

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 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 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 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 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. 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 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

	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	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

	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 £
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	Unrestric ted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt 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
		Unrestric ted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowme nt 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		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
	52,143	7,335	59,478

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
	0	15,660	15,660

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

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	Restricted funds	Endowme nt funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	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

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.