

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159781

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2015-01-05

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

Contact

Address 2 Hurst Royd
Hebden Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX7 8HY

Phone 07730921720

Email quakercongo@gmail.com

Website www.quakercongo.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND RELIEVE THE POVERTY OF PEOPLE OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION OF AFRICA AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN THE AREA OF THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO2. SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: People in the eastern Congo (DRC) suffer from violence, instability and poverty - not least as a result of the wars in the region since 1998. The local Quakers work to rebuild their communities, providing medical care, trauma counselling, income generating opportunities and other initiatives to benefit all religious and ethnic groups. For QCP-UK input see <http://www.quakercongo.org.uk>

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People

Geography

- Congo (Democratic Republic)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£90,412	£97,865	-	-
2023-12-31	£78,099	£53,745	-	-
2022-12-31	£62,724	£49,439	-	-
2021-12-31	£46,277	£45,658	-	-
2020-12-31	£55,270	£49,404	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DENNIS MICHAEL TRACEY		2021-10-11
Dr Andrew James Carmichael		2024-12-10
Frederick Scott Ashmore		2021-10-11
Helen Mary Horton		2024-02-12
Julie Ann Yates		2021-10-11
NICK TISCHLER		2015-01-01
PATRICIA ANNE SKEET		2022-12-12
Sandra Mary Dutson		2025-02-17

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159781

Accounts

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Charity number 1159781

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

Reference and administrative information

Trustees who served during 2024

Nick Tischler (service ends 31.12.24)

Lynn Norbury (service ends 31.12.24)

Catherine Putz (service ends 31.12.24)

Fred Ashmore

Ian Tod (Service laid down 26 October 2024)

Helen Horton (Appointed 12 February 2024 until 31.12.27)

Dennis Tracey

Julie Yates

Patricia Skeet

Registered Address

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS.

Bankers

Co-operative Bank, 70/72 Cross Street, Manchester, M2 4JG

Website

<http://www.quakercongo.org.uk>

Introduction

Quaker Congo Partnership UK (QCP) is a Quaker charity which works in partnership with CEEACO, Communauté des Eglises Evangéliques des Amis au Congo (the Community of Evangelical Friends'¹ Churches in Congo). It was registered as an independent charity in January 2015. QCP has had a partnership relationship with CEEACO for some 15 years.

The very difficult conditions of life and work in South Kivu are well publicised in the media. This is a potentially flourishing and wealthy area where progress has lagged due to a combination of past war, recent armed conflict, the presence of conflict minerals and the historic weakness of government structures. Many Quakers feel led to support the work of QCP.

The area in which we are currently supporting projects is in the town of Uvira and 50km to the south to Abeka in the province of South Kivu.

The projects under this partnership are in four areas:-

- Hospital and health supporting the Centre Hospitalier Abeka
- CEPAP Centre for, Peace, Education and Psychological Support
- AWID Action for Women's Integral Development
- Water pipeline to serve the village of Mukwezi

Partnership really does describe our relationship, and plans are worked out jointly rather than being dictated by the UK trustees.

During 2024 we have continued to work in groups of three/four trustees and associates who take a particular interest in each area of work.

Charitable purposes, Activities for the public benefit.

The objects of the charity are: To improve the physical and mental health and education and relieve the poverty of people of the Great Lakes Region of Africa and in particular those in the area of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Trustees have developed this broad objective to more specific work as follows.

- To promote the furtherance of peace, equality and human rights in that area.
- To raise funds and provide grants, mentoring and general assistance to hospitals, schools, formal and informal groups and individuals in order to further such objects, in particular supporting community projects run by the Communauté des Eglises Evangéliques des Amis au Congo (CEEACO).

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's Trust Deed was accepted by the Charity Commission at the time of registration in 2015 and updated in 2022 by minute of the Trustees dated 19 September 2022.

There must be not less than 6 nor more than 14 Trustees. Manchester & Warrington ~~and~~ Area Quaker Meeting and Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meetings have the right to appoint trustees. New Trustees can be appointed by the existing trustees at a formal meeting. A trustee can be reappointed on no more than two occasions to give an unbroken term of service as a trustee not

¹ It is common practice for Quakers to refer to themselves as Friends, based on the formal title of the Society as The Religious Society of Friends of the Truth.

exceeding nine years. That person cannot be reappointed as a trustee until one year has elapsed after the last period of service.

Trustee Meetings of QCP are held in the manner of Quakers with decisions agreed by the meeting recorded in contemporaneous minutes. The practice is explained in the Quakers Book of Discipline, Quaker Faith and Practice 5th Edition (Britain Yearly Meeting). Trustees meet online using Zoom and in blended meetings which are mostly in person with distant trustees taking part using Zoom facilities, as allowed by our governing document.

Links with CEEACO are through a CEEACO project committee which oversees the projects we are supporting. We have made a series of three-year agreements whereby we promise to send a certain sum every six months to be used in an agreed way. The latest three-year agreement was signed in October 2022 and was recently extended to 30th June 2025. Our plan to renew this agreement has been delayed by active armed conflict in North and South Kivu but we are confident it will be renewed. CEEACO send us quarterly accounts showing how the money has been spent and narrative accounts from their project leaders describing the work done and the difference it has made. Trustees of the charity make efforts to visit our partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo regularly and there was a visit in July 2024 by our Co-Clerk and her husband. Trustees maintain regular contact with partners' managers and workers through email, social media and internet-based conversation. There are regular exchanges of reports and records of meetings that affect the shared work. The working language of such exchanges is usually French (the European language used in the DRC) and QCP provides translated versions of documents in English.

Achievements and Performance in 2024

The brief descriptions of recent work and activities with CEEACO is expanded in the latest Newsletter on our website (<https://quakercongo.org.uk>). Trustees and volunteers can provide fuller information and conduct presentations to those who are interested in our areas of work. There is a contact page on our website.

Hospital and public health

The CHA, supported by QCP, plays a vital role in providing healthcare and medical treatment to the local community. In collaboration with the Zone de Santé, we continue to provide a share of support to salaries of key staff in the 45 bedded Abeka Hospital (CHA). Activity here remains steady with approximately 600 outpatient attendances, 250 admissions and 60 deliveries (of which approximately 20% are Caesarean Sections) per month.

The main morbidities remain malaria, anaemia, respiratory infections, and malnutrition.

The hospital faces ongoing challenges. A new toilet and shower block is under construction, but additional funds are needed to complete a paediatric ward. The World Bank has donated substantial additional equipment which needs to be installed and provided with power supply and proper accommodation. We see this as a next major challenge for QCP in its work to improve health care in the community where our partners have a major role.

The pipeline under construction to supply clean water to Mukwezi is expected to have significant public health benefits and we are working with the hospital to explore ways of measuring the impact.

[CEPAP Centre for Peace, Education and Psychological Assistance.](#)

2024 was a year of development and learning for our partners in DRC working for peace and as agents for change. The CEPAP project is building peace, working with young people, preventing sexual violence and providing one to one psychological support. There is an enthusiastic and committed team working for peace led by Isaac Saidi. This year they were joined by two new CEPAP staff members EMMANUEL and CHRISTOSPHE on the middle plateau drawn from young volunteers who are members of Peace committees.

The ongoing activities are support to Youth Peace Committees, Clubs Amis des Filles (school-based clubs working to prevent sexual violence) and counselling in the hospital in Abeka. There is a Youth Peace Council with representatives from different groups.

Turning The Tide

A major project this year was the Turning The Tide training. The first four-day phase took place in February and the second seven-day residential course at the end of July. Turning the Tide (TTT) is an approach that links peacebuilding with nonviolent campaigning. It seeks to equip and support people to address root causes of violence with nonviolent tools. It encourages and enhances the power to think and act as a team in order to achieve change. Two groups of young people (one in the territory of Fizi and the other in Uvira) will be responsible for developing the TTT approach in their respective areas. Some of the issues they have already identified include: Insecurity, Unemployment amongst youths, Poor infrastructure- roads, Land disputes, Domestic violence, Boundary disputes, Limited resources, Environment, Impunity.

After the first phase participants were left expecting more, inspired and challenged to take action for change and above all empowered to speak out for justice in their communities. At the end of the workshop there was a group of peace actors willing to challenge injustices and ready to take time to identify and analyse issues affecting them.

The second phase in July focused on Training the Trainers to enable the team to start applying and sharing the skills and knowledge of nonviolence with others in their respective communities. It included Transformative Mediation a new approach to conflict transformation and management. There was increased confidence in the use of TTT tools amongst the participants. They appreciated the importance of working together for sustainable peace and social change. They all worked in pairs for delivery practice sessions and developed practical action plans in their locality groups- Fizi and Uvira.

Training for young women to become teachers

Twenty young women and girls took part in a workshop to encourage them to train as teachers in conjunction with Ministry of National Education. It included practical placements and as a result 5 young women have started their teacher training. We have funded the work.

Prevention of violence and prejudice towards people presumed to be witches

A workshop took place on 27th March and was attended by 48 people. 'The meeting was of exceptional value, as it was held in a time of need; that is, people felt the need for a meeting to discuss specific issues of deadly violence.' There is ongoing work on this issue e.g. monitoring, prevention and raising awareness.

Youth Peace Council and campaigns

Meeting the Youth Peace Council was a highlight of the visit from Trustee Catherine Putz and her husband Mark Holtom in early July. Members of the Youth Peace Council feel they have been raised from their sleep to work for peace. They were keen to organise an event for International day of Peace which due to lack of funding did not take place. They have also submitted a proposal for an environmental tree planting and agriculture project; they want to take action on impact of climate change in their local areas. The young people in youth peace committees work for peace; protection of peace, prevention and resolution of generational conflicts that can lead to intercommunity conflicts. A meeting was held in October to examine in depth the use of different approaches to practising Peace. The President of the Youth Peace Council presented a short report in which he highlighted various youth peace actions. There are 20 committees with 151 young members who are involved in peace building work and 12 Ami de Filles clubs in secondary schools. He called for courage, because lasting peace is possible if young people will agree to live in peace.

The Youth Peace Council sets their own priorities. They were pleased to get SMART mobile phones which will help them communicate with each other and to send reports and photos. Funding was secured for a replacement motorbike for the CEPAP team.

Testimonies and videos.

We regularly receive testimonies and videos about the positive impact of the work; for example, a girl welcomed back to school following a pregnancy.

Counselling: Experienced counsellors continue to offer psychological assistance to patients at the hospital in Abeka. This service has been endorsed by managers of the Nundu health zone. The team provide a listening ear to people in the community with trauma and also to reduce fear and panic due to war and insecurity. We foresee a high demand for these services following the militia violence early in 2025 which has affected many in the CEEACO community and their neighbours in all areas of North Kivu and South Kivu.

AWID Action for Women's Integral Development.

AWID Association of Women's Integral Development aims to improve women's livelihood through seed grants, training and teaching of literacy and numeracy. QCP has worked for 10 years with very disadvantaged women associated with CEEACO. Many of the women project members are heads of family, regularly supporting 10 dependents, including elderly and disabled family as well as their children. They have largely missed formal education, and many lack literacy and numeracy. Domestic and sexual violence is widespread. Women are particularly vulnerable during the current violent unrest, with attacks by roaming militias and raids since January 2025.

Agricultural development - Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the project work. Recent activities focused on maintaining cassava and fruit tree crops, including orange and lemon trees. Regular weeding was carried out and protection of the plants from pests, particularly green aphids. Efforts to secure farmland were also emphasised and fences were repaired to prevent animals from wandering into crop areas and damaging plants. These practices not only ensure better yields but also strengthen local food security and provide valuable income sources.

Skill building and economic empowerment – Professional skills training is opening doors to economic self-sufficiency within the community. Soap-making continues to be a successful initiative, with proceeds from sales reinvested to sustain the project. The team has also begun raising awareness around juice production, encouraging community members to explore this as a new source of income.

Tailoring and sewing empowering young women – The tailoring and sewing programme provides another valuable avenue for skill development, particularly for young women. To support the growth of this programme the project is actively seeking funds for three treadle sewing machines to enable the young women to set up on their own. Meanwhile the project will continue to train and mentor new trainees in tailoring to start their journey to economic independence through the mastery of a practical trade.

Education – Initiatives within the project aim to address literacy and numeracy for women who missed out on basic education. Local training, delivered through women's agriculture, tailoring and soap programmes are underway. This enables the most marginalised women and families to pursue literacy education fostering greater independence and opportunity. Additionally, the project is raising funds to cover the school fees for orphans and other vulnerable children, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent them from receiving an education.

Livestock farming – the livestock farming programme has also seen encouraging growth. From January to March, the project had eight goats but four new births have increased the herd to twelve. This small-scale livestock farming is another way the community can improve food security, generate income, and diversify livelihoods.

Through these coordinated efforts in agriculture, skill-building, education and livestock farming the AWID project in DRC is providing essential support to its women members. By offering economic opportunities, improving food security and investing in education the initiative is helping families to build more stable, self-sufficient lives in a challenging environment.

Water pipeline for Mukwezi village.

In 2024 Trustees agreed that the funds in hand were adequate for the project to begin. We agreed with the contractor to execute the work in three phases:-

- Laying of the main pipeline to the first borne fontaine (water point) north of Mukwezi
- Completion of laying pipe, river crossings, civil works for the 18 borne Fontaines.
- Installation of borne fontaines, filling of the pipeline, completion works, final reporting.

At the end of 2024 the materials were in hand in a dedicated store under supervision. The contractor's workforce, mostly local, dug 4 km of trench, laid pipe and backfilled ready for the next phase.

Work was interrupted because of fighting in the region which stopped all services including banking. At the time of writing in early April 2025, conditions are more stable, the second phase of work is reported complete. We have transferred funds to cover the third phase of work, and the third phase

is in progress. Some local young people were introduced to the workforce for the second phase at the request of Mukwezi residents.

We look forward hopefully to seeing a complete working pipeline and to seeing the health benefits of a clean water supply for people of Mukwezi.

Security situation in Eastern Congo

The security situation in eastern Congo remains very adverse marked by the recent capture by the M23 group of the important cities of Goma and Bukavu. CEEACO's members in these cities have been severely affected. QCP has raised funds for relief but faces difficulties in making them useful due to the civil disorder which includes banks.

Finance report

Our income this year was £90412 (2023: £78099) from a combination of Quaker donations with Gift Aid (£58103 [2023: £60322]) and grants from trusts (£27800 [2023:£15660]). Expenditure exceeded income by £7453 for the year [2023 income exceeded expenditure by £24354].

We carried forward unrestricted funds of £25,447. We have maintained our regular giving to CEEACO of approximately £30,000 each year, which is divided between support for the Centre Hospitalier Abeka, peace work (CEPAP), women's development work. We have received additional funding from trusts for

- A grant of £4000 from Quaker Peace and Social Witness for Turning the Tide training and youth peace committees
- a payment of £4500 from the British Yearly Meeting international conciliation group to fund Turning the Tide training

Our finances remain heavily dependent on continuing gifts and grants. The needs of our partners members remain large, our aspirational budgets must be carefully judged, and serious fundraising is essential if we are to achieve our commitments. Significant funding has been raised during the period for the water pipeline for Mukwezi from a mixture of grants (£800 from Just Trust and £23000 from Kingston Quaker Meeting) and donations from individuals. The work started on site in November 2024 and payments for Phase 1 were made before the year end. Phase 2 is under way at the time of writing (March 2025) and the project is expected to be completed in April 2025.

Trustees consider that Quaker Congo Partnership continues to be a going concern with suitable reserves for our liabilities and generally appropriate funds for our commitments.

Reserves policy

Trustees have agreed that the principal purpose of our reserves is to allow us to respond to emergencies in the unsettled and deprived area where our work is carried out in partnership with CEEACO. Our total reserves at 31/12/24 were £25,447. This sum includes two designated reserve funds. One is set at £5,000 and QCP would like to increase this reserve so that it can cover one half yearly payment to CEEACO of about £15,000. The second designated reserve at 31/12/24 is £18,919, representing funds which have been set aside for the completion of the Mukwezi water project in early 2025. The total agreed budget for the 3 phases of the water project was \$90,000, about £73,000.

The free reserves at 31/12/24, after taking account of the designated reserves, was £1,528.

Other policies and procedures

We have reviewed our policies and procedures, taking into account the policies and procedures which the Charity Commission checks when the Annual Return of a registered charity is submitted. We have identified a need to formalise our assessments of risk and our policy for due diligence.

Fundraising

Money is raised through donations from individuals, from Quaker Meetings and through applications to charitable trusts.

Risk Management

The projects in DRC are managed by CEEACO, who are conscious of the risks involved in this unstable region. Risks in DRC include: insecurity and violence, climate change, and the risk of epidemic disease including cholera, Ebola and Covid 19. Personal and collective risk assessments were made by trustees prior to visiting in 2024. During our earlier visits we did not have any difficulties and value the careful plans made by our partners.

Trustees hope to formalise the identification and assessment of the risks to the work of our charity and to our partners and the safeguards in place to mitigate those risks.

Communications

The trustees concentrate communications on the Quaker community of Britain Yearly Meeting, working at a range of levels.

Fred Ashmore, Patricia Skeet, Co-clerks

Julie Yates, Treasurer

4th July 2025

Accounts for financial year to 31/12/2024

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					
Donations	28,433	22,619	-	51,052	59,478
Grants		27,800	-	27,800	15,660
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	2,117
Gift Aid	4,682	2,369	-	7,051	844
Interest	9			9	
Commissioned training	-	4,500	-	4,500	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	33,124	57,288	-	90,412	78,099
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	33,124	57,288	-	90,412	78,099
A3 Payments					
Grant payments to CEEACO	37,215	59,764	-	96,979	52,508
Printing, postage, advertising, travel exps	35	-	-	35	195
Bank charges	308	-	-	308	157
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	
Independent examination	504	-	-	504	504
Meeting costs, rooms, catering	40	-	-	40	9
Cost of equipment taken to CEEACO on visit	-			-	372
Sub total	38,101	59,764	-	97,865	53,745
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestrict ed funds to the nearest £	Restrict ed funds to the nearest £	Endowme nt funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Total payments	38,101	59,764	-	97,865	53,745
Net of receipts/(payments)	(4,977)	(2,476)	-	(7,453)	24,354
A5 Transfers between funds	(201)	201	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	30,625	9,829	-	40,454	16,100
Cash funds this year end	25,447	7,554	-	33,001	40,454

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	Bank	25,447	7,554	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	25,447	7,554	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details		-	-
		-	-	-
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)
	Grant received on behalf of NE Thames Quaker Trust		2,896	16 January 2025
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	FS Ashmore	Fred Ashmore		4/7/2025
	PA Skeet	Patricia Skeet		15/7/2025

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 £	
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024					
Donations					
		2024	2024	2024	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	
Donations - standing orders		3,607	5,000	8,607	
Donations - local meetings		4,136	0	4,136	
Donations - website		3,473	1,324	4,797	
Other donations		17,217	16,295	33,512	
		<u>28,433</u>	<u>22,619</u>	<u>51,052</u>	
Grants					
		2024	2024	2024	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	
Just Trust			800	800	
Kingston Friends Trust			23,000	23,000	
QPSW yearly meeting			4,000	4,000	
		<u>0</u>	<u>27,800</u>	<u>27,800</u>	
Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Water Fund	7,672	43,015	45,823	0	4,864
Southall Trust	245	0	245	0	0
Hospital equipment fund	500	0	495	-5	0
QPSW Yearly meeting	236	4,000	4,164	0	72
Dispelling rumours project	82	100	190	8	0
Sewing and women's income generation	27	3,054	2,876	0	205
International conciliation group BYM 2024	0	4,500	4,457	0	43
Goma appeal 2023	66	0	66	0	0
Anaesthetics training	1,000	250	1,448	198	0
Ambulance 22	0	1,841	0	0	1,841
Radley Trust	0	250	0	0	250
	<u>9,828</u>	<u>57,288</u>	<u>59,764</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>7,553</u>

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 £
Fund name	Purpose of restriction			
Water Fund	Following a QCP / CEEACO project 8 years ago to bring clean water to the village of Abeka, QCP has raised funds for a \$90,000 project to extend a clean water supply pipeline to the neighbouring village of Mkwezi. The work is well underway as we prepare these accounts. The impact at Abeka was considerable. Women no longer risk violence on their perilous journeys to fetch dirty water from a lake. Deaths from preventable waterborne diseases have reduced by 95%.			
Southall Trust	Towards peacebuilding, women's development projects and training for project leaders in the DRC. The current funding has come to an end and the last small payment was made in early 2025.			
Hospital equipment fund	This fund enabled QCP to fund the purchase of an ultrasound machine for the hospital in Abeka. The fund was supported by William A Cadbury Charitable Trust.			
Dispelling rumours project	Funds for a campaign and work aimed to prevent mob violence directed at those thought to be witches in eastern part of DRC. Initially a day of training and awareness raising.			
Women's income generation project	This fund has provided small grants to CEEACO to fund the purchase of sewing machines, equipment for soap making, seeds, tools and irrigation for women's agriculture projects and women's literacy and numeracy training.			
Goma Appeal 2023	Early in 2024 QCP sent the final small payment from the 2023 appeal for emergency relief to people who had fled their villages and left their fields for the city following attacks by M23 rebels.			
Anaesthetics training	For the training of a nurse anaesthetist. Grant from the CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust			
QPSW Britain Yearly Meeting	Training for members of youth peace groups with a focus on peacebuilding, leadership and governance through the Turning the Tide workshops			

Funds held as agent

Quaker Congo Partnership (QCP) received £3,000 from the North East Thames Quaker Trust into its bank account on 15 December 2023. It held those funds on behalf of North East Thames Quaker Trust as agent and paid the fund to CEEACO on behalf of NE Thames Quaker Trust on 16 January 2024. This amount has not been shown in the accounts of Quaker Congo Partnership as at 31 December 2024.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report
on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of** Quaker Congo Partnership

On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2024	Charity no (if any)	1159781
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Set out on pages 11 to 15

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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: Simon Bostrom

Date: 31/7/25

Name: Simon Bostrom

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FCIE

Address:

WYCAS, Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Leeds LS10 2QW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the central portion of the page. It is intended for the user to provide details of items for disclosure as requested in the text to its left.

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159781

Accounts

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Charity number 1159781

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

H. Margaret Gregory (completed service as Trustee 31 December 2023)

Nick Tischler

Lynn Norbury

Catherine Putz

Fred Ashmore

Ian Tod

Dennis Tracey

Julie Yates

Patricia Skeet

Helen Horton (appointed 12 February 2024)

Registered Address

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS.

Bankers

Co-operative Bank, 70/72 Cross Street, Manchester, M2 4JG

Website

<http://www.quakercongo.org.uk>

Introduction

Quaker Congo Partnership UK (QCP) is a Quaker charity which works in partnership with CEEACO, Communauté des Eglises Evangéliques des Amis au Congo (the Community of Evangelical Friends¹ Churches in Congo). It was registered as an independent charity in January 2015. QCP has had a partnership relationship with CEEACO for some 15 years.

The very difficult conditions of life and work in South Kivu are well publicised in the media. This is a potentially flourishing and wealthy area where progress has lagged due to a combination of past war, recent armed conflict, the presence of conflict minerals and the historic weakness of government structures. Many Quakers feel led to support the work of QCP.

The area in which we are currently supporting projects is in the town of Uvira and 50km to the south to Abeka in the province of South Kivu.

The projects under this partnership are in four areas:-

- Hospital and health supporting the Centre Hospitalier Abeka
- CEPAP Centre for, Peace, Education and Psychological Support
- AWID Action for Women's Integral Development
- Water

Partnership really does describe our relationship and plans are worked out jointly rather than being dictated by the UK trustees.

During 2022 we have continued to work in groups of three/four trustees and associates who take a particular interest in each area of work.

Charitable purposes, Activities for the public benefit.

The objects of the charity are: To improve the physical and mental health and education and relieve the poverty of people of the Great Lakes Region of Africa and in particular those in the area of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Trustees have developed this broad objective to more specific work as follows.

- To promote the furtherance of peace, equality and human rights in that area.
- To raise funds and provide grants, mentoring and general assistance to hospitals, schools, formal and informal groups and individuals in order to further such objects, in particular supporting community projects run by the Communauté des Eglises Evangéliques des Amis au Congo (CEEACO).

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's Trust Deed was accepted by the Charity Commission at the time of registration in 2015 and updated in 2022 by minute of the Trustees dated 19 September 2022.

There must be not less than 6 nor more than 14 Trustees. Manchester & Warrington and Area Quaker Meeting and Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meetings have the right to appoint trustees. New Trustees can be appointed by the existing trustees at a formal meeting. A trustee can be reappointed on no more than two occasions to give an unbroken term of service as a trustee not

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Achievements and Performance in 2023

The brief descriptions of recent work and activities with CEEACO is expanded in the latest Newsletter on our website (<https://quakercongo.org.uk>). Trustees and volunteers can provide fuller information and conduct presentations to those who are interested in our areas of work. There is a contact page on our website.

Hospital and public health

In collaboration with the Zone de Santé, we continue to provide a share of support to salaries of key staff in the 45 bedded Abeka Hospital (CHA). Activity here remains steady with approximately 500 outpatient attendances, 250 admissions and 40 deliveries (of which approximately 20% are Caesarean Sections) per month.

The main morbidities remain malaria, anaemia, respiratory infections, and malnutrition.

The project to revive training and support for 21 “Relais Communautaires” (community health workers) serving a population of approx. 10,500 is due to be completed in February 2024 and is on track to cover the target population. An early achievement has been the closure of all (illegal) blood transfusion sites in the area.

The proposed extension of supply of clean water to Mukwezi is expected to have significant public health benefits and we are working with the hospital to explore ways of measuring the impact.

CEPAP Centre for Peace, Education and Psychological Support

The CEPAP project is building peace, working with young people, preventing sexual violence and providing one to one psychological support. There is an enthusiastic and committed team working for peace led by Isaac Saidi. There has been a lot of work during 2023 mainly with young people. Their ongoing activities are support to Youth Peace Committees, Clubs Amis des Filles and counselling in the hospital in Abeka. They have set up a Youth Peace Council. In the last year they ran an event to raise awareness about those who are targeted as they are assumed to be witches.

Another initiative is to train women to be teachers as there are very few female teachers. QCP has sent money for the next stage of their training. Here are more details of the work:

Clubs Amis des Filles (School clubs to support girls): There are now clubs in many schools which are engaged in the fight against sexual harassment. It is a system to prevent sexual violence in secondary schools. Cases of sexual violence are reported, denounced and the victims are supported. The presence of the clubs in the schools has reduced sexual violence by male teachers and students. These Friends of Girls clubs are helped by a supervising teacher and are recognised and supported by the Ministry of National Education through the Provincial Educational Sub-Division.

Counselling: Experienced counsellors offer psychological assistance to patients at the hospital in Abeka. This service has been endorsed by managers of the Nundu health zone. They have helped more patients with a relief of their suffering and bring hope for recovery.

Election observers: CEEACO provided several election observers during the presidential election at the end of 2023. They said, "Our participation in election observation activities makes us a living and credible organization with regard to the Congolese government through its national structure, the CENI. CEPAP feels proud of the best collaboration with the CENI."

Exchange visit to Uvira: In September ten young people from the peace committees and the Clubs Amis des Filles had an exchange visit with ten young people from Uvira. The aim was to share experiences and learn from each other and so find different ways to prevent sexual violence and to organise action. In Uvira there is better access to the internet and the group use radio to publicise their work. The thirst to hear the talents and values of other young people was quenched, and useful conclusions were drawn from both groups. They realised that they were all doing worthwhile work for peace and equality. Friendships were made between the groups and their commitment was strengthened.

Improved mobile phones: Money for the purchase of nine Motorola phones for the CEPAP team was sent in July. They were given to the team during their team meeting on August 5th. Two members of team reported on the benefits on 22nd August. Christophine, who works with women says the new phones are cheaper and more reliable than Android phones and she can send a message to the whole team at the same time. Byamungu, the counsellor, says that Motorolas are much better as the signal for Android didn't reach all parts of the village. It helps with communication when there is bad weather and travel isn't possible.

Water

The main technical parameters for extension of the Abeka Water Supply to Mukwezi were agreed with CEEACO and the next step of finalizing the layout and design was started. A physical survey was commissioned to confirm ground conditions and identify physical hazards that need special provision in the design. A smart phone with a suitable GPS app was provided so local support workers could undertake the survey and record the precise location of the main features of the Mukwezi extension. The results of the survey have been very helpful. After the layout and design has been agreed by stakeholders, a revised cost estimate will be prepared and fund raising to finance the construction of the scheme will continue. There was a substantial donation for the water project late in 2023.

To ensure communities benefit fully from a safe water supply, we sent references on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to CEEACO as e-books after an attempt to send physical books was unsuccessful. In addition, WASH was included in the relais communautaires training funded by the grant from Education Services 2010 awarded in November 2021.

AWID Action for Women's Integral Development.

Action for Women's Integral Development (AWID) is a small project that operates as part of the Quaker Congo Partnership UK (QCP UK). AWID projects aim to give women the skills and resources to improve their livelihood by providing seed corn grants to women's groups for income generation, as well as small education and training projects for literacy, numeracy, and technical skills. The DRC participants are women coping with extreme disadvantage – many supporting extended families without land or resources available.

The need for improved nutrition is a vital issue, malnutrition in children under 5 is a serious concern. In 2022/23, the women's Agriculture group continued to develop a previously arid area, on 2 hectares in the plain of Rubarika. Working in groups to avoid the real threat of attacks by militia and kidnapping, they grew cassava, peanuts, corn and vegetables. However, with extended drought followed by floods, an ambitious but rudimentary system of irrigation pipes broke down and fields of precious green vegetables were lost. Nevertheless, they continue to work with incredible ingenuity using a makeshift irrigation system and by germinating and growing seedlings using black plastic bags. They have a small herd of 5 goats with 2 kids. In 2023, they planted 95 citrus trees as part of a long-term plan to diversify. This links to plans for the basket makers, whose production exceeds demand, to diversify into juice production.

The Soap-making group activities grew significantly in 2022/23, with training extended to new groups of women and increased production. Opportunities arose to both sell and use the soap domestically. They also donated staple vegetables and soap to extremely disadvantaged members of the community, including the elderly and disabled with no families. As these activities grow, there is a need to build the capacity of all members in literacy and numeracy. All of the women's groups benefitted from an opportunity for very basic education following QCP fund-raising to support this activity in 2023.

The women's Tailoring and Sewing group were delighted to buy 3 treadle sewing machines and spare parts in 2022, enabling them to set up a workshop. This was the result of donations from many individuals in the U.K., who were inspired by their story. These women have excellent skills in making dresses, jackets, shirts and other garments using textiles which are available locally. They are pursuing very viable plans to run their own small businesses, they have trained other young women in tailoring skills, and are selling on local markets and to local customers.

Further funding is urgently needed in all areas to sustain these groups, particularly for more stable irrigation systems for agriculture.

Security situation in Eastern Congo

The security situation remains adverse, especially around the main city of Goma, and affects Uvira. In February 2024 the M23 rebel group seized the town of Nyanzale, in the country's east, in an attack that killed at least 15 people and displaced thousands. The violence in embattled North Kivu province has worsened as M23 increases its pressure on Goma. Hundreds of thousands of people are arriving in Goma in hope of finding food, water and shelter. This situation is expected to worsen when United Nations peacekeepers are withdrawn from the area.

Finance report

Our income this year was £78099 (2022: £52724) from a combination of Quaker donations with Gift Aid (£60322 [2022: £39718]), fundraising (£2118 [2022: £1623]) and grants from trusts (£15660 [2022:£13006]). It exceeded expenditure by £24354 for the year [2022 £3285].

We carried forward unrestricted funds of £25,625. This figure includes a significant £20,000 donation, received at the end of the year. In February 2024 £5080 of it was sent to our partners, CEEACO to be used for peace work, training of women teachers and an ultrasound machine. The remainder is earmarked for the water project. We have maintained our regular giving to CEEACO of approximately £30,000 each year, which is divided between support for the Centre Hospitalier Abeka, peace work (CEPAP), women's development work. We have received additional funding from trusts for

- another year of support to strengthen QCP's regular funding for peace building, women's development work, project management training in the DRC with a £4,000 grant from the Southall Trust
- continued funding for youth peace committees with a further £2,000 grant from the Radley Trust
- literacy and numeracy training to support women involved in agriculture and small businesses with a grant of £4,000 from the Kingston Friends Trust
- a grant of £500 from the William A Cadbury Trust to fund part of the cost of an ultrasound machine for the hospital in Abeka
- a grant of £1000 from CB and HH Taylor for the training of a nurse anaesthetist at the hospital

Our finances remain heavily dependent on continuing gifts and grants. The needs of our partners members remain large, our aspirational budgets must be carefully judged, and serious fundraising is essential if we are to achieve our commitments and reach some of our aspirations for 2024 and beyond. We have identified the water project to extend a clean running water supply to Mukwezi village as a priority.

Trustees consider that Quaker Congo Partnership continues to be a going concern with suitable reserves for our liabilities and generally appropriate funds for our commitments.

Reserves policy

Trustees have agreed that the principal purpose of our reserves is to allow us to respond to emergencies in the unsettled and deprived area where our work is carried out in partnership with CEEACO. Our designated reserve fund is set at £5,000. We would like to increase our reserve so that it can cover one half yearly payment to CEEACO of about £15,000, but at present that does not appear feasible.

Fundraising

Money is raised through donations from individuals, from Quaker Meetings and through applications to charitable trusts.

In 2023, we were once again able to conduct fundraising events which included a productive garden party at the home of one of our Co Clerks which yielded around £2000. Another Trustee initiated specific fundraising to raise money for women's sewing and income generating projects and for

group work around dispelling rumours in communities, resulting in about £1600 of additional donations.

Risk Management

The projects in DRC are managed by CEEACO, who are conscious of the risks involved in this unstable region. Risks in DRC include: insecurity and violence, climate change, and the risk of epidemic disease including cholera, Ebola and Covid 19. Personal and collective risk assessments were made by trustees prior to visiting in 2020. During our earlier visits we did not have any difficulties and value the careful plans made by our partners.

Trustees hope to formalise the identification and assessment of the risks to the work of our charity and to our partners and the safeguards in place to mitigate those risks.

Communications

The trustees concentrate communications on the Quaker community of Britain Yearly Meeting, working at a range of levels.

Catherine Putz, Co-clerk

Julie Yates, Treasurer

08 May 2024

Accounts for financial year to 31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestrict ed funds to the nearest £	Restrict ed funds to the nearest £	Endowme nt funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	52,143	7,335	-	59,478	34,849
Grants		15,660	-	15,660	13,006
Fundraising	1,073	1,044	-	2,118	1,623
Gift Aid	844	-	-	844	3,246
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	54,060	24,039	-	78,099	52,724
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	54,060	24,039	-	78,099	52,724
A3 Payments					
Grant payments to CEEACO	32,771	19,737	-	52,508	48,730
Printing, postage, advertising, travel exps	195	-	-	195	29
Bank charges	157	-	-	157	171
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	
Independent examination	504	-	-	504	480
Meeting costs, rooms, catering	9	-	-	9	29
Cost of equipment taken to CEEACO on visit	372			372	
Sub total	34,009	19,737	-	53,745	49,439
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestrict ed funds to the nearest £	Restrict ed funds to the nearest £	Endowme nt funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Total payments	34,009	19,737	-	53,745	49,439
Net of receipts/(payments)	20,052	4,303	-	24,354	3,285
A5 Transfers between funds	24	-24	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,550	10,550	-	16,100	12,185
Cash funds this year end	25,625	14,829	-	40,454	16,100

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	Bank	25,625	14,829	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	25,625	14,829	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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)
	Grant received on behalf of NE Thames Quaker Trust		3,000	01 January 2024
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Catherine Putz		08/05/24
		Julie Yates		08/05/24

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 £
Quaker Congo Partnership UK				
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022				
Donations		2023	2023	2023
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Donations - standing orders		7,083	2,000	9,083
Donations - local meetings		4,752	188	4,940
Donations - website		9,405	1,484	10,889
Other donations		30,903	3,663	34,566
		<u>52,143</u>	<u>7,335</u>	<u>59,478</u>

Grants		2023	2023	2023
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Kingston Friends Trust			4,160	4,160
Radley Trust			2,000	2,000
Southall Trust			4,000	4,000
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust			500	500
CB & HH Taylor			1,000	1,000
Britain Yearly Meeting			4,000	4,000
		<u>0</u>	<u>15,660</u>	<u>15,660</u>

Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingston Friends Trust	-	4,160	4,244	84	0
Radley Trust	-	2,000	2,009	9	0
Southall Trust	-	4,000	3,755	0	245
Water fund	4,489	3,183	0	0	7,672

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

Categories	Details		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Balance b/f	Incoming	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
Dispelling rumours project	-	946	864	0	82
Sewing and women's income generation project	61	691	725	0	27
Ambulance 22		2,662	2,543	-119	0
World Day of Prayer	1,000	0	1,002	2	0
Goma Appeal 2023		897	831		66
Hospital equipment appeal		500			500
Anaesthetics training		1,000			1,000
QPSW Britain Yearly Meeting		4,000	3,764		236
	<u>5,550</u>	<u>24,039</u>	<u>19,737</u>	<u>-24</u>	<u>9,828</u>

Fund name

Purpose of restriction

Kingston Friends Trust	Literacy and numeracy training for women. This activity is linked to small businesses in agriculture, soapmaking, and tailoring. Many women involved are widows, single parents, disabled and victims of combat, who lost out from completing their own education.
Radley Trust	The focus of the project is a training programme for members of youth peace committees and to extend the network of peace committees.
Southall Trust	Towards peacebuilding, women's development projects and training for project leaders in the DRC. The current funding has come to an end.
Water	QCP and CEEACO are planning an extension of the existing clean water system from Abeka to the neighbouring village of Mukwezi. Work is progressing to finalise the design and to raise the necessary funds.
Dispelling rumours project	Funds for a campaign and work aimed to prevent mob violence directed at those thought to be witches in eastern part of DRC. Initially a day of training and awareness raising.
Sewing and women's income generation project	To provide sewing machines and spares for women to make clothes for their families and to sell to generate income. Donations may be used to promote wider income generating activities for women.
Ambulance 22	To pay for major repairs to the hospital's 4-wheel drive vehicle.
World Day of Prayer	To contribute to the cost of irrigation and the purchase of tools and seeds for the Action for Women's Integral Development project.
Goma Appeal 2023	Emergency relief to people who have fled their villages and left their fields for the city following attacks by M23 rebels.
Hospital equipment appeal	For the provision of an ultrasound machine. Grant provided by William A Cadbury Charitable Trust.

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

Categories	Details	Unrestric ted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt funds to nearest £
Anaesthetics training	For the training of a nurse anaesthetist. Grant from the CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust			
QPSW Britain Yearly Meeting	Training for members of youth peace groups with a focus on peacebuilding, leadership and governance through the Turning the Tide workshops			

Funds held as agent

Quaker Congo Partnership (QCP) received £3,000 from the North East Thames Quaker Trust into its bank account on 15 December 2023. It held those funds on behalf of North East Thames Quaker Trust as agent and paid the fund to CEEACO on behalf of NE Thames Quaker Trust on 16 January 2024. This amount has not been shown in the accounts of Quaker Congo Partnership as at 31 December 2023.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on
the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of** Quaker Congo Partnership

On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2023	Charity no (if any)	1159781
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Set out on pages 9 to 14

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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: 9/05/2024
----------------	--	------------------------

Name: Simon Bostrom

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCIE

Address:

WYCAS

Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Leeds LS10 2QW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159781

Accounts

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Charity number 1159781

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2022

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

H. Margaret Gregory

Nick Tischler

Lynn Norbury

Catherine Putz

Fred Ashmore

Ian Tod

Dennis Tracey

Julie Yates

Patricia Skeet

Registered Address

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Bankers

Co-operative Bank, 70/72 Cross Street, Manchester, M2 4JG

Website

<http://www.quakercongo.org.uk>

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The area in which we are currently supporting projects is in the town of Uvira and 50km to the south to Abeka in the province of South Kivu.

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- To promote the furtherance of peace, equality and human rights in that area.
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Hospital and public health

In collaboration with the Zone de Santé, we continue to provide a share of support to salaries of key staff in the 45 bedded Abeka Hospital (CHA). Activity here remains steady with approximately 500 out patient attendances, 250 admissions and 40 deliveries (including Caesarian Sections) per month. The main morbidities remain malaria, anaemia, respiratory infections, and malnutrition.

During the year the Zone de Santé granted district hospital status to CHA. We hope this will increase collaboration on both standards and funding with the Zone de Santé.

Some small capital grants during the year allowed further upgrades to the electricity supply, and the provision of a laptop, ventouse and pulse oximeters.

The project to revive training and support for 21 "Relais Communautaires" (community health workers) serving a population of approx. 10,500 commenced in February. A progress report in September to the funders, Education Services 2010, allowed release of the second year of funding. Modest benefits have already been demonstrated and efforts to more closely link the work to water and sanitation initiatives is ongoing.

A generous donation for repair of the 4WD ambulance has confirmed the preference for progressing this, given concerns regarding the suitability of the motorcycle ambulance. Plans to utilise the motorcycle component of the latter for supervision work are under discussion in CEEACO.

CEPAP Centre for, Peace, Education and Psychological Support

The Centre for Education Peace and Psychological Assistance has ongoing work. There are two main strands to the peacebuilding work: Youth peace committees and peace clubs for girls in schools. In 2022 these ongoing projects were strengthened through training, regular meetings and recognition of their value from statutory authorities.

There is now a network of 13 youth peace committees based in the high and middle plateaux of South Kivu and in refugee camps. The young people are determined and have a strong commitment to peacebuilding work. They want to learn from each other and from other people doing similar work. They have received training so that instead of being spectators of violence they are useful actors in their communities or villages. They collect information about incidents of violent attacks and sexual violence and kidnapping. In May the young people, organised a dialogue on peace with community leaders and those in authority in order to improve communication and to look at how best to disseminate information and to raise awareness about peace issues.

Gender based violence is a significant problem and there were increased instances of early marriage when schools were closed due to Covid measures. There is now a network of Friends of Girls clubs (Clubs Amis des Filles) in schools. The campaign to prevent sexual violence involves schools, education authorities and parents. A manual has been produced and the ministry of education is committed to this project and the training of more women as teachers. There are now 12 Friends of Girls Clubs in 12 secondary schools with 84 active members. They would like to spread the project to more schools. An evaluation of this work took place in July 2022.

In the autumn there were two events which brought members of these groups together: A Conference on peace, security and development of young people was held on 13th October to mark the International Day of Peace. The theme was: "Youth, Let's Work Together for Peace" The members of youth peace committees and girls' clubs are proud of their work and welcomed the chance to talk about it to local leaders. "We are very actively encouraging such initiatives and pledging support for your social actions," said the Secretary of Tanganyika Sector on behalf of the state authorities.

A three day peacebuilding training event was held in November funded by Radley Trust. There were 14 members of Youth Peace Committees and 12 members of Club Ami des Filles.

Members of the CEPAP team also do counselling especially in the hospital.

Team meetings of CEPAP are held regularly to strengthen motivation and increase skills. To add to their income they are raising a pig and selling the piglets.

The project leader and the team are proud of their achievements and wrote a report stressing their good news. It starts by stating that **"the actions of CEPAP have a positive impact in our communities"**. The activities are designed to respond to the challenges observed in order to bring about qualitative and quantitative changes.

Water

The main technical parameters concerning the extension of the Abeka Water Supply to Mukwezi were agreed with CEEACO and the next step of finalizing the layout and design was started. A physical survey was commissioned to confirm ground conditions and identify physical hazards that need special provision in the design. A smart phone with a suitable GPS app was provided so local

staff could undertake the survey and record the precise location of the main features of the Mukwezi extension. The results of the survey should be available early next year. After the layout and design has been agreed by stakeholders, a revised cost estimate will be prepared and fund raising to finance the construction of the scheme will start in earnest.

To ensure communities benefit fully from a safe water supply, references on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) were sent to CEEACO as e-books after an attempt to send physical books was unsuccessful. In addition, WASH was included in the relais communautaires training funded by the grant from Education Services 2010 awarded in November 2021.

[AWID Action for Women's Integral Development.](#)

Action for Women's Integral Development (AWID) is a small project that operates as part of the Quaker Congo Partnership UK (QCP UK). AWID projects aim to give women the skills and resources to improve their livelihood by providing seed corn grants to women's groups for income generation, as well as small education and training projects for literacy, numeracy and technical skills.

The DRC participants are women coping with extreme disadvantage – many supporting extended families without land or resources available. In 2021, a small grant from the Scott Bader fund provided money for fencing, irrigation and vegetable growing in a previously arid area, on 2 hectares in the plain of Rubarika. This continues into 2023, the women are now growing food during the dry season when the threat of malnutrition is increased, both for their own families and to sell. The women's groups also keep a core herd of 5 goats.

In 2021, the women's groups began training in local soap production, to increase their skills base, improve local hygiene (particularly during Covid) and to obtain a source of income. The project was funded by two craft soap-making firms based in Yorkshire. With further donations in 2022, the women soap makers set up a small soap workshop. Other women are making baskets and dressmaking / sewing, for income generation. In 2020 / 2021, the project equipped two skilled widows as basket makers. The dressmakers are skilled and equally motivated. In 2022, with small donations from QCP UK, they set up a workshop with 3 new treadle machines and spare parts, and are training 5 young women in tailoring.

Basic note taking and maths are important skills for all of the participants, particularly in soap making, where calculations and careful use of materials are essential. QCP UK has supported some literacy and numeracy training as well as basic computer skills in Windows and Word and aims to maintain basic support for this educational work.

Finance report

Our income this year was £52724 (2021: £46277) from a combination of Quaker donations with Gift Aid (£39718 [2021: £27214]), fundraising (£1623 [£2021: £97]) and grants from trusts (£23006 [2021:£18966]). It exceeded expenditure by £3285 for the year [2021 £619]. We carried forward funds which cover our designated reserve of £5,000 and a significant contribution towards the next half yearly payment to CEEACO, due in June. With the diminution of the COVID pandemic and the renewal of Quaker activity our donations income has recovered usefully.

We have maintained our regular giving to CEEACO of approximately £29,000 each year, which is divided between support for the Centre Hospitalier Abeka, peace work (CEPAP), women's development work. We have received additional funding from trusts for

- peace building supported by a £2,000 grant from the Radley Trust
- support to strengthen QCP's regular funding for peace building, women's development work, project management training in the DRC with a £4,000 grant from the Southall Trust
- support to train and extend the reach of Relais Communautaires (local voluntary community health workers) with a grant of £2766 from Education Services 2010

Our finances remain heavily dependent on continuing gifts and grants. The needs of our partners members remain large, our aspirational budgets must be carefully judged and serious fundraising is essential if we are to achieve our commitments and reach some of our aspirations for 2022-2023.

Trustees consider that we continue to be a going concern with suitable reserves for our liabilities and generally appropriate funds for our commitments.

Reserves policy

Trustees have agreed that the principal purpose of our reserves is to allow us to respond to emergencies in the unsettled and deprived area where our work is carried out in partnership with CEEACO. Our designated reserve fund is set at £5,000. We would like to increase our reserve so that it can cover one half yearly payment to CEEACO of about £15,000, but at present that does not appear feasible.

Fund raising

Money is raised through donations from individuals, from Quaker Meetings and through applications to charitable trusts. Trust donations this year include

Education Services 2021: Communautaires	£2766 balance ongoing grant for the work of Relais
Radley Trust	£3,000 grant for a six-day youth training course for peace workers based in Uvira.
Southall Trust	£4,000 towards peacebuilding, women's development projects and training for project leaders in the DRC
World Day of Prayer	£1,000 towards women's projects (AWID work)
The Quaker Work Fund of Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting	£2000 divided between funding for the youth peace conference held in October and general funds

In 2022, we were once again able to conduct fundraising events which included a productive garden party at the home of one of our Co Clerks which yielded £1623. Another Trustee carried out specific fundraising to raise money for the AWID soap and sewing projects yielding £1790.

Our most recent budget continues to include a number of projects which we aspire to support, some of them calling for significant funding. We are working on the coordination of our fundraising.

Risk Management

The projects in DRC are managed by CEEACO, who are conscious of the risks involved in this unstable region. Risks in DRC include: insecurity and violence, climate change, and the risk of epidemic disease including cholera, Ebola and Covid 19. Personal and collective risk assessments were made by trustees prior to visiting in 2020. During our earlier visits we did not have any difficulties and value the careful plans made by our partners.

Trustees hope to formalise the identification and assessment of the risks to the work of our charity and to our partners and the safeguards in place to mitigate those risks.

Communications

The trustees concentrate communications on the Quaker community of Britain Yearly Meeting, working at a range of levels.

Catherine Putz, Co-clerk

Julie Yates, Treasurer

27 June 2023

Accounts for financial year to 31/12/2022

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					
Donations	25,560	9,290	-	34,849	22,915
Grants	2,440	10,566	-	13,006	18,966
Fundraising	1,623	-	-	1,623	97
Gift Aid	3,246	-	-	3,246	4,299
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	32,868	19,856	-	52,724	46,277
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	32,869	29,856	-	62,724	46,277
A3 Payments					
Grant payments to CEEACO	29,212	19,519	-	48,730	45,166
Printing, postage, advertising, travel exps	29	-	-	29	326
Bank charges	171	-	-	171	166
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-
Independent examination	480	-	-	480	-
Meeting costs, rooms, catering	29	-	-	29	-
Sub total	29,920	19,519	-	49,439	45,658
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,920	19,519	-	49,439	45,658

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestrict ed funds to the nearest £	Restrict ed funds to the nearest £	Endowme nt funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	2,948	337	-	3,285	619
A5 Transfers between funds	- 471	471	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,073	9,742	-	12,815	12,196
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	5,550	10,550	-	16,100	12,815

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

Categories	Details	Unrestric ted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	5,550	10,550	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,550	10,550	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestric ted funds	Restricted funds	Endowme nt funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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
	Catherine Putz	Catherine Putz		19/6/23
	Julie Yates	Julie Yates		19/6/23

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 £
Quaker Congo Partnership UK				
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022				
Donations		2022	2022	2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Donations - standing orders		4,480	0	4,480
Donations - local meetings		2,700	0	2,700
Donations - website		1,699	0	1,699
Other donations		16,681	9,290	25,971
		<u>25,560</u>	<u>9,290</u>	<u>34,849</u>

Grants		2022	2022	2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Education Services			2,766	2,766
Radley Trust			2,000	2,000
Southall Trust			4,000	4,000
Water Fund (designated)			800	800
World day of prayer			1,000	1,000
Quaker Work Fund		2,000		2,000
AGLAPT		440		440
		<u>2,440</u>	<u>10,566</u>	<u>13,006</u>

Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Education Services	-	2,766	2,797	31	0
Radley Trust	-	3,000	3,368	368	0
Southall Trust	496	4,000	4,496	0	0
Water fund (designated)	4,246	800	557	0	4,489

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

Categories	Details	Unrestric	Restricted	Endowme
		ted funds	funds	nt funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Soap project	- 440	518	78	0
Sewing project	- 1,350	1,210	-78	61
Ambulance 22	6,500	6,572	72	0
World Day of Prayer	- 1,000	0	0	1,000
	<u>4,742</u>	<u>19,856</u>	<u>19,519</u>	<u>5,550</u>

Fund name

Purpose of restriction

Education Services	To provide enhanced training, communication and support to 21 selected Relais Communautaires in 6 health areas forming the catchment of Abeka Hospital.
Radley Trust	Towards a six-day youth training course for peace workers based in Uvira.
Southall Trust	Towards peacebuilding, women's development projects and training for project leaders in the DRC
Soap project	To provide material, equipment and workshop space for women's training and the making of soap
Sewing and women's income generation project	To provide sewing machines and spares for women to make clothes for their families and to sell to generate income
Ambulance 22	To pay for major repairs to the hospital's 4 wheel drive vehicle.
World Day of Prayer	To contribute to the cost of irrigation, tools and seeds for the Action for Women's Integral Development.

Funds held as agent

Quaker Congo Partnership (QCP) received £10,000 from the North East Thames Quaker Trust into its bank account on 20 December 2022. It held those funds on behalf of North East Thames Quaker Trust as agent and paid the fund to CEEACO on behalf of NE Thames Quaker Trust on 23 January 2023. This amount has not been shown in the accounts of Quaker Congo Partnership as at 31 December 2022.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Quaker Congo Partnership UK

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/2022	Charity no (if any)	1159781
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Set out on pages

9 to 13
(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 31/12/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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: 3/07/2023

Name:

Simon Bostrom

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCIE

Address:

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO
Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street
Leeds LS10 2QW

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159781

Accounts

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Charity number 1159781

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2021

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

H. Margaret Gregory

Andrew H. Gregory

Nigel Watt

Paul Simon (to 5th December 2020)

Nick Tischler

Lynn Norbury

Catherine Putz

Ian Tod

Fred Ashmore, (from 11th October 2021)

Dennis Tracey (from 11th October 2021)

Julie Yates (from 13th December 2021)

Registered Address

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Bankers

Co-operative Bank, 70/72 Cross Street, Manchester, M2 4JG

Website

<http://www.quakercongo.org.uk>

Introduction

Quaker Congo Partnership UK (QCP) is a Quaker charity which works in partnership with CEEACO, Communauté des Eglises Evangeliques des Amis au Congo (the Community of Evangelical Friends¹ Churches in Congo). It was registered as an independent charity in January 2015. QCP has had a partnership relationship with CEEACO for some 15 years.

The very difficult conditions of life and work in South Kivu are well publicised in the media. This is a potentially flourishing and wealthy area where progress has lagged due to a combination of past war, recent armed conflict, the presence of conflict minerals and the historic weakness of government structures. Many Quakers feel led to support the work of QCP.

The area in which we are currently supporting projects is in the town of Uvira and 50km to the south to Abeka in the province of South Kivu.

The projects under this partnership are in four areas:-

- Hospital and health supporting the Centre Hospitalier Abeka
- CEPAP Centre for, Peace, Education and Psychological Support
- AWID Action for Women's Integral Development
- Water

Partnership really does describe our relationship and plans are worked out jointly rather than being dictated by the UK trustees.

During 2021 we have continued to work in groups of three/four trustees and associates who take a particular interest in each area of work.

Charitable purposes, Activities for the public benefit.

The objects of the charity are: To improve the physical and mental health and education and relieve the poverty of people of the Great Lakes Region of Africa and in particular those in the area of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Trustees have developed this broad objective to more specific work as follows.

To promote the furtherance of peace, equality and human rights in that area.

To raise funds and provide grants, mentoring and general assistance to hospitals, schools, formal and informal groups and individuals in order to further such objects, in particular supporting projects run by the " (CEEACO)".

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's Trust Deed was accepted by the Charity Commission at the time of registration in 2015.

There must be not less than 6 nor more than 14 Trustees. Manchester & Warrington and Area Quaker Meeting and Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meetings have the right to appoint trustees. New Trustees can be appointed by the existing trustees at a formal meeting. A trustee can be reappointed on no more than two occasions to give an unbroken term of service as a trustee not

¹ It is common practice for Quakers to refer to themselves as Friends, based on the formal title of the Society as The Religious Society of Friends of the Truth.

exceeding nine years. That person cannot be reappointed as a trustee until three years have elapsed after the last period of service.

Trustee Meetings of QCP are held in the manner of Quakers with decisions agreed by the meeting recorded in contemporaneous minutes. The practice is explained in the Quakers Book of Discipline, Quaker Faith and Practice 5th Edition (Britain Yearly). During the COVID pandemic, trustees have held meetings online using Zoom. There were 5 such meetings in 2021.

Links with CEEACO are through a CEEACO project committee which manages the projects we are supporting. We have made a series of three year agreements whereby we promise to send a certain sum every six months to be used in an agreed way. CEEACO send us quarterly accounts showing how the money has been spent and also narrative accounts from the project leaders describing the work done and the difference it has made. Trustees of the charity make efforts to visit our partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo regularly; during the COVID pandemic there have been no visits but previously one or more trustees would visit every year or two. Trustees maintain regular contact with partners managers and workers through email social media and internet based conversation. There are regular exchanges of reports and records of meetings that affect the shared work. The working language of such exchanges is usually French (the language of the DRC) and QCP provides translated copies of documents.

Achievements and Performance in 2021

Hospital and public health

We continued our support to the hospital for salaries of key staff, as in previous years, in partnership with funding from the Zone de Santé. We also continued our contribution towards drug costs. The activity levels in the hospital were largely unchanged with malaria and diarrhoeal disease particularly prominent.

The motor ambulance which used to provide patient transport is out of service. The motorbike ambulance which is available is less suitable for transport of some patients.

In addition to our recurrent funding, funds were provided for a small upgrade to the electrical system from the Reckitt Trust, for provision of resuscitation equipment, and for the purchase of a ventouse, although the latter is proving difficult to procure.

We supported a bid from the hospital, in collaboration with the Zone de Santé, for funds from Education Service 2010, to increase training and support for relais communautaires (community health workers) and this was successful, with work due to commence in early 2022 and run for 2 years. There will be a particular focus on the prevention of malaria, associated anaemia, and of diarrhoeal disease, the latter linking to an aspiration to extend the clean water supply in the area.

COVID has been an additional burden in the Zone de Santé, although has not seriously impacted on medical services in Abeka to date. The flooding of the main road by rising water levels in Lake Tanganyika has caused difficulties with patient transport and access to supplies, and to services in Burundi.

We have recently reviewed priorities for future support which include anaesthetic training for a staff member, and for further improvements to the electrical supply system.

CEPAP Centre for, Peace, Education and Psychological Support

The Centre for Education Peace and Psychological Assistance has ongoing work and in 2021 initiated additional projects.

There are 14 members of the CEPAP team and Isaac Saidi is the project leader.

Psychological support: The team provided counselling and psychological support to 191 people over the year with several referred to the CHA (Centre Hospital Abeka). Since December 2021 a senior counsellor has been based at the hospital. Most of those seen are women and many have received counselling after incidents of sexual violence.

Youth peace committees: There has been significant development of youth peace committees in 2021. The members have increased from 51 to over 100, and the number of peace committees have grown from 5 to 10 who will form a youth peace network

With funding from Radley Trust six day training took place in May 2021. This was a significant and exciting piece of peacebuilding work. 15 young people participated and in addition 3 others. The motto for the training was 'young people, pillar of peace'. The participants were from both the existing and the new committees. The workshop used both participative and input methods. Over the six days strong relationships between young people from different communities were formed. *'Logically building peace is a long process and requires patience, if it turns out that we run into some thorns along the way then endurance and perseverance will send us back to success.'*

(One suggestion for the future is training women from different village communities where there are youth peace committees because women have the power to discourage the destructive behaviour of their children.)

Follow up training took place in September with the objective to help the young people of the Peace Committees to examine for themselves different strategies to campaign or convey messages of peace applied in various communities and to evaluate and validate the best ones.

The importance of this work was brought into focus by a significant increase in attacks by militia in the high plateau in October. Some money was given by some individual trustees and sent and this was distributed by CEPAP team and members of youth peace committees. They also gave moral support to those who had moved to Lusenda refugee camp. 151 families received assistance

(Testimony of this displaced person: << I am Nkeshimana Andréa, I come from Kabembwe, I thank this help very much because we are going to get what we want. We know it's not much, but it will help to buy soaps, salt, sugar, even children's clothes. Even the shirts. Those who have given little have the ambition to give more. Thank you. >>)

Vocational Training

This work was funded by Education Services 2010 and has now ended. The courses were in IT and tailoring. There were eight participants on each course with 8 women and 8 men. The tailoring course was for 6 months and the IT was for 4 months. A final report was sent to Education services 2010 which is available.

They all learnt new skills and another outcome was that young people from different groups forgot their differences and became friends. They have identified a challenge that it is hard to find employment afterwards and there is a need for equipment so that they can set up their own businesses.

Prevention of sexual violence in schools

Gender based violence is a significant issue and there have been instances of kidnapping and child abduction. There are still instances of early marriage which increased when schools were closed due to measures to prevent COVID.

A meeting of school age children and young people was held in Abeka from August 18th – 19th. This was funded by James Reckitt Trust (£1000 of a total grant of £4500) for work to prevent sexual violence and forced marriage. The first phase resulted in the formation of ten Friends of Girls Clubs in ten schools. This is slogan on the T shirts.



A follow up meeting was held in November to raise awareness and agree actions in relation to campaign to prevent sexual violence which had involved schools, education authorities, parents and others. A manual has been produced and there is commitment from ministry of education to this project and to train more women as teachers.

Other work

In early February Isaac organised education and exchange sessions with five young interns and CEPAP staff on peace, prevention of sexual violence and psychosocial care.

School fees for 31 students were paid in January; seven are in 6th year of humanities

Mechanical workshop: Previous participants on vocational training now run a workshop which repairs and services motorbikes. This is generating income.

Staff training and meetings have taken place, with further exchange visits planned.

The staff also work with children and young people on activities such as football, music and drama. They have many plans for the future for which QCP is seeking funds.

Water

Clean water continues to be supplied to the hospital and village of Abeka so reducing the incidence of water borne diseases including typhoid and cholera. A local management group is collecting subscriptions from those receiving clean water and coordinating repairs.

Our water group reported recently on how the existing Abeka Water Supply is functioning and the scope for extending the water supply to Mukwezi. Engagement and communications with CEEACO and local partners has resolved many of the technical questions and gained local support.

There is not a shortage of water in the Abeka area as nearby rivers are available for many tasks including washing clothes and bathing. The purpose of the proposed extension is to provide households in Mukwezi access to safe water for drinking and food close to their homesteads. At present there is no safe water in Mukwezi, so the proposed extension would provide considerable health benefits. The estimated cost of the Mukwezi extension is about \$50,000.

Trustees have agreed that the Water Group should progress with the project and approved a significant budget to spend on a more comprehensive feasibility study to support our fundraising for the sums involved.

There remain difficulties in relation to the security and the safety of those engaged in the feasibility work, but the benefits from this project will be very significant.

AWID Action for Women's Integral Development.

AWID projects aim to give women the skills and resources to improve their livelihood by providing seed corn grants to women's groups for income generation, as well as small education and training projects for literacy, numeracy and technical skills.

The AWID projects range from soap making to basketry to agriculture.

2021 has seen several new initiatives, and the development of existing projects.

Soap-making.

In 2021, the women's groups requested support for training in local soap production. Their aim was to increase their skills base, improve local hygiene (particularly during Covid) and to obtain a source of income.

22 vulnerable women were trained in May over 5 days to make soap. 'The participants were active, courageous, curious and very encouraged by the initiative.'

The project was funded thanks to two craft soap-making firms based in Yorkshire, who both made a small donation; Cosy Cottage Soap Company and Friendly Soap. The women are now aiming to pass on their skills to further groups of women in surrounding villages. As well as using the soap at home, they successfully sold it at market, and kept some to donate to elderly and disabled neighbours. The women soap makers are dynamic and enthusiastic, and now need support to buy equipment and materials, to extend the project.

Basketry and dress-making

Other women are making baskets and dressmaking / sewing, for income generation. The project has equipped two skilled widows as basket makers. They became workshop leaders and together with the learners, they made 52 baskets and sent them to the villages around Uvira for sale.

The dressmakers are skilled and equally motivated, but they are severely hampered by their two very dilapidated sewing machines. They need two treadle machines and spare parts, which can be obtained locally in the DRC, and QCP UK is seeking funds to help them purchase this essential equipment.

Agriculture

Groups of women began by growing vegetables and corn on two small fields in Kikongo and Abeka and by breeding goats. The women involved were keen to do more and this has been possible through a grant from the Scott Bader Commonwealth Foundation. This money has supported local food production by improved fencing of land, increased irrigation, planting of greens and beans crops and support to goat keeping. Better nutrition is desperately needed to face spread of Covid on top of existing poor health outcomes, particularly anaemia. Outcomes will include improved infant health, improved living standards, and children attending school through payment of school fees.

The group has been able to grow food during the dry season when the threat of malnutrition is increased, both for their own families and to sell, which they successfully achieved. The women's groups also provided goats to 3 families, whilst a core herd of 5 goats, kept at Katongo / Kigongo, will enable them to provide goats to further families next year.

Literacy and numeracy training

Basic note taking and maths are important skills for all of the participants, particularly in soap making, where calculations and careful use of materials are essential. QCP UK has supported some literacy and numeracy training as well as basic computer skills in Windows and Word funded through Education Services 2010. Unfortunately the funding for this work ended in May 2021, and these classes are currently suspended.

Communication and project management

The funding for AWID in the regular payments to CEEACO is quite small and provides a small stipend to Mado Issa the AWID project leader. She is supported by Yutu Welongo. AWID now has use of a small office in Uvira.

They maintain close contact with QCP UK partners through regular Whatsapp messages and videos. A video with English transcription voiceover has been made about the soap making training.

Extract from one quarterly report:

Impacts:

- Massive, active, curious participation and adherence of new participants to the various above-mentioned programmes
- Patience, perseverance and endurance of members to achieve the goals.

Challenges:

- Lack of resources: Equipment and materials needed by the various target groups
- Lack of training to enable new approaches and new understanding.

Finance report

Our income this year was £46277 (2020: £58,635) from a combination of Quaker donations with Gift Aid (£27,311 [2020: £42,235]) and grants from trusts (£18,966 [2020:£15,400]). It exceeded expenditure by £619 for the year. We carried forward funds which cover our designated reserve of £5,000 and a significant contribution towards the next half yearly payment to CEEACO, due in June. We hope that with the diminution of the COVID pandemic and the renewal of Quaker activity our donations income will rebound.

We have maintained our regular giving to CEEACO of approximately £29,000 each year, which is divided between support for the Centre Hospitalier Abeka, peace work (CEPAP), women's development work. We have received additional funding from trusts for

- peace building supported by a £3,000 grant from the Radley Trust
- improved electricity supply at the hospital, prevention of sexual violence work, contribution to routine support from a £4,500 grant from the James Reckitt Trust
- support to women for agriculture including fencing, rent of fields, improved irrigation with a £2,400 grant from the Scott Bader Trust
- support to strengthen QCP's regular funding for peace building, women's development work, project management training in the DRC with a £4,000 grant from the Southall Trust
- support to train and extend the reach of Relais Communautaires (local voluntary community health workers) with a grant from Education Services 2010

Our finances remain heavily dependent on continuing gifts and grants. The needs of our partners members remain large, our aspirational budgets must be carefully judged and serious fundraising is essential if we are to achieve our commitments and reach some of our aspirations for 2022-233.

Reserves policy

Trustees have agreed that the principal purpose of our reserves is to allow us to respond to emergencies in the unsettled and deprived area where our work is carried out in partnership with CEEACO. Our designated reserve fund is set at £5,000. We would like to increase our reserve so that it can cover one half yearly payment to CEEACO of about £15,000, but at present that does not appear feasible.

Fund raising

Money is raised through donations from individuals, from Quaker Meetings and through applications to charitable trusts. Trust donations this year include [narrative on trust donations in 2021 to be updated for final report]. In 2021 Covid 19 restrictions again meant that it was not possible to organize fund raising events.

Our most recent budget has identified a number of projects which we aspire to support, some of them calling for significant funding. We are working on the coordination of our fundraising.

Risk Management

The projects in DRC are managed by CEEACO, who are conscious of the risks involved in this unstable region. Risks in DRC include: insecurity and violence, climate change, and the risk of epidemic

disease including cholera Ebola and Covid 19. Personal and collective risk assessments were made by trustees prior to visiting. We did not have any difficulties and value the careful plans made by our partners.

Trustees hope to formalise the identification and assessment of the risks to the work of our charity and to our partners and the safeguards in place to mitigate those risks.

Communications

The trustees concentrate communications on the Quaker community of Britain Yearly Meeting, working at a range of levels.

Catherine Putz, Co-clerk

Julie Yates, Treasurer

27th June 2022

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Quaker Congo Partnership UK

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 11 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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

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.

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

Signed: 

Name: Simon Bostrom FCIE

1/8/22

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Accounts for financial year to 31/12/2021

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Quaker Congo Partnership UK	No (if any) 1159781
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2021	To	Period end date 31/12/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£		£
A1 Receipts					
Donations	22,915	-	-	22,915	36,008
Grants	2,300	16,666	-	18,966	15,399
Fundraising	97	-	-	97	-
Gift Aid	4,299	-	-	4,299	6,227
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	29,611	16,666	-	46,277	57,634
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	29,611	16,666	-	46,277	57,634
A3 Payments					
Grant payments to CEEACO	28,831	16,335	-	45,166	49,036
Printing, postage, advertising, travel expenses	326	-	-	326	928
Bank charges	166	-	-	166	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	363
Trustee visit to DRC	-	-	-	-	4,943

	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	29,323	16,335	-	45,658	55,270
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,323	16,335	-	45,658	55,270
Net of receipts/(payments)	288	331	-	619	2,364
A5 Transfers between funds	165	165	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,196	-	-	12,196	9,832
Cash funds this year end	12,319	496	-	12,815	12,196

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

Categories	Details	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restric ted funds £	Endowme nt funds £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	12,319	496	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,319	496	-
		Unrestrict ed funds £	Restric ted funds £	Endowme nt funds £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-

B3 Investment assets

		-	-
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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

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December
2021

Donations	2021	2021	2021
	Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Total
	£	£	£
Donations- standing orders	3,858	-	3,858
Donations- local meetings	1,548	-	1,548
Donations - website - GAYL	1,399	-	1,399
Other donation	16,110	-	16,110
	<u>22,915</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,915</u>

Grants	2021	2021	2021
	Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Total
James Reckitt Charity	-	4,500	4,500
Education Trust	-	2,766	2,766
Radley Trust	-	3,000	3,000
Southall Trust	-	4,000	4,000
Scott Bader Commonwealth	-	2,400	2,400
Taylor Trust Fund	1,000	-	1,000
Bunney Reckitt Trust	500	-	500
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>16,666</u>	<u>18,166</u>

Restricted Funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
James Reckitt Charity		4,500	4,503	3	-
Education Trust		2,766	2,829	63	-
Radley Trust		3,000	3,096	96	-
Southall Trust		4,000	3,504	-	496
Scott Bader Commonwealth		2,400	2,403	3	-
		<u>16,666</u>	<u>16,335</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>496</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
James Reckitt Charity	Towards the running costs of the peace building, counselling, training and support to children and young people within the Centre for Education Peace and Psychological support (CEPAP).
Education Trust	To provide enhanced training, communication and support to 21 selected Relais Communautaire's in 6 health areas forming the catchment of Abeka Hospital
Radley Trust	Towards a six-day youth training course for peace workers based in Uvira.
Southall Trust	Towards peacebuilding women's development projects and training for project leaders in the DRC.
Scott Bader Commonwealth	To enable a group of very disadvantaged women in rural villages of the DRC to diversify crops grown.

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159781

Accounts

Quaker Congo Partnership UK, Charity number 1159781 Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2020

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

H. Margaret Gregory, Catherine Putz: co-clerks

Andrew H. Gregory: treasurer

Trustees: Nigel Watt, Paul Simon, Nick Tischler, Alick Munro (to May 2020), Lynn Norbury, Ian Todd (from June 2020)

Registered Address: Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Bankers: Co-operative Bank, 70/72 Cross Street, Manchester, M2 4JG

Number of meetings: Trustees met five times using Zoom during 2020 and maintain contact between meetings using phone and email.

Website <http://www.quakercongo.org.uk>

Throughout this report CEEACO is used for the Community of Evangelical Friends Churches in Congo, QCP for Quaker Congo Partnership UK and DRC for Democratic Republic Congo.

Structure, Governance and Management

Quaker Congo Partnership UK was registered as an independent charity in January 2015, having previously been supervised by Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meeting. Manchester & Warrington and Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meetings have the right to appoint trustees. Additional trustees are identified through advertisements, through personal contacts and Quaker links. They should be Quakers or people in sympathy with Quakerism and supportive of the work we are doing. Potential trustees often start as associates providing them and existing trustees with an opportunity to get to know each other better. Existing trustees appoint the new ones.

Trustees are asked to complete a fit and proper person declaration, to provide a referee and to declare any possible conflicts of interest. Trustees do not receive any remuneration apart from the refund of expenses. Links with CEEACO are through a project committee which manages the projects we are supporting. We have made a series of three-year agreements whereby we promise to send a certain sum every six months to be used in an agreed way. CEEACO send us quarterly accounts showing how the money has been spent and also narrative accounts from the project leaders describing the work done and the difference it has made. In addition, a group of trustees visits every two – three years.

Visit

Three QCP trustees visited CEEACO and the projects for nine days in February 2020. We were warmly welcomed; it was good to meet old friends and make new ones and to talk, pray, travel, sing and dance together. The visit was in line with our vision, which is to provide moral support to CEEACO by standing alongside them for the long term, and to provide funding and technical advice where possible in their work to improve health, build peace and tackle poverty.

We had useful discussions in relation to all the projects which helped with planning and monitoring. We met with project leaders, staff, volunteers, beneficiaries and government officials. For example, together with CEEACO and the head of the health authority in South Kivu we discussed ways for the Community Hospital Abeka to become a recognised hospital. This will be a big challenge, requiring new buildings and improved equipment. We also met with the regional Minister of Health and talked about ways CEEACO and QCP could work with the authorities towards this aim.

Paul Simon carried out a survey to establish the feasibility of extending piped water to two villages neighbouring Abeka. We looked at ways of strengthening existing peace building and the prevention of sexual violence programmes. Suggestions for the future included the establishment of local peace centres and youth peace committees together with a vocational training centre for young people.

Catherine and Alick also met with Action for Women's Integral Development who are working to improve the position of women through training in literacy and numeracy as well as developing economic activities including basketry, horticulture and keeping goats and poultry. This is a new name for this part of the work which better reflects the variety of work than 'Microcredit' did.

Paul provided technical support to key CEEACO staff members through training sessions on finance, due diligence, job descriptions and contracts.

Meeting with our partners face to face gave us information, photographs, and helped to strengthen relationships. The visit was like a pilgrimage and renewed our determination to continue our work alongside CEEACO over the long term. For the full report see <http://www.quakercongo.org.uk/Reports>

Charitable purposes, Activities for the public benefit.

“To improve the physical and mental health and education and relieve the poverty of people of the Great Lakes Region of Africa and in particular those in the area of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. To promote the furtherance of peace, equality and human rights in that area. To raise funds and provide grants, mentoring and general assistance to hospitals, schools, formal and informal groups and individuals in order to further such objects, in particular supporting projects run by the ‘Communaute des Eglises Evangeliques des Amis au Congo’ (CEEACO)” Partnership really does describe our relationship and plans are worked out jointly rather than being dictated by the UK trustees. The area in which we are currently supporting projects is in the town of Uvira and 50km to the south to Abeka in the province of South Kivu.

During 2020 we have strengthened our organisation in the UK by establishing groups of three/four trustees and associates who take a particular interest in each area of work.

Achievements and Performance in 2020

Hospital and public health.

The project, and associated projects funded by the charity were visited by three Trustees, one a medical doctor, during February 2020. Helpful discussions were held with staff at the hospital with the aim of identifying priorities for future assistance. These included anticipating possible needs consequent on Covid, which, although increasing in neighbouring areas has not yet directly impacted on the locality. Useful discussions with local and regional government health officials regarding future support for the hospital took place, and are continuing. These indicate that the hospital has been chosen as the site for a Unified Nutritional Support Service, subject to finding a funding partner. We were also informed later in the year, that a forthcoming World Bank Programme supporting the Zone de Santé is expected to include improvements at the hospital.

Support to the hospital for salaries of key staff, in partnership with funding from the Zone de Santé, was continued as in previous years. The activity levels in the hospital were largely unchanged.

We also provided funding for a number of items of equipment during the year including solar panels and a refrigerator, a motorcycle ambulance, replacement mattresses, a ventouse, a contribution towards drugs, and an allowance towards materials for managing Covid. Flooding from Lake Tangyanika, which has now subsided, affected one of the health centres, and support was provided to help mitigate some of the damage.

Some of our funding was possible following grants to us from Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW). Technical equipment has to be purchased in Burundi, and the recent closure of the border with DRC due to Covid, is making this difficult.

CEPAP, Centre for, Peace, Education and Psychological Support, has been working with young people on the plateau and there are now peace committees in five villages. There has been training for the young people including the importance of evaluating their work. CEPAP is also working with Burundian refugees in the Lusenda camp and 'Listening rooms' have been established in Lusenda, Makabola and Abembwe, The mobility provided by the motorbike purchased with a grant from The Southall Trust has greatly helped this work. The longer established areas of work have continued. Some school fees for vulnerable secondary age children are being paid, along with pastoral support for the young people. There is craft training for school leavers and trauma counseling, particularly for those who have suffered violence. Covid-19 precautions led to the closure of schools and CEPAP counselors supported a

number of older girls who were in danger of being forced into early marriage against their wishes. Sanitising equipment bought in preparation for a Covid-19 outbreak was of great value in May when there was severe flooding along the lakeside destroying and damaging many homes and closing the road. CEEACO together with other churches and community groups provided most of the relief work.

Water, Clean water continues to be supplied to the hospital and village of Abeka, so reducing the incidence of water-borne diseases including typhoid and cholera. A local management group is collecting subscriptions from those receiving clean water and coordinating repairs. Planning is being undertaken to extend the supply to neighbouring villages.

AWID Action for Women's Integral Development. This has developed from the microcredit project. Land has been rented to grow crops some of which are sold with the money being returned to the cooperative, the rest of the crop improving the range of food available to the women's families. Animal husbandry especially goats and chickens, is developing. Basket making provides products for sale. Literacy and numeracy classes increase the women's confidence, ability to manage the developing enterprises and to take greater community responsibilities. There are plans for dressmaking and soap production.

Fund raising

Money is raised through donations from individuals, from Quaker Meetings and through applications to charitable trusts. Trust donations this year include Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Education Services Trust, Manchester and Warrington Area Quaker Meeting, Just Trust and the CB & HH Taylor Trust. In 2020 Covid-19 restrictions meant that it was not possible to organize fund raising events. Following exceptionally heavy rains the rivers in and near Uvira flooded and the level of Lake Tanganyika rose. Over 240 people died, 7,800 houses were completely destroyed and 22,250 seriously damaged. The tank supplying much of Uvira with drinking water was damaged and many roads became impassable. A special appeal raised over £2,500.

Risk Management

The projects in DRC are managed by CEEACO, who are conscious of the risks involved in this unstable region. Risks in DRC include: insecurity and violence, climate change, and the risk of epidemic disease including cholera Ebola and Covid-19. Careful risk assessments were made by trustees prior to visiting. We did not have any difficulties and value the careful plans made by our partners. Most money transfers are made directly to the CEEACO bank account with a money transfer service being used for smaller sums. No money has been lost during transfer.

The trustees are conscious of the need to manage funds so that they are able to maintain the basic committed support of £15,000 every half year and try to maintain a reserve fund of at least £5,000

Data protection: A record is kept of donors who have asked to receive the Newsletter.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is recognized as important by our partners who work actively to educate both young and older people. We are working with them to produce a shared policy. A policy on diversity is also being prepared.

Reporting

The trustees report to individual donors, Quaker Meetings and donating trusts through a newsletter published 2 - 3 times a year, and meet with groups when this is possible. We have taken part in the work of the Quaker Africa Interest Group, and been in regular contact with Quaker Peace and Social Witness and the London office of Friends World Committee for Consultation. QCP UK is a Quaker recognized body and usually takes part in Britain Yearly Meeting. Articles and news items have been published in The Friend, the Quaker weekly journal.

There have not been any serious incidents which needed to be reported to the Charity Commission.

H. Margaret Gregory, clerk

Quaker Congo Partnership UK
Annual Accounts 2020

	2020	2019
<u>Receipts</u>	£	£
General Donations	36,008	34,302
Water Project	2,646	0
Flood Relief Appeal	2,354	0
Fund-raising	0	1,868
Grants - General	4,000	12,500
Water Project (Just Trust)	800	
- Peace work		1,800
- Hospital Equipment (QPSW)	4,600	5,000
- Training (Education Services, 2010)	2,000	2,000
Gift Aid	6,227	2,490
Total Income	58,635	59,960
<u>Payments</u>		
Flood Relief	2,537	0
CEEACO - Projects	32,108	27,910
- Peace work (CEPAP)	4,270	2,641
- Hospital Equipment	4,701	5,235
- Training	1,997	1,990
- E-Ambulance	3,423	7,549
- Motobike (CEPAP)	0	1,745
2020 Visit	4,943	791
Other expenses	0	347
Consultants	363	266
Printing & Newsletter	152	252
Advertising	497	255
Meetings	0	67
Travel expenses	279	356
Total expenses	55,270	49,404
Excess of Income over Expenditure:	3,365	10,556
Balance at 1 January	9,833	1,276
Balance at 31 December	13,196	9,833
Balance Sheet at 1 December		
Cash in Bank	13,196	9,833
Including: - Reserve fund	5,000	5,000
- Water Fund	3,446	0

Quaker Congo Partnership UK
Annual Accounts 2020

	2020	2019
<u>Receipts</u>	£	£
General Donations	36,008	34,302
Water Project	2,646	0
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- Training (Education Services, 2010)	2,000	2,000
Gift Aid	<u>6,227</u>	<u>2,490</u>
Total Income	57,635	59,960
<u>Payments</u>		
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Cash in Bank	12,196	9,833
Including: - Reserve fund	5,000	5,000
- Water Fund	3,446	0

I have examined the paperwork that supports these figures for the income and expenditure of Quaker Congo Partnership UK, and am satisfied that they are a correct record of the income and expenditure on each line of the spreadsheet.

David McHugh 7 May 2021
33 Porsonage Rd, Manchester M20 4PS