



Trustees' Report

For the year ended 5th April 2025

Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees' report

The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of Farmers Overseas Action Group ('FOAG') registered charity number 1164747 for the year ending 5th April 2025.

This trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with the statement of recommended practice (SORP) for small charities as issued by the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 11 and comply with FOAG's constitution and applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

Administrative office

The Old Rectory, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, WR6 6SH

Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and up to the date of this report are: Christiana Bentley, Michael Bentley, Nabil Jamous, Janet McConville, Jane Sturdy, Christopher Sturdy, William Surman, Alex Letts and Cecilia Dean. The Trustees are also the Committee and, as such, are appointed by full members at the Annual General Meeting.

Independent examiner

Alan Hess, Arran House, Western Road, Hagley, West Midlands, DY9 0HZ.

Charity's bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.

National Westminster Bank Plc, Worcester Cross Branch, 1 The Cross, Worcester, WR1 3PR.

Objects of the charity

The charity is established to relieve poverty, distress and suffering in developing countries by providing practical help, education and support to farmers and rural communities. Since it was established in 1981 it has concentrated its efforts in Uganda.

Governing document

The charity has a constitution.

Our projects include:

1. Support for three Cheshire rehabilitation centres at Butiru, Budaka and Pamba (Soroti). They support children and young adults with disabilities such as club foot and the aftermath of polio and malaria in older children and arrange for corrective operations, rehabilitation, aftercare and integration within their families and communities. We have also helped these centres to grow more food, through conservation agriculture.
2. Pearls of Africa Special Needs Centres (PASNEC) at Kanyanya and Seguku in Kampala; these centres support children with learning difficulties.
3. The independent hospital at Kumi, originally a leprosy hospital, but now a general hospital, where FOAG assisted with the provision of maintenance and capital equipment.
4. CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital Services for people with Disability in Uganda (CoRSU). It is a specialised surgical hospital in the Buganda Region of Uganda specifically for people with disabilities.
5. The boarding unit of Kamurasi Primary School at Masindi that is for disabled children. The scope of the school is to integrate disabled children into mainstream education. FOAG originally provided funds to

build a residential home for the blind children that attend the school and now provides general support.

6. The Chekwii Initiative for Rural and Integrated Development (CIRIDE), in the Karamoja region of Eastern Uganda where FOAG finances the storage of crops between harvests – the Waste Less Food project – and provides training and support in post-harvest handling. Storage is provided through on-farm silos and in a community storage facility.
7. Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network (EADEN). FOAG has partnered with EADEN as the implementation partner for a Waste Less Food and Grow More Food initiative.
8. The sponsorship of individual students undertaking secondary and tertiary education.
9. YOFRA – Young Franciscan centre supports and educates young mothers and their children who were teenage rape victims of the Lord's Resistance Army. Support was given for food, medical operations, and infrastructure improvements. Additional support was given to help farmers join the Grow More Food project with access to improved seed.
10. Grow More Food – This project supports, trains, and supervises four rehabilitation centres – and surrounding farming families – to sustainably grow their own food through conservation techniques and to become self-sufficient and less reliant on donations to feed the centres.
11. Dr Ambroseli Medical Centre is an associate project not funded by FOAG. It is vetted to ensure that its practice falls within the objects of FOAG, but it is not monitored by an annual visit in the same way as FOAG projects although it has been visited on several occasions.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have ample evidence that FOAG's activities directly benefit considerable numbers of people whose lives are bettered in various ways; receiving education and vocational training and material assistance; improved medical care and rehabilitation; improved means to feed themselves and an ability to earn a living from farming.

FOAG has a moderate Associate Membership base comprising individuals, families, and corporate groups such as churches, schools and Rotary clubs. Individuals and families contribute a minimum subscription of £20 per annum and in return receive an annual newsletter and project updates.

FOAG employs a paid part-time administrator. All other Trustees, Officers and Committee members work without remuneration. The costs of monitoring the projects in Uganda are usually borne by those Committee members who make the visit.

Safeguarding

Given the nature of the work that FOAG undertakes its trustees consider safeguarding a vitally important issue. They keep the subject under review and work with their partner organisations to improve the transparency of their policies. FOAG has a written safeguarding policy that has been approved by the Trustees.

FOAG's role in Uganda is to provide support for agricultural, health care and educational needs in the rural areas of eastern and northern Uganda. It does this with financial support for existing local organisations having first vetted the potential partner and, in most cases, having had a long productive relationship with them. The initial vetting and on-going monitoring of our partner organisations is carried out by trustees. These trustees aim to visit each project regularly to ensure they are well run and that the funds provided by FOAG have been used wisely and for the agreed purpose. The monitoring includes assessing the arrangements for safeguarding the vulnerable and their reintegration with their families and communities. FOAG's partner organisations are run by professional staff; nuns, teachers, doctors, and nurses, but are situated in very rural areas where, until quite recently, written safeguarding policies were not common. These are now routinely requested as part of our monitoring process. FOAG's contribution to the budgets of the

organisations we support is relatively modest but the outcomes for the individuals involved is huge.

Our UK administrator has no personal contact with the vulnerable people we support, and our Ugandan coordinator has no unsupervised contact with them.

Achievements and performance

As well as supporting rural schools, hospitals and centres for life-changing medical operations, rehabilitations, and education, FOAG continues to develop its focus on farming and expanding the Waste Less and Grow More Food initiatives for more sustainable farming and improved livelihoods.

Project Monitoring

While not always possible, FOAG trustees aspire to conduct annual Project Monitoring Visits. This year's PMV took place in October and November, led by Trustee Alex Letts. Personal circumstances meant trustees were not able to physically visit in the financial year 2023/2024. The last in-depth project monitoring visit before that was February to March 2023. FOAG also relies on its part time in-country manager – Patrick Walusansa – to provide regular reports, and visits, alongside regular reports from FOAG's implementing partners in Uganda. Modern communication makes reports fast and engaging with videos, WhatsApp messages, emails and phone coverage enabling constant communication.

The Committee meets about six times a year and considers the various affairs of the charity and decides on the allocation of funds to the projects. Throughout the year delegated Committee members keep in close touch with the people in Uganda running individual projects and report at Committee meetings.

1. Waste Less Food projects

One third of all food harvested in Uganda is lost before it gets to the people it is meant to feed. Most of this is due to poor post-harvest handling and lack of adequate storage. This level of inefficiency has huge economic, social, and environmental impacts.

FOAG partners with two Ugandan NGOs CIRIDE and EADEN to run the Waste Less Food project to work with local communities by training farmers in the post-harvest handling of their crops to reduce food waste on their farms, to provide improved grain storage such as air-tight grain bags and metal silos, also to maintain bulking stores to ensure food security within the local areas.

CIRIDE (Chekwii Initiative for Rural and Integrated Development) in Namalu, a region in Karamoja, has the worst socio-economic indicators in Uganda with around three quarters of people living below the poverty line. The project works with 300 farmers, and maintain a 40-ton store.

Since providing the initial funding to set it up in 2016, the project has become self-sufficient, producing surplus funds that are used to support to train and benefit farmers and the local community.

In 2018 we expanded the project to EADEN (Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network) to build two Waste Less Food projects with 400 farmers each and a 40-ton community store in the sub counties of Budhaya and Nawaningi.

Both Waste Less Food projects are ongoing, recycling the initial start-up funds. £7,698,49 was paid into the project during the financial year 2024-2025.

2. Grow More Food projects

Agriculture contributes around a quarter of Uganda's GDP and it is the country's main economic driver; however, farmers face great challenges. The rising rural population has increased pressure on land availability. The traditional crop rotation under which land could be rested between crops is no longer possible. With a reduced acreage farmers must now cultivate the same ground year after year. In addition, climate change has caused more extreme weather, such as crippling droughts and torrential rains.

Subsistence farmers struggle to grow enough food for the family, let alone a surplus. Conservation agriculture is part of the solution, as it allows farmers to manage their land sustainably

In 2020 FOAG teamed up with a local Ugandan NGO called EADEN in Eastern Uganda to commence a four-year project to promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, sometimes called regenerative or conservation agriculture (CA). The project includes four demonstration plots where farmers are trialling and demonstrating CA techniques. As the demonstration farms become established, They hope to expand CA onto neighbouring holdings.

No new money was paid into the project during the financial year 2024-2025.

3. Rehabilitation Centres

FOAG continues to support the rehabilitation centres at Budaka, Butiru, Pamba, and Lira. We provided funds for building maintenance, medical operations, patient transport, farm training and food purchasing.

In the financial year, a total of £5,507.23 was granted to cover the cost of general maintenance at the centres, support with food buying and support to grow more food.

The Sisters in charge at the centres prepare the children for their operation and refer them to local hospitals for treatment (usually Kumi or CoRSU), before continuing their education and rehabilitation back at the centre to help the children to live a full life. Many of the children that are brought to the centres by their families or by outreach programs have disabilities in varying degrees, and are unable to support themselves. FOAG has for many years funded some of the necessary operations. Around 75/80 medical procedures were carried out in the past year at a cost of £13,718.54. This figure includes transport, pre-and post-operation assessments, feeding the children before and after operations, physio and for prostheses such as prosthetic legs for child amputees.

The centres struggle with feeding the children daily and in the year in question FOAG made a number of grants for food. As result FOAG started a new initiative in 2019 to make the centres self-sufficient in food production and without the need to be reliant on donations. FOAG has appointed a specialist in Conservation Agriculture (CA) to establish sustainable farms and train the centres in such practices. FOAG granted £389 in the financial year.

4. Pearls of Africa Special Needs Centres (PASNEC)

Pearls of Africa Special Needs Centres (PASNEC) Foundation operates from two sites – Kanyanya and Seguku – near the capital city Kampala. The centres help children, from age two upwards with a mental or physical disability, to develop skills for a fulfilled life. These include basic life skills like washing, bathing, and laundry as well as education in basic numeracy and literacy and vocational skills such as woodwork, brickwork, cooking and crafts. Total funds provided to support the centres is £7,215.05 this financial year.

5. Kiwoko Hospital

FOAG's involvement with Kiwoko Hospital has been to assist with nurse and midwife training. In 2017 the Project Monitoring Team advised the Deputy Medical Superintendent that it could not continue with its regular payment of £4,000 per annum but would consider "one off" applications from the Hospital and all current funds will form as a student loan scheme so that the money can revolve and reach more students.

No new funds were given in the current financial year.

6. Kumi Hospital

It is vital that the hospital has a reliable standby source of electricity. FOAG continues to maintain and provide diesel for the electricity generator that Rotary donated in 2006.

No new funds were paid into the project during the financial year 2024-2025.

7. School partners

FOAG has partnered with Kamurasi and St Joseph's school to support through food provision, teacher salaries and general school maintenance.

Kamurasi is situated in Masindi and the headteacher for the last seven years has been Lillian Byakagaba. During that time pupil numbers have more than doubled to 1106 of which 181 are special needs children, for example with sight or speech impairment, Downs Syndrome and autism. 60 children are boarders. FOAG's involvement with the school began when a group of supporters had a sponsored Channel swim and raised over £25,000 which enabled the accommodation unit to be built. There are 25 full time teachers as well as a myriad of different support staff for both able bodied and special needs children. FOAG provided £2,000.00 in the financial year to assist with the provision of food for the boarders.

St Joseph's school is expertly run by headmaster Simon Peter Omollo, but it struggles for funds to pay teacher salaries, provide food and maintain general upkeep of the school grounds. In the financial year FOAG provided £1,413.34 to assist the school upkeep and building maintenance.

8. Sponsoring Children's Education

Only 1 in 4 children who start primary school in Uganda makes it to secondary school, with family issues and school fees keeping many teens, especially girls, from pursuing their education. Only 35 per cent of those that make it through secondary school end up in higher education – with many put off by the financial burden. FOAG and its supporters have been sponsoring young people through education since 2008.

Thanks to our supporters, there are currently 14 students being sponsored through secondary schools, colleges, and universities. The cost of sponsorship for the financial year amounted to £14,355.49.

We keep in regular contact with the students, their carers and their sponsors in UK.

The Future

FOAG continues to look to a positive future where it can partner with well-established Ugandan NGOs to help farming families to grow more and waste less food, enabling a permanent transition out of poverty through income generation. This way Ugandans can pay for the healthcare and education they need.

Alongside this enterprise focus, FOAG maintains legacy projects to support those who remain stuck in poverty with support for schools, children's scholarships, operations and rehabilitation.

Financial review

The proportion of donors' contributions that a charity spends on communicating with donors, reporting, management and publicity is always a difficult decision for trustees. Over the years, the FOAG Treasurer and trustees have sought to keep this figure in the region of 7%, significantly lower than most national charities. In the current financial year, our administration cost amounted to 4.93% of total outgoings.

Reserves

The Committee aim to maintain between £5,000 and £10,000 uncommitted general funds to be able to continue to support those projects requiring a regular flow of funds and to be able to respond to unforeseen emergency requests. The closing unrestricted balance this year was £100,844.20. This figure recognises the need to be cautious in the current economic climate, the reduced donations in the year under review and developments that will take place in the year ending 5th April 2025.

Thanks

The Trustees recognise and thank the Members for their generous donations and responses to Appeals. Without their generosity it would be impossible to continue FOAG's important work in Uganda.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a horizontal line.

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William Surman Chairman

Date: 2 February 2026

FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP

REPORT of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 5th April 2025

I have examined the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 5th April 2025 and Balance Sheet as at 5th April 2025 together with the books and vouchers produced and also information and explanations given by the Honorary Treasurer.

In my opinion the Balanced Sheet together with the Financial Statement give respectively a true and fair view of the Charity's affairs as at 5th April 2025 and its surplus/(deficit) for the year ended on that date and confirm they agree with the books and records and information given by the Honorary Treasurer.



Alan Hess F.C.A.
Arran House
Western Road
Hagley
DY9 0HZ

Dated: 22nd January 2026

FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP

Statement of financial activities - year ended- 5th April 2025

	Note	General fund		Restricted fund		Total all funds	
		2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources							
Donations and gift aid tax recoverable	4	92,228	17,530	58,825	50,875	151,053	68,405
Subscriptions		2,456	3,152			2,456	3,152
Fund raising events - income	5	3,937	2,632			3,937	2,632
Bank interest		2,262	1,450			2,262	1,450
Total incoming resources		100,883	24,764	58,825	50,875	159,708	75,639
Resources expended							
Charitable activities - Project grants	4	15,155	22,498	71,310	66,503	86,465	89,001
Fund raising - costs	5	2,310	2,011			2,310	2,011
Management and administration	2	4,378	4,573			4,378	4,573
Total resources expended		21,843	29,082	71,310	66,503	93,153	95,585
Income (expenditure) before transfers		79,040	(4,318)	(12,485)	(15,628)	66,555	(19,946)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		79,040	(4,318)	(12,485)	(15,628)	66,555	(19,946)
Total funds brought forward		21,804	26,122	61,619	77,247	83,423	103,369
Total funds carried forward		£100,844	£21,804	£49,134	£61,619	£149,978	£83,423

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year and derive from continuing activities.

FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP

Balance sheet - 5th April 2025

	General Fund		Restricted Fund		Total All Funds	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Current assets:						
Gift aid tax recoverable	3,252	2,185	1,511	2,575	4,583	4,760
Debtors and prepayments	500	236	946	0	746	236
Bank and cash balances	97,536	19,707	47,257	39,044	144,833	79,745
	101,008	22,122	49,154	61,619	150,142	83,741
Creditors: amounts due within one year						
Accruals	1,001	(318)	0	0	1,001	(318)
	100,044	21,804	49,154	61,619	149,978	83,423
Funds						
Income funds	1	1	1	1	1	1
	100,044	21,804	49,154	61,619	149,978	83,423

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on:



Chairman

(William Sarman)



Treasurer

(Janet McConville)

Notes to the statement of accounts – 5 April 2025**1 Accounting policies**

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the accounts.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared, under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102), using the accruals basis; with the exception noted in 2.3 below, income and expenditure is brought into account in the period to which it relates which is not necessarily the period it is received or paid.

1.2 Fund accounting

The General Fund is unrestricted and is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of FOAG's charitable objectives.

Restricted income funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donors or by the purpose of the appeal. The purpose and use of the principal restricted funds is set out in the Trustees' Report.

1.3 Incoming resources

With the exception of gift aid tax recoverable, which is accrued in line with relevant donations, income is only brought into account when it is received and recorded.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised in the financial statements when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services.

FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP

Notes to the financial statements - 5 April 2025

2 Management and administration

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs				
Salaries		2,808		2,634
Publicity				
Printing	657		855	
Postage	741		932	
		1,398		1,787
Administration				
Bank charges	60		60	
Office supplies	71		37	
Telephone	41		41	
Website	0		14	
		172		152
		£4,378		£4,573
Number of part-time employees :				
Management and administration		1		2

3 Payments to trustees

No payments were made to or on behalf of any trustee during the year (2024 - £nil)

FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP

Notes to the financial statement - 5th April 2025

4 Donations, project grants etc

Restricted funds

	----- Project expenditure -----							
	Unspent at 06.04.24	Donations and tax recovered	Transfers	Available for grants	----- Of which met from -----			Unspent at 05.04.25
					Total spent	Restricted funds	General funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Christmas Appeal 2024	0	8,655		8,655				8,655
AR Hunston Revolving Fund	810			810				810
BEE Project	0			0	(600)		(600)	0
Betty Hudson Fund	7,581			7,581				7,581
Budaka Cheshire Home	0	125		125	(273)	(125)	(148)	0
Butiro Cheshire Home	0			0	(1,100)	0	(1,100)	0
Buy a Silo	13,981	370		14,351	(7,698)	(7,698)		6,653
Child Sponsorship	9,648	11,705		21,353	(15,605)	(15,605)		5,748
Conservation Agriculture	6,512	410		6,922	(389)	(389)		6,533
Dr Ambroseli Centre	5,528	35,000		40,528	(31,034)	(31,034)		9,494
Enterprise Fund	35			35				35
Grow More Waste Less	2,669			2,669				2,669
Jama Consultancy	42	119		161				161
Kamurasi Primary School	125			125	(2,000)		(2,000)	125
Kiwoko Hospital Nurse Training	1,687		(1,687)	0				0
Kumi Klub	521	300		821	(600)	(600)		221
Masindi Centre for the Handicapped	103			103				103
Medical operations	12,355		1,687	14,042	(13,718)	(13,718)		324
PASNEC	0	1,217		1,217	(7,217)	(1,217)	(6,000)	0
Relief Care Uganda	0	683		683	(683)	(683)		0
St Francis Cheshire Home	10			10				10
St Joseph's School	0			0	(1,414)		(1,414)	0
Patrick Walusansa	12			12				12
YOUFRA	0	241		241	(4,134)	(241)	(3,893)	0
5th April 2025	61,619	58,825	0	120,444	£(86,465)	£(71,310)	£(15,155)	£49,134
5th April 2024	77,247	50,875	0	128,122	£(89,001)	£(66,503)	£(22,498)	£61,619

Details of the purposes of the above projects are set out in the Trustees' Report.

Unrestricted funds

General		Donations and other income			General fund expenditure		
					Grants	Other	
5th April 2025	21,804	100,883	0	122,687	(15,155)	(6,688)	£100,844
5th April 2024	26,122	24,764	0	50,886	(22,498)	(6,584)	£21,804
5th April 2025	£83,423	£159,708	£0	£243,131	£(86,465)	£(6,688)	£149,978
5th April 2024	£103,369	£75,639	£0	£179,008	£(89,001)	£(6,584)	£83,423

FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP**Notes to the financial statement - 5th April 2025***5 Fund raising events and costs*

	Income	Costs	Surplus	Surplus
	----- 2025 -----			2024
	£	£	£	£
Concert	3,937	(2,094)	1,843	851
	<u>£3,937</u>	<u>(2,094)</u>	<u>1,843</u>	851
<i>Other fund raising costs</i>				
Just Giving charges		(216)	(216)	(216)
Sumup charges		0	0	(14)
		<u>£(2,310)</u>	<u>£1,627</u>	£621