

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>

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 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

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 " (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). Trustees meet on line 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 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. The latest three year agreement was signed in October 2022. 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. In 2022, one Trustee met several members of CEEACO in Burundi which is relatively accessible from the DRC. 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 2022

The brief descriptions of recent work and activities with CEEACO is expanded in the Newsletter on our website (<https://quakercongo.org.uk>). Trustees and volunteers will most happily 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 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: £2766 balance ongoing grant for the work of Relais Communautaires

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

	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 £
Net of receipts/(payments)	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
Cash funds this year end	5,550	10,550	-	16,100	12,815

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	5,550	10,550	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,550	10,550	-
	(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	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	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	Unrestric ted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt funds to nearest £	
Quaker Congo Partnership UK					
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022					
Donations		2022	2022	2022	
		Unrestric ed funds	Restrict ed 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	
		Unrestric ed funds	Restrict ed 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 £	Incomin g £	Outgoing £	Transfe rs £	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 ted funds	Restricted funds	Endowme 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>19,519</u>	<u>471</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

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