

Build on Books (BOB UK) Trustees Annual Report

For the period from
1st September 2024 to
31st August 2025



Names of the Charity Trustees

Chair: Lori Spragg
Treasurer: Brid Hayward
Secretary: Darren Anvoner
Trustee: James MacDonald

UK Registered Charity Number 1158201

Charity's Principal Address

Build on Books
38 Oak Tree Road
Marlow, Buckinghamshire
SL7 3EE

Structure, Governance and Management

Build on Books is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Foundation Model Constitution dated 5th August 2014.

The Trustees who were appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees and who served during the year are:

Lori Spragg
Brid Hayward
James MacDonald
Darren Anvoner

Recruitment of New Trustees

The current trustees come from business, teaching, and voluntary work backgrounds. The chair and existing trustees induct new trustees. We take advice from other professionals and organisations as necessary. The appointment of trustees is conducted with consideration of the organisation's needs, the candidate's suitability and skills, and an interview with interested parties.

Organisational Structure

Build on Books (BOB UK) is an all-volunteer charity that aims to relieve poverty and support development in Sierra Leone. The trustees of BOB UK work in partnership with Build on Books Sierra Leone (BOB SL), a registered all-volunteer Community-Based Organisation based in Sierra Leone. Their committee comprises local headteachers, community leaders and professionals who freely give their time and expertise. Build on Books trustees meet regularly to discuss proposals from BOB SL and other organisations to see how we can work together on projects that help us reach our charitable aims and objectives. The trustees also coordinate with other charities working in similar fields to achieve our goals more effectively.

Risk Management

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

Charitable Objectives and Activities

As set out in its governing document, the charity's objectives are to prevent or relieve poverty in Sierra Leone by providing grants, items, and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty. This is achieved through initiatives across various areas, including education, water and sanitation, food security, health, humanitarian aid, community engagement, and social mobilisation.

All Build on Books trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and always consider it when planning our activities.

The charity and its trustees work closely with BOB SL and others to ensure we respond to beneficiaries' needs as effectively and sympathetically as possible. Our projects involve input from beneficiary communities, who might volunteer to lead a project, provide land, or take a more hands-on role. All trustees are volunteers; we do not pay for staff or premises. We use funds raised to fulfil the charity's aims and objectives.

This Year's Aims and Objectives

Install solar power in the Learning Centre and Computer lab to support skills-based training and education programs for students of St Clement School and the wider Kwama community. Improve the water supply for the teacher's housing by moving the water tower and installing a **solar-powered water pump**.

Support orphans in education and through psychosocial support. **Help orphans and abandoned students through University Scholarships**. Continue to support Ebola orphans in secondary education by providing school uniforms and hosting the annual Christmas party.

Introduce additional revenue-generating programs at St Clement School, such as t-shirt printing and supplying seed to the Build on Books Farm in Kwama.

Maintain buildings and carry out necessary roof repairs at St Clement School and the Learning Centre to ensure the longevity of these vital buildings.

Provide Humanitarian Aid as necessary.

Build on Books Achievements and Performance 2024 – 2025

This year, our largest expenditures were supporting orphans through scholarships and secondary education, installing solar power in two locations and maintaining and improving St Clement School buildings. However, we greatly increased the school's revenue-generating capacity by installing a t-shirt printing workshop and providing seed funding to further develop the Build on Books Farm.

We implemented these additions at minimal cost with exceptional results. This is largely due to the dedication and expertise of the Build on Books team in Sierra Leone. They have a remarkable ability to mobilise and instil pride in the school and community. Our beneficiaries feel empowered to act as full-time security and caretakers for our buildings and equipment. Everything we supply to them is appreciated, cared for, and well utilised.

The whole village is behind their school and is ready to lend a hand anytime it is needed. It is a testament to both the Build on Books team and the local community that students are coming from far and wide to attend this high-performing institution. St Clement's teachers maintain that no student is left behind. They ensure that the poorest students and orphans receive a top-level education and psychosocial support so they can achieve the same results as their peers.

Sierra Leone remains one of the world's poorest countries. Build on Books' programs purposefully focus on creating sustainable systems of entrepreneurial activity and revenue generation to promote self-sufficiency and avoid creating a culture of aid dependency.

Given the intense competition for paid jobs among school leavers in Sierra Leone, we prepare students for self-employment alongside academic excellence through technical and vocational skills training courses. Our programs offer students and adults the opportunity to pursue self-employment in hairdressing, food preparation, tailoring, and catering. Computer training helps both students going on to university and those pursuing self-employment.

Maintaining our buildings, installing solar power, and caring for our teachers' well-being have been vital investments to ensure our projects continue to have the greatest impact for the greatest number of beneficiaries.

No Build on Books trustees or volunteers are paid for their time because we are committed to using all of our donors' generous contributions for public benefit.

Solar Power for the Learning Centre!



Harnessing Sierra Leonean Sunshine Transforms Education in Kwama

This year, we were finally able to install solar power at Orville's Technical and Vocational Learning Centre (built by Build on Books). We were finally able to retire the old, noisy, polluting

generator and replace it with clean, silent solar panels, an inverter and a battery. The impact is immeasurable. It has helped to create a difference by:

- 1. Increasing access to education by extending the school opening hours**, allowing students to take extra classes and pursue extracurricular activities.
- 2. Allowing evening literacy and skills training classes for subsistence farmers**, mostly women, who have to work in the fields from dawn to dusk to survive.
- 3. Enabling students to develop computing skills** and use the internet to expand their knowledge and prepare for further education and work.
- 4. Teaching children digital literacy, health, and other skills** using video and interactive computer programs.
- 5. Improving food preservation.** People in Kwama rely on seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh fish and cooked rice. These foods are difficult to preserve during both the scorching dry season and monsoons. Providing nutritious school meals for pupils while preventing the risk of food poisoning is a challenge. Refrigerating and freezing food supports year-round nourishment, saving lives and money.
- 6. External lights make everyone feel safer and prevent unnecessary deaths from predators.** Without external lighting, Kwama is pitch dark. Walking around the village and even using the toilet can be dangerous, as predators like snakes and spiders can be hard to see. Fear of human predators and thieves is also a significant worry.

The installation of solar panels on the roof of the Learning Centre is a great step towards sustainable development and long-term poverty reduction for people in Kwama.

Build on Books Orphans University Scholarship Program

Some of the brightest minds in Sierra Leone are being wasted when children become orphaned or are rejected by families that can no longer afford to support them after one parent dies. Since 2014, Build on Books has intervened to save over a hundred children's lives and help keep them in school. This includes ongoing educational and psychosocial support from the Build on Books team in Sierra Leone. Our volunteers help these children to foster resilience by building supportive relationships and social connections among orphans, and with their carers and teachers. Orphans we saved during the Ebola crisis know they are not alone but a part of a large, interconnected family with a shared history, who are working together for a better future.

Build on Books also helps other orphaned and abandoned students at St Clement School. Kwama is a rural area surrounded by many small traditional villages where literacy and life expectancy are low. Families often work hard to survive through subsistence farming, and children live precarious lives that can be destroyed by the loss of one or both parents.

The Build on Books volunteers at St Clement School do their best to help when tragedy strikes. They provide housing, food and continued education so that orphaned and abandoned children are not subjected to a life on the streets. With continued support, these children learn how to overcome their individual challenges and are often inspired to attend higher education. The

Build on Books Orphans University Scholarship Program provides these disadvantaged students with the opportunity to attend university and achieve their true potential.

The Build on Books Scholarship program covers university fees, accommodation, food and other relevant expenses, whilst the Build on Books teams in the UK and Sierra Leone provide practical and moral support whenever needed. Our students live near their universities but can return to live and be looked after in Kwama during the breaks in the academic year.

T-shirt Printing Workshop helps St Clement School cover the cost of materials used in Skills Training classes

Build on Books has always sought to provide our beneficiaries with ways to earn income where possible. We believe that all of our projects should be sustainable and have a strategy to avoid long-term dependence on aid.

St Clement has over 3,000 students on its roll, all of whom are required to wear a school uniform and sports kit. This affords the perfect opportunity to generate revenue for the school while benefiting the students. Making school uniforms in-house and selling them at a lower price greatly helps parents with costs. At the same time, the scheme provides work for tailors and offers our adult tailoring students gain experience. On top of these benefits, the school uniform project raises sufficient funds to purchase materials for our skills-based classes and to support teachers who are not on the government payroll.



This year, we started another clothing-based revenue-generating project by providing St Clement School with a grant to purchase a t-shirt printer and a press, enabling thousands of t-

shirts to be printed on site for sports day and other sporting events. These are then sold to pupils at a lower price than sourcing printed shirts elsewhere would cost, yet still generate revenue for the school, which can be used to support technical and vocational skills training at the Learning Centre. Teachers now have the funds to purchase materials for sewing, hairdressing, baking, and computing classes, which are well attended by enthusiastic learners who appreciate the value of acquiring practical skills to create a better future for themselves and their families.

The Computing Centre is also going from strength to strength. The room is always full of students poring over laptops, benefiting from the longer access hours offered by the solar power installation. This year, we focused on sending over more laptops from the UK. The growth of the computing centre has been particularly welcomed by students planning to attend university. We want to help our pupils pursue their individual ambitions. We usually send recycled Windows 10 laptops, but this year we purchased a more advanced model for our engineering student, who uses CAD in his university course.

Build on Books Farm in Kwama

Build on Books has helped communities in Buya Romende Chiefdom and Kwama to establish successful farming projects, and now we have our own farm too. The farm's intention is to eventually generate income for the Build on Books team in Sierra Leone to pursue their own charitable projects without relying on aid from the UK. This is part of our goal to help our beneficiaries be less aid-dependent. Currently, the food grown on the farm feeds the orphans and abandoned children cared for by the school, as well as children at the local Fatima Ceda orphanage.



Our team's knowledge of traditional and modern farming methods, along with an understanding of the local geology, helps ensure that the land is used effectively and sustainably while helping local subsistence farmers improve their skills.

Good Maintenance Ensures the Sustainability of Infrastructure

Sierra Leone is littered with rural school buildings that are no longer fit for purpose due to a lack of revenue to maintain them. Monsoon weather and storms in Sierra Leone can take their toll on flimsy roofs, and once water seeps in, mould makes the crumbling walls even more of a hazard. Fortunately, Build on Books has certain supporters who understand that infrastructure maintenance is a worthwhile endeavour and will help us in times of need. Generally, zinc roofs need to be replaced every 10-15 years, but because our buildings are well-maintained, we have managed to keep the same roofs for longer.

This year, we replaced the roofs on three classroom buildings, including the office, and fully renovated the interiors. Next year, we will look at the remaining two classrooms and the library. We also put a new roof on the Home Economics Centre/Canteen, making structural changes to increase its pitch. We enlisted the help of Tom, one of our Build on Books Orphan University Scholarship students who studies engineering, to do the calculations.



Ebola Orphans, School Uniforms and Christmas Party

At the beginning of each academic year, Build on Books provides uniforms for our school-age Ebola orphans. This is made possible by the generous support of our regular donors with monthly standing orders. As always, our annual Ebola Orphans Christmas Party was a great success, filled with food, laughter, singing, dancing and games. It is vital for these children to reconnect with others who share their experiences. These enduring connections help them to feel less alone, especially during the holidays. We are so grateful to everyone who helps make these parties possible each year, especially our monthly benefactors, donors to our Christmas

Appeal and the Build on Books team of volunteers in Sierra Leone who host these memorable events.

Learn to Earn Program in Waterloo

This year, the CODEP Library in Waterloo was handed over to the Build on Books Sierra Leone team, who transformed it into another skills training centre. As most of our orphaned children are based in and around the area, we stocked the centre with sewing machines and fabric and taught our adult learners how to make their school uniforms. Making school uniforms and other clothing is a viable entrepreneurial skill for illiterate women, and many would like to learn it. In this way, the same funds helped two different sets of beneficiaries.

Shipment of Books and Furniture

Build on Books continued to ship books, clothing and laptops donated in the UK to Sierra Leone, but on a much smaller scale than previous years due to higher shipping costs and the need to pursue other projects.

Financial Review

Build on Books 1/09/2024 - 31/8/2025		Financial Statement
Receipts		
Restricted		
Kwama School & Learning Centre	13600.00	
Solar Power	5993.01	
Student Sponsorship	15180.00	
Ebola Orphans	970.23	
		35743.24
Unrestricted		
Other donations	6815.46	
Gift Aid	6984.25	
		13799.71
Total Receipts		49542.95
Payments		
Restricted		
Kwama School & Learning Centre	13600.00	
Solar Power	5993.01	
Student Sponsorship	20422.00	
Ebola Orphans	970.23	
		40985.24
Unrestricted		
Student Sponsorship	2094.23	
Kwama School & Learning Centre	3094.25	
Solar Power	7463.58	
Farming	617.00	
Ebola Orphans	1604.04	
Humanitarian Aid Fund	350.04	
Shipping	53.00	
		15276.14
Expenses		
Admin & website	269.64	
		269.64
Total Payments		56531.02
Net of Receipts (payments)	-6988.07	
Cash Funds Last Year End	7788.16	
Cash funds this year end	800.09	

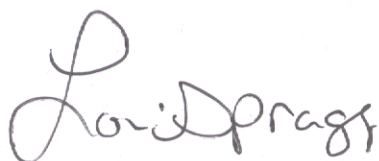
Statement of Charity's Policy on Reserves

As we aim to reduce poverty, our policy is not to hold excess funds in reserve but to use them for their intended purpose as soon as possible. However, £800 of the charity's capital is reserved for shipping books and other goods collected during our appeals. We do not pay salaries or rent, so keeping a surplus is unnecessary. This year, a £10,000 donation for a Student Sponsorship is being held in reserve to pay university fees for our orphaned Scholarship Students in our next financial year.

Our main sources of funds come from appeals and donations from grant-making and charitable organisations, charitable clubs, and individual donors. We want to thank the many groups and individuals who responded to our appeals this year and donated funds for our work fighting poverty in Sierra Leone.

This Trustee's Annual Report covers the period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.



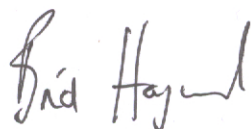
Lori Spragg, Chair

Date: 14/04/2026



Darren Anvoner, Secretary

Date: 14/04/2026



Brid Hayward, Treasurer

Date: 15/04/2026



James MacDonald

Date: 15/04/2026



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01-Sep-24

To

Period end date
31-Aug-25

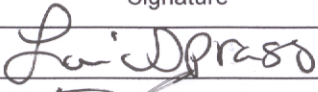

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Donations	13,800	35,743	-	49,543	33,329
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,800	35,743	-	49,543	33,329
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,800	35,743	-	49,543	33,329
A3 Payments					
Kwama Sewing Machines	-	-	-	-	4,722
Kwama School Bus	-	-	-	-	2,202
Kwama Toilets	-	-	-	-	1,400
Kwama School & Learning Centre	3,094	13,600	-	16,694	1,630
Fatmata Cedar Orphanage	-	-	-	-	589
Waterloo Learning Centre	-	-	-	-	6,661
Student Sponsorship	2,094	20,422	-	22,516	12,677
Ebola Orphans	1,604	970	-	2,574	3,835
Pepel Health Centre	-	-	-	-	5,255
Teacher Housing	-	-	-	-	2,701
Farming	617	-	-	617	1,002
Humanitarian Aid Fund	350	-	-	350	1,214
St Clement Secondary School	-	-	-	-	-
Solar Power	7,464	5,993	-	13,457	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Shipping	53	-	-	53	1,564
	-	-	-	-	-
Admin & website	270	-	-	270	640
Travel	-	-	-	-	124
Sub total	15,546	40,985	-	56,531	46,216
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,546	40,985	-	56,531	46,216
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,746	- 5,242	-	- 6,988	- 12,887
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,546	5,242	-	7,788	-
Cash funds this year end	800	-	-	800	- 12,887

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Voluntary Donations	800	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	800	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Lori S Pragg	14/04/26
	DARREN ANVOMER	14/04/26



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Build on Books

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1158201

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 08 / 2025**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

11.5.2026

Name:

ANDREW WILSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

C.I.M.A.

(if any):

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Address:

41, TERRINGTON HILL,
MALLOW,
BOCKS, SL7 2LE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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