

BUREAU D'INFORMATIONS-FORMATIONS
ECHANGES ET RECHERCHES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT

GRAND AFRICAN PROJECTS

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THE CONGO TREE

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FLOOR 8, ONE COLMORE
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DRC OFFICE
THE CONGO TREE,
THE TREEHOUSE, QUARTIER
HIMBI, GOMA, NORTH KIVU, DRC

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Registered Charity Number 1152557
www.thecongotree.co.uk | hello@thecongotree.org.uk

Charity Registration No 1152557

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Financial statements for
the year ended 31 March 2021

The Congo Tree

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

The Congo Tree is a youth development charity based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the UK, working with young people, particularly those who have grown up in situations of conflict, and training them as the next generation of leaders, so that they can be the ones to change their world. Through our World Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Programme we aim to inspire, equip and support young people: to inspire young people to see themselves as leaders, to equip young people with transferable life and leadership skills, and to support young people through mentoring, as they step out and get involved creatively in their communities: to 'be part of the story'.

Our approaches are governed by our values and a Christian ethos, valuing the energy and vibrancy of youth, working creatively, sustainably and with integrity, and upholding the principles of togetherness by welcoming all young people – those who share the Christian faith and those who do not, male and female, young people from all backgrounds, tribes and situations. The Congo Tree works both independently and in partnership with local community organisations who have similar or complimentary visions and goals.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

Vision: to inspire, equip and support Young Leaders in the DRC and the UK.

Objectives:

To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in the DRC and the UK by providing advice and assistance, and organising programmes of informal education, physical activities, mentoring and other activities as a means of:

a) Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, responsible and mature individuals who contribute positively to the lives of others;
b) Advancing education; specifically in the areas of problem-solving, leadership, integrity and responsibility and creativity in enterprise;
c) Helping create opportunities for self-sustaining employment or skills to increase employability;
d) Create safe environment that allows the breakdown of ethnic, cultural and/or other boundaries through participation in team and group work activities;
e) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare of young people living in the DRC and the UK who have need by reason of their youth, poverty, social and economic circumstances (including long-term conflict) with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

The Congo Tree

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Significant activities

Our main activities come under the banner of the WYLD programme, working with young people as Leader Mentors (aged 18+) or as Young Leaders (aged 13-19) in the DRC and the UK.

After an initial extensive training programme, participants are paired in a mentoring partnership for one year, during which they also meet monthly with the wider group for additional training and team-building. All participants are encouraged to get involved in group activities and small social action or creative enterprise projects aimed at community development, for example, volunteering as leaders at a children's summer school run by a partner organisation or creating small microloan projects for the benefit of vulnerable members of their community.

The majority or our activities take place in the DRC, but we do hold supporter events and run information sessions or parts of the WYLD programme in the UK. The worldwide pandemic due to COVID-19 restricted some of our face-to-face activities during the year. In the DRC, we were able to support mentoring by phone, ran an 'Anti-COVID-19' community education campaign via social media, and recorded videos of monthly meeting content which were shared with young people by phone and social media until it became possible to meet in person again. These adaptions and upskilling of our team have also helped to continue our programmes in Masisi and Rutshuru during continued conflict that prevented our young people travelling to meet in person. During the challenges of 2020-21, we stayed in contact with all of our young leaders and leader mentors, with all of our cohorts using their creative problem-solving skills to keep linked in with The Congo Tree family. During 2020-21 we ran all supporter and information events virtually, including online quiz and music events, which also helped to connect supporters around the world.

The Congo Tree continues to be funded in the majority by donations from supporters, both individuals and groups. This year, we also gratefully received donations from the following:

- Souter Charitable Trust gave us an unrestricted grant of £6,000 in March 2020, which covered the salaries of our in-country staff and a large part of our Goma base rent from April 2020 to March 2021
- Voice for Change International gave us £1,151.25 in December 2020, which was put towards our Goma base running costs including utilities, and phone and internet connection for our staff team
- PIMCO Foundation gave us an unrestricted grant of £500 in December 2020 and Travers Smith Employment Services gave us an unrestricted grant of £1,000 in January 2021, both of which were put towards our WYLD Programme in Masisi in January 2021

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Volunteers

All participants of our training programme are supported to volunteer with us on other activities following their training: they may become Mentors, Facilitators of the WYLD programme, or apply for an internship. In the UK, the trustees work voluntarily, as do the small support team and the Director.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Training and mentoring

- We continued to support our existing WYLD cohorts in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru to complete their 12-month programme. Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic and local restrictions on meeting size, we were unable to hold any graduation ceremonies during 2020-21 for our young people. We extended all of our WYLD programmes by 3 months and will report graduation figures next year.
- We started the training for two new cohorts on WYLD Programmes in Goma, DRC (one in April and one in August), training 52 young people in total: 26 Leader Mentors (18-30 years old) and 26 Young Leaders (13-19 years old).
- We began one new cohort on their WYLD Programme in Rutshuru, DRC, with 14 young people: 7 Leader Mentors and 7 Young Leaders.
- We began one new cohort on their WYLD Programme in Masisi, DRC, in partnership with Hope in Action, Together for Development (HATD), with 14 young people: 7 Leader Mentors and 7 Young Leaders.
- All initial WYLD training programmes were run for Leader Mentors and Young Leaders separately, to ensure that we complied with all social distancing and government requirements during the pandemic.
- We ensured that 40 Young Leaders were in paired for mentoring with a Leader Mentor. Whilst the global pandemic and local conflict disrupted face-to-face mentoring meetings, we supported young people as to ensure that mentoring happened monthly wherever possible.
- We ran Facilitator training in Masisi, including Risk Assessment, Safeguarding and Child Protection training.

The Tree of Life was firmly embedded in all WYLD Programmes, as an additional weekend of training for all young people during their 12-month programme.

Community Engagement/Social Action

- We continued to support team members and alumni involved in community engagement and activism, providing key support and mentoring for young people who are involved in advocacy and discussion in their country, including conferences and local peace-building youth clubs.
- We supported the set-up of new youth designed and led social action/enterprise projects in Goma, Masisi, and Rutshuru, DRC.
- We celebrated International Day of Kindness through a youth-led social action of vising 90 children in need, giving them clothes, food, shared messages of hope and played games.
- We celebrated DRC Independence Day, International Day of Peace and International Women's Day, amongst others, by hosting youth events and conferences to engage and educate our young people creatively in relevant topics.
- We held the BEWYLD Spring Fest, a set of online workshops that brought together young people in DRC and supporters around the world.
- We created 'certificates of thanks' for local organisations in DRC who have shown excellence in supporting young people in their communities – including BBOXX energy company and the Administrator of Rutshuru Territory.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Charitable activities (continued)

Additional benefits

- Shared knowledge and good practice through attending a variety of conferences and events focused on the development of young people in DRC and beyond. With travel restrictions in 2020, the majority of these were local conferences in Goma, DRC or via virtual platforms.
- Continued to develop our 'Treehouse' as an office and training space as a youth hub in Goma, where young people can come for support, mentoring, further skills training, and to use a space to start creative enterprises and social action. We established an English conversation club and a Book club.
- Recruited, trained and supported two Interns - our Engagement Officer and Organisation Officer who worked alongside our DRC Team Leader and Mentoring Officer for 12 months. This included team training sessions, one-to-one mentoring and professional goal-setting.
- Continued to work alongside local and international partners such as HEAL Africa, Hope in Action Together for Development (HATD), Rencontres D'Affaires Au Kivu (RAKI), Uhuru Knowledge Centre.

Other activities

- We received the Hope Prize by the organisation Congo Excellence for the positive way in which we represent young Congolese people to the world.
- We are now registered with the Division of Youth in North Kivu province.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity received income of £19,937 for the year (2020: £21,280) of which £520 was restricted (2020: £nil). Total expenditure of £24,308 was incurred (2020: £21,161) of which £520 was restricted (2020: £nil). The net movement on funds for the year was a decrease in funds of £4,371 (2020: increase in funds of £119).

RESERVES POLICY

The reserves at 31 March 2021 were £4,197 (2020: £8,568). These reserves are held to be applied in furtherance of the charity's charitable purpose, and are considered by the trustees to be sufficient to support the short term objectives of the charity.

The charity's capital may be applied for charitable purposes or retained by the trustees at their discretion.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees have the power to appoint new trustees who may be appointed at any time. The total number of trustees must be between 3 and 10 and there is no restriction on the length of term of service.

Organisational structure

As a small charity, our organisational structure is compact. Our Board of Trustees are the only voting members, and our risk management procedures are set out in our constitution in line with the recommendations from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity number	1152557
Principal address	Floor 8 One Colmore Row Birmingham West Midlands B3 2BJ
Trustees	H Bentley, Trustee and Co-Founder A Cummings, Trustee and Co-Founder S Bavington, Trustee and Chairperson J Searle, Trustee and Secretary H Kyeya, Trustee S Patel Z Jakabfi (resigned 24 July 2021) B Bartlett M Malunga (appointed 5 July 2020)
Independent Examiner	Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA Steve Monico Limited, Chartered Accountants 19 Goldington Road Bedford MK40 3JY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 30 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



J Searle
Trustee

The Congo Tree

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Congo Tree

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 15.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn. We understand this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do 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.

Except for the matter referred to above, 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.

Louise Tunley

Louise Tunley FCA CTA DChA

Chartered Accountant

Steve Monico Limited
19 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Date:

The Congo Tree

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted 2021 £	Restricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		19,415	520	19,935	15,277
Investments		2	-	2	3
Other income		-	-	-	6,000
Total income		**19,417**	**520**	**19,937**	**21,280**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**2**	609	-	609	168
Charitable activities					
Social action projects and grants		651	-	651	553
Other		22,528	520	23,048	20,440
Total expenditure	**5,6**	**23,788**	**520**	**24,308**	**21,161**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		**(4,371)**	**-**	**(4,371)**	**119**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		8,568	-	8,568	8,449
Total funds carried forward	**9**	**4,197**	**-**	**4,197**	**8,568**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

All income and expenditure during the previous year ended 31 March 2020 was unrestricted.

All of the activities are continuing.

The Congo Tree

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Debtors	7	1,049	1,422
Cash at bank and in hand		3,928	7,926
Total current assets		**4,977**	**9,348**
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(780)	(780)
Net current assets		4,197	8,568
Total assets less current liabilities		**4,197**	**8,568**
Total net assets		**4,197**	**8,568**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		4,197	8,568
Total charity funds	9	**4,197**	**8,568**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 also form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 30 October 2021 and signed their behalf by



J Searle
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern as expenditure can be adjusted according to the level of available funds in each year.

1.2 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.

Designated funds, which are also unrestricted funds, represent funds set aside from time to time for specific purposes by the trustees.

1.3 Income

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.

1.4 Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

1.7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Expenditure on raising funds

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Raising donations and legacies		
Support costs	609	168
	609	168

3 Trustees remuneration and benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 amount to £908 in respect of travel costs (2020: £540).

4 Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 5 (2020: 5) which were categorised as the DRC team and the UK team, including interns. 1 employee is based in the UK (2020: 1) and the remainder in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2020: none).

5 Expenditure on field costs

Costs amounting to £19,169 (2020: £17,083) were incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Costs incurred in the year are analysed between those incurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo and those incurred in the United Kingdom as follows:

2021	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	420	420
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	651	-	651
Activity and accommodation costs	6,381	-	6,381
Travelling	1,236	908	2,144
Telephone	1,250	-	1,250
Website	-	-	-
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,903	2	3,905
Equipment	143	-	143
Refreshments and meeting costs	547	-	547
Sundry expenses	97	150	247
Intern stipends	731	-	731
Staffing and HR costs	4,003	2,204	6,207
Insurance	-	468	468
Bank charges	227	18	245
	19,169	4,530	23,699

Of the travel costs during the year ended 31 March 2021, £520 was restricted. The remaining costs were unrestricted.

Expenditure on field costs (continued)

2020	Congo £	UK £	Total £
Accountancy	-	420	420
Independent Examination fees	-	360	360
Social action activities	553	-	553
Activity and accommodation costs	4,922	-	4,922
Travelling	1,251	819	2,070
Telephone	961	-	961
Website	-	600	600
Office costs, printing, post and stationery	3,180	-	3,180
Equipment	492	-	492
Refreshments and meeting costs	1,191	26	1,217
Sundry expenses	-	116	116
Intern stipends	635	-	635
Staffing and HR costs	3,653	1,068	4,721
Insurance	-	489	489
Bank charges	245	12	257
	17,083	3,910	20,993

All costs during the year ended 31 March 2020 were unrestricted.

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs

These costs are further analysed by activity category as follows:

2021	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	8,489	-	8,489
Leadership development mentoring	378	-	378
Internship programme	731	-	731
Social action projects	651	-	651
	10,249	-	10,249
DRC support costs	4,547	-	4,547
Field trips	-	908	908
UK support costs	-	152	152
Events, marketing and visibility	143	-	143
Insurance	-	468	468
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	780	780
Bank charges	227	18	245
Staffing and HR costs	4,003	2,204	6,207
	19,169	4,530	23,699

6 Further analysis of expenditure on field costs (continued)

Of the travel costs during the year ended 31 March 2021, £520 was restricted. The remaining costs were unrestricted.

2020	Congo £	UK £	Total £
World Youth Leadership Development Programme:			
Leadership development training	6,580	-	6,580
Leadership development mentoring	652	-	652
Internship programme	635	-	635
Social action projects	553	-	553
	8,420	-	8,420
DRC support costs	4,686	-	4,686
Field trips	-	802	802
UK support costs	-	659	659
Events, marketing and visibility	79	100	179
Insurance	-	489	489
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	-	780	780
Bank charges	245	12	257
Staffing and HR costs	3,653	1,068	4,721
	17,083	3,910	20,993

All costs during the year ended 31 March 2020 were unrestricted.

7 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	1,049	1,422
	1,049	1,422

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	780	780
	780	780

9 Movement in funds

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund	8,568	19,417	(23,788)	4,197
Restricted funds:				
Field trip travel fund	-	520	(520)	-
	8,568	19,937	(24,308)	4,197

The restricted fund that operated during the year was for the purpose of funding for Trustee travel to the DRC.

10 Related party transactions

Donations from Trustees during the year amounted to £2,820 (2020: £2,420).

There are no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.