

SWITCHED ON - GAMBIA

England & Wales · Charity number 1172051

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-03-15

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

Contact

Address 49 High Street
Bewdley
DY12 2DJ

Phone 01299403471

Email gambiantouch@gmail.com

Website <https://switchedon-gambia.weebly.com>

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE POVERTY IN THE GAMBIA AND WEST AFRICA THROUGH FACILITATING THE PROVISION OF SOLAR ENERGY TO THOSE IN NEED.

Activities: Switched On -Gambia supports off grid communities in The Gambia to gain affordable access to high quality solar lamps.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Environment/conservation/heritage

Geography

- The Gambia

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31		£0	£2,050	-
2024-03-31		£0	£0	-
2023-03-31		£0	£0	-
2022-03-31	£10,228	£13,800		-
2021-03-31	£6,627	£9,000		-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KEVIN BAILEY	Chair	2017-03-11
BEN BALLIN		2017-04-14
Dr MALCOLM WALTER GARNER		2017-04-14
JOHN RHYMER		2017-04-14

SWITCHED ON - GAMBIA

England & Wales - Charity number 1172051

Accounts

Switched On Gambia (Charity Number: 1172051) National Westminster Bank Account 27972763

Budget Report

Date: 05/01/2026

Totals

01/04/2024- 31/03/2025

Date	Detail	In	Out	Balance
01/04/2024	opening balance			2100.75
03/01/2025	Malcolm Garner		750	1350.75
06/01/2025.	Malcolm Garner		750	600.75
06/01/2025	Malcolm Garner		550	50.75
Totals		0	2050	50.75



'Affordable, sustainable energy for

all' Switched On Gambia Annual Report APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Number: 1172051
Charity's principle address: 49 High Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, UK, DY122DJ

Names of trustees who manage the charity

Ben Ballin	Secretary
Kevin Bailey	Chair/Treasurer
John Rhymer	
Malcolm Garner	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees selection methods

Trustees are normally selected by recommendation and appointed by existing trustees

Activities

This year our main activity has been the support to the deaf unit in Basse, Upper River Region in The Gambia.

£2,050 was donated to build a solar water pump close to the school to provide water for the school gardens and general supplies for the school.



Kevin Bailey

Chairperson

SWITCHED ON - GAMBIA

England & Wales - Charity number 1172051

Accounts



'Affordable, sustainable energy for all'

Trustee's annual report for the period:

01/04/2023	31/03/2024
------------	------------



Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Number: 1172051

Charity's principle address: 49 High Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, UK, DY122DJ

Names of trustees who manage the charity

Ben Ballin	Secretary
Kevin Bailey	Chair
John Rhymer	
Malcolm Garner	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustees selection methods	Trustees are normally selected by recommendation and appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

Trustees form a close group that meet at least 3 times a year and in addition communicate electronically.

The trustees contain members with a wide spread of experiences and expertise relevant to the aims of the charity.

Trustees take on formal roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer but also advise on issues relevant to their field of expertise. An example of this would be technical advice on solar energy relevant to solar lights or project management in relation to the charities work.

Partnerships

Switched On - Gambia also works with other charities when appropriate such as Book Aid International (<https://bookaid.org/>) who have worked closely as partners providing books and expertise to our project in The Gambia.).

Objects and activities

To relieve poverty in The Gambia and West Africa through facilitating the provision of solar energy to those in need.



Students eager to read books from a Book Aid International delivery to their school

No activity this year due to a cessation of funding

Switched On Gambia (Charity Number: 1172051)

National Westminster Bank Account 27972763

Budget Report 1/4/2023 to 31/3/2024

Date	Detail	In	Out	Balance
1/4/2023		0.00	0.00	2,100.75
31/3/2024		0.00	0.00	2,100.75
Totals		0.00	0.00	2,100.75

SWITCHED ON - GAMBIA

England & Wales - Charity number 1172051

Accounts



'Affordable, sustainable energy for all'

Switched On Gambia Annual Report APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Number: 1172051

Charity's principle address: 49 High Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, UK, DY122DJ

Names of trustees who manage the charity

Ben Ballin	Secretary
Kevin Bailey	Chair/Treasurer
John Rhymer	
Malcolm Garner	

Structure, governance and management

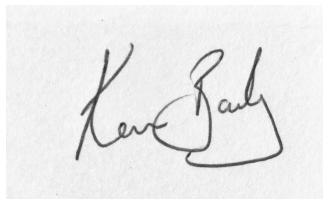
Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustees selection methods	Trustees are normally selected by recommendation and appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

- Trustees form a close group that meet at least 3 times a year and in addition communicate electronically.
 - The trustees contain members with a wide spread of experiences and expertise relevant to the aims of the charity.
 - Trustees take on formal roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer but also advise on issues relevant to their field of expertise. An example of this would be technical advice on solar energy relevant to solar lights or project management in relation to the charities work.

Main Activities

There has been no activity in The Gambia this year due to a cessation in funding.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Kevin Bailey'.

Kevin Bailey
Chair
Switched On Gambia

**Switched On Gambia (Charity Number: 1172051) National
Westminster Bank Account 27972763**

Budget Report. 01/04/ 2022 - 31/03/2023

Amount in account has remained at **£2,100.75** throughout the year.

SWITCHED ON - GAMBIA

England & Wales - Charity number 1172051

Accounts



'Affordable, sustainable energy for all'

Switched On Gambia Annual Report APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Number: 1172051

Charity's principle address: 49 High Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, UK, DY122DJ

Names of trustees who manage the charity

Ben Ballin	Secretary
Kevin Bailey	Chair/Treasurer
John Rhymer	
Malcolm Garner	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustees selection methods	Trustees are normally selected by recommendation and appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

- Trustees form a close group that meet at least 3 times a year and in addition communicate electronically.
 - Trustees have weekly communication with Intouch Gambia based in The Gambia and receive regular updates on project activities.
 - The trustees contain members with a wide spread of experiences and expertise relevant to the aims of the charity.
 - Trustees take on formal roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer but also advise on issues relevant to their field of expertise. An example of this would be technical advice on solar energy relevant to solar lights or project management in relation to the charities work.

During the year Switched On Gambia has mainly worked with their partners in The Gambia, Intouch Gambia, supporting through donations of funds and by regular communication and advice when requested. Normally regular annual visits are also made by a trustee and friends of the trustees in order to support, advise and monitor progress.

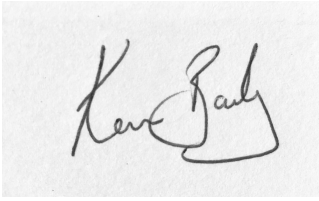
Partnerships

Switched On - Gambia also works with other charities when appropriate such as Book Aid International and Riders for Health who work closely as partners providing books and expertise with vehicles to our project in The Gambia.

Main Activities

- Switched On Gambia continued to support Intouch Gambia during 2021 with advice and funding in order that the successful projects of Community Reading Groups and Class Libraries continued to develop. Strong metal book shelves and books donated by Book Aid International were distributed and coordinators trained and monitored by Intouch Gambia staff.
- Funding was ceased to Switched On Gambia in December 2021.
- The Director, Michael Mendy, left Intouch Gambia in January 2021 to study abroad.
- Intouch Gambia continued to monitor the existing school and community projects and began preparation for applications to alternative funders.
- The remaining team have continued in post donating much of their time freely in order to retain the base office and shop in Jan Jan Bureh and continue to support, when they are able, the existing school and community projects. This continued in 2022. The

staff and trustees of Intouch Gambia are researching possible future funding opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Kevin Bailey".

Kevin Bailey
Chair
Switched On Gambia

Switched On Gambia (Charity Number: 1172051) National Westminster Bank

Account 27972763

Budget Report 01/04/2021. - 31/03/2022

Date	Detail	In	Out	Balance
12/4/21	Andrew Jatta transfer		1500	3,695.23
2/6/21	Intouch Foundation	1500		5195.23
3/6/21	Andrew Jatta		1500	2195.23
5/7/21	Intouch Foundation	1500		3695.23
28/7/21	Andrew Jatta		1500	2195.23
2/8/21	Bailey	928.51		3123.74
10/8/21	Intouch Foundation	1500		4623.74
6/9/21	Intouch Foundation	1500		6123.74
10/9/21	HMRC		300	5823.74
17/9/21	Andrew Jatta		1500	4323.74
5/10/21	Andrew Jatta		1500	5823.74
5/11/21	Intouch Foundation	1500		7323.74
19/11/21	HMRC	100		7423.74
19/11/21	HMRC	200		7623.74
26/11/21	Andrew Jatta		3000	4623.74
3/12/21	Intouch Foundation	1500		6123.74
22/3/22	Andrew Jatta		3000	3123.74
Totals		10228.51	13800	3123.74

SWITCHED ON - GAMBIA

England & Wales - Charity number 1172051

Accounts



'Affordable, sustainable energy for all'

Switched On Gambia Annual Report APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Number: 1172051

Charity's principle address: 49 High Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, UK, DY122DJ

Names of trustees who manage the charity

Ben Ballin	Secretary
Kevin Bailey	Chair/Treasurer
John Rhymer	
Malcolm Garner	
Nigel Rayment	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustees selection methods	Trustees are normally selected by recommendation and appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

- Trustees form a close group that meet at least 3 times a year and in addition communicate electronically.

- Trustees have weekly communication with Intouch Gambia based in The Gambia and receive regular updates on project activities.
- The trustees contain members with a wide spread of experiences and expertise relevant to the aims of the charity.
- Trustees take on formal roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer but also advise on issues relevant to their field of expertise. An example of this would be technical advice on solar energy relevant to solar lights or project management in relation to the charities work.

During the year Switched On Gambia has mainly worked with their partners in The Gambia, Intouch Gambia, supporting through donations of funds and by regular communication and advice when requested. Normally regular annual visits are also made by a trustee and friend of the trustees in order to support, advise and monitor progress.

Covid 19

During this period the activities of Intouch Gambia have been severely affected by Covid 19, closing schools, creating difficulties with communication and hampering the delivery of solar lamps from our current supplier in Kenya. Early 2020 saw the closure of the project office in Jan Jan Bureh and suspension of all planned work. Most activities were planned in partnership with local rural, off grid schools and were unable to proceed. The office was able to reopen in May 2020.

Partnerships

Switched On - Gambia also works with other charities when appropriate such as Book Aid International and Riders for Health who work closely as partners providing books and expertise with vehicles to our project in The Gambia.

Main Activities

- In early 2020 rural areas of The Gambia were greatly affected by the pandemic which resulted in a general fall in family income. In May/June Intouch Global



Foundation agreed to support a series of food relief programmes that were targeted at identified low income families. Twenty families were identified and supported. The administration of this programme was completed at short notice and with great skill by the staff of Intouch Gambia. All the families of the 254 children of Jan Jan Bureh Nursery were also supported with supplies of rice, oil and vegetables. As the pandemic progressed the initiatives were repeated in July 2020 and were extended to 34 of the families most in need.

Careful and sensitive practise was needed to ensure the successful completion of these distributions and detailed reports were received by the funders.

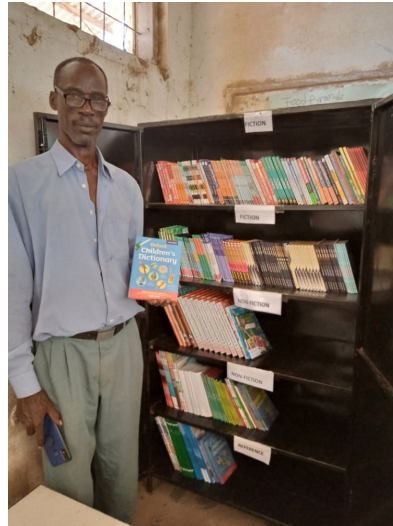


- During school closures the existing schools involved with the solar lamp project were communicated with by phone and text through the headteachers and senior staff.
- On schools return in late September 2020 normal procedures and visits began to be re established.
- During this period training was planned and supported using materials from Book Aid International. The training would focus on book and solar library administration. A pilot was set up with 4 schools to pay a teacher a small amount to administer solar and book libraries. They would also be responsible for care of materials and reporting progress to the Intouch Gambia team.
- Between January and March 2021 training took place involving representatives of project schools. Books and shelving were delivered to pilot schools.
- Other project schools had solar light provision increased and Community Reading groups resourced. Local community leaders became responsible for the safe storage, re charging and setting up of daily reading groups. This was monitored carefully by Intouch Gambia and the response has been very encouraging. More groups are planned to enable a central area for after dark study.

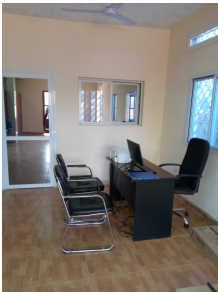


Administration

- Building of shelves and metal boxes in preparation for schools returning.



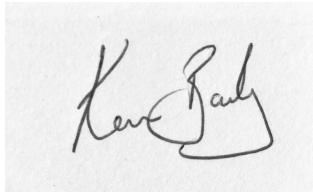
- Preparation and transfer to new office in January 2021.



- Purchase of new motorcycle and office items.



- Installation of wi -fi and general office set up.
- Employment of part time cleaner.
- Staffing employment systems set up for new staff.
- Liaison with education director of Central River Region.
- Liaison with regional governor.
- Categorising and sorting of Book Aid donation.
- Storing and allocation of solar lamps.
- Order of new lamp stocks from Kenya.
- Completion of Book Aid International pro-forma including description of previous allocation and requests for future books with details of requirements..

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Kevin Bailey".

Kevin Bailey
Chair
Switched On Gambia

Switched On Gambia (Charity Number: 1172051)

National Westminster Bank Account 27972763

Budget Report

01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021

Date	Detail	In	Out	Balance
01/04/20	Opening balance			7568.09
14/05/20	Intouch Global Foundation	1250		8818.09
03/06/20	Intouch Global Foundation	1250		10068.09
14/09/20	Michael Mendy transfer		2500	7568.09
23/10/20	Michael Mendy transfer		2500	5068.09
23/11/20	Michael Mendy transfer		2500	2568.09
14/01/21	Book Aid	4127.14		6695.23
29/01/21	Andrew Jatta transfer		1500	5195.23
Totals		6627.14	9000	5195.23