

THE MIKHULU TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1158733

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-10-01

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 85 Church Way
Iffley
Oxford
OX4 4EF

Phone 01865775301

Email p.j.cooper@reading.ac.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN LIVING IN CONDITIONS OF ADVERSITY.

Activities: The Trust supports the conduct of research on impediments to optimal child development and strategies for improving developmental progress, the development of training materials for scale-up purposes, the development of children's books and related materials, and the education and training of individuals to equip them to support child development in their communities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Brazil
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- South Africa
- Sweden
- United States
- Northamptonshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- Southwark

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-11-30	£21,794	£1,171	-	-
2023-11-30	£0	£1,171	-	-
2022-11-30	£0	£60	-	-
2021-11-30	£0	£0	-	-
2020-11-30	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PROFESSOR PETER COOPER	Chair	2014-10-01
Nova Jayne Robinson		2015-06-05
PROFESSOR CATHARINE CRESWELL		2014-10-01
PROFESSOR LYNNE MURRAY		2014-10-01

THE MIKHULU TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1158733

Accounts

The Mikhulu Trust Registered Charity Number 1,158,733

Annual Report

1 December 2023 - 30 November 2024

Trustees:

Peter Cooper (Chair)

Lynne Murray

Cathy Creswell

Nova Robinson

(Nicholas Dowdell – resigned 27/09/2024)

Address:

85 Church Way

Iffley

Oxford

OX4 4EF

UK

Review of Objectives for 2023-2024

i. CRESCITA

Continue to develop materials for CRESCITA. Develop the museum site, including the creation of a small cinema. Purchase a large TV screen and two computer stations and begin developing films and interactive materials for them respectively. Hold an official opening of the museum, inviting the mayor of the region. Begin hosting classes of school children in the museum. Put in applications to the EU for financial support for the further development of CRESCITA .

We have restored a space within a 15th-century building in Mignano's central square (carried out at Peter and Lynne's personal expense), using skilled local builders experienced in restoration work that respects the historical significance of the ancient structure. Two films (on sheep farming/cheese making, and on wild boar hunting) and several posters about local traditions are near completion. Notably, this work is being conducted with the full involvement of the local community. The museum will be ready to receive visits from school children early in 2025.

ii. International Research into DBS

Continue supporting research groups around the world – including the UK and Italy – in research into the delivery and impact of DBS. Assist colleagues in publishing their research findings and obtaining funding for their research.

Support continued over the period for dialogic book sharing (DBS) research in the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Turkey, Tanzania, and Italy. Some of this work is near completion and further support will be provided to international colleagues for the preparation of papers for publication.

iii. DBS Training in Italy:

Continue supporting Dr Belluardo in providing DBS training in Italy; and continue providing DBS training in the Pieve Santo Stefano region.

Dr Belluardo has continued to provide training for the group from the University of Brescia. DBS training has continued for parents and school teachers in Pieve Santo Stefano, Badia Tedalda, and Capresse Michealangelo.

Objectives for 2024-25

i. CRESCITA

Complete the construction of the museum. Produce more video and poster materials for the museum. Begin offering visits to the museum to classes of school children from Pieve Santo Stefano and the surrounding villages

ii. DBS Training

Continue to provide DBS training to parents and teachers, and to trainers of parents and teachers, in Italy. Recruit a colleague to assist us and Dr Belluardo in providing DBS training.

iii. DBS Research

Continue to provide support to colleagues in Italy and around the world.

Financial Report

1 December 2023 -	£21,794
30 November 2024 -	£ 20,623
Expenditure for 2023-24	£1,171

The expenditure (apart from bank fees) went entirely to Diego della Ragione, who has provided technical support in the making of video and photographic materials for CRESCITA.

THE MIKHULU TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1158733

Accounts

The Mikhulu Trust Registered - Charity Number 1,158,733
Annual Report
1 December 2022 - 30 November 2023

Trustees:

Peter Cooper (Chair)
Lynne Murray
Cathy Creswell
Nova Robinson
Nicholas Dowdell

Address:

85 Church Way
Iffley
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Review of Objectives for 2022-2023

i. Provide DBS support

We have continued to support groups in Italy and around the world in both DBS research and systems of DBS delivery. In Italy, we have identified an academic clinician, Dr Mauro Belluardo, based in Padua, who we have trained to be a trainer of DBS facilitators in Italy. During 2023 he ran several training courses in DBS, mainly for teachers.

ii. Bologna University collaboration

We have set up a collaboration with Prof Leonardo De Pascalis, of the University of Liverpool and the University of Bologna, and have initiated a collaboration for a research project on delivering DBS training to parents in rural India. A grant application will be submitted in 2024/25.

iii. Libri Fatto a Mano

We have collaborated with Ombretta Pellegrini and Libri Fatti a Mano in providing training in DBS to teachers and parents in the Tuscan towns of Pieve Santo Stefano and Badia Tedalda.

iv. Mignano Museum

We have gained access to a space within the village of Mignano and are restoring it as a site for a museum. The museum is the principal objective of an Associazione we have established in Italy, with Lynne as the President. The Associazione is known as **CRESCITA** (Italian for 'Growth'), an acronym (**C**entro **R**urale **E**ducativo per la **S**toria e la **C**ultura **I**taliana **T**radizionale e l'**A**mbiente' - Rural Education Centre of the History and Traditional Italian Culture and of the Environment). We have begun preparing educational materials for the museum. These focus on issues concerning local cultural history and ecology.

Objectives for 2023-24

i. CRESCITA

Continue to develop materials for CRESCITA. Develop the museum site, including the creation of a small cinema. Purchase a large TV screen and two computer stations and begin developing films and interactive materials for them respectively. Hold an official opening of the museum, inviting the mayor of the region. Begin hosting classes of school children in the museum. Put in applications to the EU for financial support for the further development of CRESCITA.

ii. International research into DBS

Continue supporting research groups around the world – including the UK and Italy – in research into the delivery and impact of DBS. Assist colleagues in publishing their research findings and obtaining funding for their research.

iii. DBS Training in Italy

Continue supporting Dr Belluardo in providing DBS training in Italy; and continue providing DBS training in the Pieve Santo Stefano region.

Financial Report

1 December 2022 - £22,965

30 November 2023 - £21,794

The expenditure (apart from bank fees) of £1,171 went entirely to Diego della Ragione, who has provided technical support in the making of video and photographic materials for CRESCITA.

THE MIKHULU TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1158733

Accounts

The Mikhulu Trust Registered - Charity Number 1,158,733

Annual Report – 1 December 2020 - 30 November 2021

Trustees:

Peter Cooper
Lynne Murray
Cathy Creswell
Nova Robinson
Nicholas Dowdell

Address:

85 Church Way
Iffley
Oxford
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UK

Review of Objectives for 2021-2022

i. Continue to support DBS trials around the world.

During the period we supported trials in Turkey, France, Italy, and the UK. Some of these, together with ones in Sweden, Brazil and Colombia, have been successfully completed. A number of journal articles are currently in preparation or submission.

ii. Continue to support the Mikhulu Child Development Trust in South Africa

The MCDT in Cape Town, under the direction of Kathima Ebrahim, continues to expand its activities and influence across South Africa. A major innovation has been the incorporation of DBS into routine community health provision through the training of several hundred Community Health Workers in the Western Cape Province. (See <https://mikhulutrust.org/annual-reports/> for annual report).

iii. Support book-sharing around Italy

We set up a collaboration with Brescia University to train 16 educators-psychologists working with preschool services to deliver DBS to parents in preschool settings. They will be the facilitators in a new Brescia led RCT.

We set up a collaboration with Ombretta Pellegrini to provide DBS training to parents of children attending the creche in Pieve Santo Stefano

Objectives for 2022-23:

i. Provide DBS support

Continue to support groups in Italy and around the world in both DBS research and systems of DBS delivery. In Italy, identify someone (possibly Dr Mauro Belluardo) to train to be a trainer of DBS facilitators in Italy, as a national resource.

ii. Bologna University collaboration

Set up collaboration set up with Prof Leonardo De Pascalis, University of Bologna, and raise funds to support training of all ECD teachers in the Emilia Romagna region.

iii. Libri Fatto a Mano

Develop a project with Ombretta Pellegrini and Libri Fatti a Mano, initially focusing on Pieve Santo Stefano and surrounding villages, to deliver DBS to ECD and elementary school teachers and parents, working in collaboration with social services and the local pediatric service to reach the most vulnerable parents. This should include the development of a public space as a resource for families and children in the new Pieve Santo Stefano library.

iv. Mignano Museum

Begin preparing engaging educational materials for children to access, via a small local museum in a medieval village, Mignano. These materials will focus on local issues concerning ecology, country life, and local cultural history, around which children will make books at Libri Fatto a Mano workshops. These books will then be used in classroom and museum-based DBS sessions. Identify a site for the museum and begin to develop, an appropriate space.

Financial Report

There was no income or expenditure (apart from bank fees) during the period. Balance as of 30 November 2021 = £23,025.59 and of 30 November 2022 = £22,965.59

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Accounts

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Annual Report – 1 December 2020 - 30 November 2021

Trustees:

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Nicholas Dowdall

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Review of Objectives for 2020-2021

- i. Continue to support DBS trials around the world.*
During the period we supported trials in Brazil, Turkey, France, Sweden, Colombia and the UK. Some of these have been successfully completed and others are ongoing. A number of journal articles are currently in submission.
- ii. Continue to submit journal articles.*
We continue to publish with others, such as the Brazil and South Africa groups, as well as publishing papers on our own UK book-sharing research. Two significant publications are listed below.
- iii. Continue to support the Mikhulu Child Development Trust (MCDT) in South Africa in the production of wordless picture book and their other activities.*
Two to three new wordless books continue to be produced annually in South Africa. These are widely distributed in South Africa and are used elsewhere (e.g., in Italy). See <https://mikhulustrust.org/what-we-do/wordless-picture-books/> for an account of progress with creating new wordless books; and see <https://mikhulustrust.org/annual-reports/> for the MCDT's 2021 annual report.

Objectives for 2021-2022

- i. Continue to support DBS trials around the world.*
- ii. Continue to support the MCDT in all its activities.*
- iii. Support book-sharing around Italy.*

Financial Report

There was no income or expenditure during the period.

Balance as of 30 November 2020 = £23,025.29

Balance as of 30 November 2021 = £23,025.59

Two Publications

Dowdall, N., Murray, L., Skeen, S., Marlow, M., De Pascalis, L., Gardner, F., Tomlinson, M. & Cooper, P.J. (2021) Book-Sharing for Parenting and Child Development in South Africa: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Child Development*, 92, 2252-2267.

Murray, L., Rayson, H., Ferrari, P.F., Wass, S.V. & Cooper, P.J. (2022) Dialogic Book-Sharing as a Privileged Intersubjective Space. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 2022.

THE MIKHULU TRUST

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Accounts

The Mikhulu Trust Registered - Charity Number 1,158,733

Annual Report - 1 December 2019 - 30 November 2020

Trustees:

Address:

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Church Way
Lynne Murray Oxford
Cathy Creswell Iffley
Nicholas Dowdall OX4 4EF

Review of Objectives for 2019-2020

Four objectives were specified.

i. Continue supporting international research on DBS.

This work continued successfully. Trials in South Africa, Brazil, and the UK were completed. Other trials in Colombia, Turkey, Sweden and Namibia were initiated.

ii. Explore further research collaborations. In particular, develop a research group concerned with developing and evaluating on-line modes of training delivery; and begin pilot work on delivering the programme to fathers.

A collaboration with a research group in Cambridge (UK) was established and a grant application submitted to the Nuffield Foundation for a trial of an online version of our DBS programme.

A research group was formed in South Africa to develop and evaluate DBS training to fathers. This involves a collaboration between the Mikhulu Child Development Trust (MCDT), Sonke Gender Justice, and the University of Cape Town. A protocol was developed and funding for pilot work sought.

iii. Submit further articles for publication.

Several papers were successfully submitted to prestigious journals reporting the findings of trials conducted in the UK and South Africa

iv. Support the MCDT in creating more wordless picture books. Explore collaborating with South African organisations to produce further books.

This objective was successfully met, with funding obtained by crowd funding (organised by the MCDT) for the mentoring of South African illustrators. A further four wordless picture books were added to the series.

Objectives for 2020-2021

i. Continue to support DBS trials around the world.

- ii. Continue to submit journal articles.
- iii. Continue to support the MCDT in the production of wordless picture books.

Financial Report

There was no expenditure during the period;

Balance as of 30 November 2019 = £ 22,121.64

Balance as of 30 November 2020 = £ 23,025.29