



Friends of The Gambia Association CIO

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020

Registered Charity UK No. 1171620: Registered NGO in The Gambia No. A92

www.fotga.org.uk

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Friends of The Gambia Association CIO also known as FoTGA, is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in the UK as charity number 1171620. It also operates as an NGO in The Gambia, registered number A92.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was formed on 15 February 2017 and commenced charitable activities on 1 January 2019, on transfer of the assets and activities of Friends of The Gambia Association, registered number 1051745. It is governed by its constitution.

The principal address is 8 Essex Close, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4NP and in The Gambia, 3 Kotu Layout, KSMD.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of Friends of The Gambia CIO as set out in the constitution are to relieve poverty, alleviate pain and suffering and advance the education of the people of The Gambia.

The main activities are:

- Sponsorship of children's education, improvement of education facilities, provision of teaching aids and grants for school and teachers.
- Improving the availability and quality of health care by the provision of medical supplies, equipment, facilities and ancillary services.
- Providing humanitarian aid through donations and distribution of donated items to the needy.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

TRUSTEES

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting, where one-third will retire by rotation. Trustees are eligible for re-election for a maximum period of six years.

The Trustees who have served during the year 2020 are:

Chairman	Robert Isdale (<i>resigned 29 March 2021</i>)
Secretary and Sponsorship Secretary	Jeffrey Phillips (<i>resigned 22 October 2020</i>)
Trustee	Jeffrey Phillips (<i>appointed 22 October 2020</i>)
Secretary and Sponsorship Secretary	Gillian Hill (<i>appointed 22 October 2020</i>)
Treasurer	Jacqueline Massey ACA, (<i>resigned 30 March 2021</i>)
Vice Chairman	Alhajie Camara, (<i>Acting Chairman from 29 March 2021</i>)
Trustee	Jeffrey Phillips (<i>Acting Treasurer from 30 March 2021</i>)

Three further Trustees were appointed on 20th May 2021: Richard Hughes, Donna Makins and Sandra Hill-Smith.

Trustees do not receive any remuneration and oversee activities in The Gambia during their holidays to maximise funds for the public benefit. Re-imburement to Trustees for attendance of meetings amounted to £84.

VOLUNTEERS

Mike and Lynda Redfern, Drumbeat
Emily Cardinal, Website

STAFF IN THE GAMBIA

Momodou Camara – Office Manager
Sulayman Manneh – Finance Administrator
Jariatou Jallow – Office Assistant

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been my privilege to act as chairman during the reporting period. I am grateful to my fellow trustees for their support and for the work of our team in The Gambia, Modou Camara, Sulayman Manneh and Jariatou Jallow.

Our condolences go out to Modou and his family following the tragic death of his wife in December.

I was in The Gambia in March 2020 and returned just before the first lockdown in the UK. I was able to visit some of our children and to deliver rice and cooking oil. Margaret and I were also present at the annual PTA awards, (Pride of FoTGA) and were suitably impressed by the commitment of those students in attendance to their education.

Following our return to the UK, it has proven to be a difficult year for Gambian families caused by the increasing awareness of the corona19 virus. The Gambia relies very much on the tourist trade but tourism is currently practically non-existent.

Schools and colleges have been closed and Gambians have had to cope with loss of employment. FoTGA has continued to pay sponsorship fees to students' families and delivered rice and oil to all the sponsored families in order to try to ease some of the hardship.

Little has been done in the way of projects although we did attempt an enterprise scheme to start young people with small businesses. We had success with one girl who had set up a small business buying plain shoes, decorating them with beads and selling them on. We gave her a grant of D1000 and she reported back demonstrating an initial success. Perhaps that is a way forward for minor projects.

It is important, that if FoTGA is to continue in its present form, that more members put their names forward to act as trustees and to take on some of the leadership roles, otherwise there is a risk of the charity having to close which will be disastrous for those families and students relying on the help FoTGA gives. The charity will need at least a chairperson, a treasurer and sponsorship secretary plus volunteers who need not necessarily be trustees.

Thanks to all the sponsors and donors for your commitment to the charity.

I have enjoyed many years acting as projects manager and chairman at different times, but now, for a number of personal reasons feel it is time for me to stand down. I will of course carry on as a sponsor to the children Margaret and myself are committed to.

Rob Isdale (Chairman 2020)

APPROVAL

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees and are to be signed at the AGM on their behalf by the Secretary.

G Hill
Secretary

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The attached Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice and FRS 102 for smaller charities. Accounting Policies are detailed in the Notes.

Friends of The Gambia Association CIO receives donations and sponsorship revenue in the UK and carries out its activities in The Gambia, where it operates as a registered NGO (A92). The Trustees maintain a controlling interest in the NGO, consequently the Financial Statements have been prepared on a consolidated basis to provide a better picture of the charity's activities as a whole. These Financial Statements are independently reviewed in the UK by Darboe, Jula & Co Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants and in The Gambia are audited by Ays & Co. Chartered Accountants.

During the year the charity made a small surplus of £474, compared with £1,835 in 2019. The charity's funds at 31 December 2020 amounted to £64,605, of which £64,136 were unrestricted. FoTGA operates an Endowment Fund, the John Jones Legacy Fund with a balance of £6,340. It is anticipated that this fund will be topped up with future legacies and used for specific sponsorship cases chosen by the Trustees.

The main Charitable Activity during the year continued to be the sponsorship of children's education, with total receipts of £40,568 (2019 £39,815) and expenditure of £32,117 (2019 £36,926), giving a surplus of £8,451, (2018 £2,889). FoTGA continued to pay grants to the students throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, even though schools were closed, to prevent further hardship and enable students to continue studying towards their exams.

Other activities include small projects and humanitarian aid. The net outgoings amounted to £3,416. Humanitarian Aid included £2,627 for rice donated to all our supported students' families during the Coronavirus pandemic. A further distribution was made in January 2021.

Donations and Sponsorship included Gift Aid of £10,057 for the 2019 and 2020 claims (2018 claim, £9,214). This annual reduction is due to a fall in total donations and sponsorship received and members' eligibility.

Support costs, amounted to £12,066 (2019 £15,856). This covers salaries, office running costs and governance of the NGO in The Gambia. Only 5% of administrative expenditure related to running the UK charity. The charity benefited from a good exchange rate throughout the year, averaging 66.5 Dalasi to £1, compared with 64 in 2019.

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought to everyone's attention how global events can affect us in many ways, not just financially. Although unable to travel to The Gambia, new technologies, virtual meetings and mobile phones have enabled the Trustees to be in constant contact with the staff and one another. The book-keeping system installed in 2019 has also ensured that finance transactions could be constantly monitored by the Trustees.

However, government decisions, uncertainty, exchange rate volatility and disruption to tourism are all difficulties which put FoTGA at risk. Although FoTGA has not been badly affected in 2020, the number of sponsors and donors are slowly decreasing, which will ultimately reduce funds. The Trustees policy is to maintain a level of reserves, sufficient to continue paying grants to students already sponsored by FoTGA on an ongoing basis and cover FoTGA's commitments and legal liabilities in the event of closure of the charity. The Trustees consider that the current reserves are sufficient.

Jackie Massey (Treasurer 2020)

SPONSORSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

FoTGA operates a Sponsorship Scheme providing grants to children and schools. On joining the scheme, the sponsor becomes a member of FoTGA, agrees to pay a monthly subscription and in return will receive updates of their sponsored child's progress. Once a child has been sponsored by FoTGA, providing they continue to meet certain conditions, they will receive a grant each school term, throughout their education. The grant enables the students to go to school and covers the cost of uniforms, stationery, a satchel, school fees and lunches.

FoTGA maintains a small office in The Gambia which manages the distribution of grants to the students and also forwards reports & letters back to the UK for onward distribution to sponsors. A very important link. The office also arranges for the distribution of gifts from sponsors such as rice, oil, money, bicycles to be delivered to the students and their families.

There is no sure way of attracting new sponsors. A few find FoTGA on their return from The Gambia and ask us to manage students they have met and some find us from the website. Others hear by word of mouth or social media.

At the end of 2020, there were 95 students:

School	Grades	Age	Number
Nursery	1-3	4-6	2
Lower Basic (Primary)	1-6	7-12	28
Upper Basic (Middle School)	7-9	13-15	29
Senior Secondary (High School)	10-12	16-18	33
University			3

The Sponsorship Scheme is intended to support students in State schools up to Grade 12. However, some sponsors continue to support their students if they go on to further education.



Rice delivery to GOVI school for the Blind

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020				2019
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME	2					
Donations & Legacies		2,455	5,035		7,490	6,013
Charitable Activities		33,720	-		33,720	39,815
Investment Income		42	-		42	90
		<u>36,217</u>	<u>5,035</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,252</u>	<u>45,917</u>
EXPENDITURE	3					
Raising Funds		211			211	252
Charitable Activities		34,963	3,787	1,818	40,568	43,350
Other		-	-	-	-	480
		<u>35,173</u>	<u>3,787</u>	<u>1,818</u>	<u>40,778</u>	<u>44,082</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
Transfers between funds	4	1,317	(1,317)		-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>2,361</u>	<u>(69)</u>	<u>(1,818)</u>	<u>474</u>	<u>1,835</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
FUNDS brought forward		<u>55,435</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>8,158</u>	<u>64,131</u>	<u>62,296</u>
FUNDS carried forward		<u>57,796</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>6,340</u>	<u>64,605</u>	<u>64,131</u>

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
BALANCE SHEET
At 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019
Current Assets				
UK Bank Balances		48,039		57,949
The Gambia Bank and Cash Balances		8,662		6,882
Debtors and Prepayments		10,141		447
		<u>66,842</u>		<u>65,278</u>
Current Liabilities (due within one year)				
Creditors and Accruals		<u>2,237</u>		<u>1,147</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>64,605</u>	<u>64,131</u>
The Funds of The Charity				
Endowment Funds	4	6,340		8,158
Restricted Income Funds	4	469		539
Unrestricted Funds		<u>57,796</u>		<u>55,434</u>
			<u>64,605</u>	<u>64,131</u>

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) in accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102. The Trustees confirm that the Charity is a public benefit entity.

1b Currency

Funds are transferred to The Gambia on a regular basis using a registered Foreign Exchange dealer in The Gambia. Payment is made and received on the same day and recorded at the exchange rate quoted. Transactions are recorded using the monthly average exchange rate. Assets at the end of the financial year are converted at the actual rate on the day.

Exchange rate differences occur between the brought forward asset, monthly average and year end actual figures.

Actual Exchange rates	on 1st January 2020	68.02 GMD to £1
	on 31 December 2020	70.72 GMD to £1

1c Gift Aid

Gift Aid is accounted for when the amount can be calculated with a degree of certainty, normally at the earliest of the day of receipt or claim being made. Gift Aid at 25% has been claimed for 2019 and 2020 amounting to £10,057. Gift Aid is claimed on donations received and reported as part of that donation.

2 ANALYSIS OF INCOME

2a Donations

Membership Subscriptions	1,334
Projects	2,378
Humanitarian	2,657
	<u>6,013</u>

2b Charitable Activities

Sponsorship	<u>40,568</u>
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3 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

3a CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Donations	Grants	Support Costs (3b)	Total
Sponsorship		21,257	10,859	32,117
Projects	2,272		603	2,875
Humanitarian	4,973		603	5,576
	<u>7,244</u>	<u>21,257</u>	<u>12,066</u>	<u>40,568</u>

Grants to individuals 19,306

Grants to schools 1,951

Projects include small building projects and health care support

3b SUPPORT COSTS

	Sponsorship	Projects	Humanitarian	Total
Office Running	3,540	197	197	3,934
Employment	5,207	289	289	5,786
Governance	1,041	58	58	1,156
Finance	1,071	60	60	1,190
	<u>10,859</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>12,066</u>

It is considered that virtually all support costs relate to running the sponsorship scheme. A nominal amount of 5% has been allocated to Projects and Humanitarian Aid. Projects and Donations made are shown net of direct expenditure.

4 RESTRICTED FUND MOVEMENTS

Restricted Funds

	B/F	In	Out	C/F
Berending Clinic	358	1,992	(2,011)	339
Rice and Gifts by Sponsors	100	2,657	(2,707)	50
Humanitarian	-	212	(212)	-
Bakindik Health Centre	-	174	(174)	-
Gilkock FC	80			80
Endowment Fund				-
John Jones Legacy	8,158		(1,818)	6,340
	<u>8,696</u>	<u>5,035</u>	<u>(6,922)</u>	<u>6,809</u>

The John Jones Legacy Fund represents the remaining funds from an expendable endowment used for the purpose of providing grants for students and towards the Bakindik Health Care Facility.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Friends of The Gambia Association CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2020

Charity no 1171620

Set out on pages

N/A

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31/12/2020

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 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.

Signed:

Date: 26/07/2021

Name:

Yiramang Darboe-FCCA

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

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Address:

DARBOE JULA & CO LTD

Team House,

1B St. Mary Road

Watford, England

WD18 0EE

Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

<p>Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.</p>	<p>There are no matters to be disclosed.</p>
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