

DISABILITY AFRICA

England & Wales · Charity number 1172163

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-03-21

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND PROMOTE AND PROTECT HEALTH AMONG PEOPLE LIVING IN AFRICA, IN PARTICULAR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF GRANTS, ITEMS AND SERVICES AND BY SUCH OTHER MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE. 2) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: Disability Africa improves outcomes for disabled children through inclusive community development. We raise awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children and deliver services to meet their needs. From 31/03/18 this new CIO adopted all previous activities of the old charity called Disability Africa 1143704 which is now unregistered. Past reports are here www.disability-africa.org

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Eswatini
- Kenya
- The Gambia
- Uganda
- Zambia

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£179,720	£155,908	-	-
2023-12-31	£168,787	£159,942	-	-
2022-12-31	£149,170	£188,626	-	-
2021-12-31	£188,847	£164,330	-	-
2020-12-31	£146,358	£116,108	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew James Nowak	Chair	2019-09-05
ADAM EDWARDS M.A.		2017-01-19
ADRIAN ABBOTT		2017-01-19
ALARIC LAW		2019-11-28
Julie Ann Slyfield FCMA CGMA		2025-09-08
Michael Steven Carr		2025-03-11
PENNY SOUTHCOTT nee GIBSON FRCPCH		2017-01-19
Sue Haworth-Edwards		2017-01-19

Accounts



DISABILITY AFRICA

CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES

Annual Report 2024

**Promoting the inclusion of disabled
children through the joy and power of play.**

Disability Africa

www.disability-africa.org

Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, GU1 1BA, UK

Registered Charity Number 1172163

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Disability Africa Annual Report 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in *Notes to the Financial Statements* (p26) comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 UK and Republic of Ireland* (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity number 1172163

Principal address: Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1BA

Trustees

Mr. Alaric Law (Chair)
Mr. Andrew Nowak (Vice Chair)
Mr. Adam Edward (Hon Treasurer)
Mr. Adrian Abbott
Dr. Penny Gibson
Mrs. Sue Haworth-Edwards

Patrons

Mr. Christopher Brewer MBE
Mr. Damon Hill OBE
Mr. Ken Tyrrell

Hon Independent Accounts Examiner

Ms Julie Slyfield FCMA CGMA

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Employees

The charity employed one full time (4-day week) paid member of staff in the UK throughout 2024 to monitor charity delivery and finance and raise income. A second employee was hired from 1st October 2024, to increase organisational capacity for fundraising, communications and project monitoring, and grow operational delivery in line with The DA2029 Strategy. Both employees report to the Chair of Trustees.

Project Partnerships

The charity establishes working partnerships with independent community organisations in Africa who recruit and employ local staff to deliver services to disabled children in their communities in accordance with the Disability Africa Model (see p5). These partnerships are described by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deliver projects and promote the Disability Africa model.

Objectives and activities

The charitable objects as set out in the Trust Deed are:

1. To advance education and promote and protect health among people living in Africa, in particular children and young people with disabilities, through the provision of grants, items and services and by such other means as the trustees may determine.
2. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law.) The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees are content that the activities of the charity during the reporting period comply with the requirement for those activities to be of public benefit.

Trustees are recruited in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines laid out in document CC30. As vacancies arise, new trustees are sought and recruited with regard to skills and experience and the appropriate vetting and interview procedures are applied. All new trustees will be given a full induction prior to assuming their duties.

Ric Law ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Date: 17/07/2025

Our Mission

To work with communities to explore causes which exclude disabled young people. To challenge conventional attitudes and practice, to inform, inspire and deliver change because we believe that an approach that includes disabled children will be better for all children.

Our Vision

Disability Africa is working towards an inclusive global society in which the attitudes of the non-disabled are no longer barriers to the life-chances of those with impairments, where equity of opportunity exists for disabled people and societies recognise the benefits to all of inclusive thinking and action.

For children to achieve their full potential, they need different facilitators, ranging from good nutrition, protection from harm, opportunities for early learning, and the support of parents and caregivers, to access to timely and good quality health care...¹

The Disability Africa Model

Why do we do it?

Disabled children are more vulnerable to harm and exploitation across the world but especially so in low-income African communities. Negative attitudes, poverty and lack of information mean that disabled children are often isolated from their community and at risk of harm. Communities do not expect to see disabled children. This *invisibility is generally considered to be appropriate* and so the stigma is perpetuated. Their exclusion leads to isolation. This means they do not have access to protective and nourishing resources or access to people who might keep them safe, healthy, educated and happy. Their impairment and isolation combined, means they may be powerless and unaware of their rights. In addition to this, the exclusion of a population of disabled children from education means that they will be excluded from contributing as adults to their community and the economy.² Project partners report concerns that many parents simply do not have the services, information or resources to ensure that their disabled child thrives. We also know that disabled children are 4 times more likely to be abused compared to non-disabled children³ and are 10 times more likely to be out of school.⁴



¹ WHO (2022) *Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities>. (Accessed 2023.)

² WHO (2023) *Addressing health inequities faced by persons with disabilities to advance universal health coverage*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/addressing-health-inequities-faced-by-persons-with-disabilities-to-advance-universal-health-coverage>. (Accessed 2023.)

³ WHO (2022) *Key Facts on Disability*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>. (Accessed 2023.)

⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2017) *Still left behind: Pathways to inclusive education for girls with disabilities*. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/still-left-behind-pathways-inclusive-education-girls-disabilities>. (Accessed 2023.)

One billion people around the world are disabled... [and are] being "left behind" in the global community's work on health. This lack of access not only violates the rights of disabled people under international law, but UHC [Universal Health Care] and SDG 3 cannot be attained without better health services for... disabled people.⁵

Poverty

Disabled young people have poverty imposed on them because they are excluded from so many levels of society – culture, employment, education and health. Until disabled children are included, they will have no chance of thriving. We help to change this by ending the child's isolation, promoting inclusion and providing real services that children and families can rely on.

Where and what we do

Our model is adopted by project partners in Kenya, The Gambia and Zambia with one clear vision – inclusion of disabled children.

Our project partners:

- Engage with and deliver the Disability Africa model.
- Work to dismantle barriers to inclusion.
- Understand and improve the local experience of disabled children.
- Ensure good practice.
- Deliver appropriate local services.

Challenging negative attitudes and learning

We take practical steps to understand and counter negative attitudes about disabled children. It all happens at a community level and includes:

- Delivering a playscheme where disabled children and local staff are seen playing together joyfully is an excellent way to challenge how disabled children are perceived.
- Training using the Social Model of Disability, value of play and safeguarding/child protection.
- Projects deliver training for other local organisations including schools.
- An *open management culture* that allows project partner staff and Disability Africa to reflect on practice without blame.

Since 2011 we have developed a model and approach that promotes the inclusion of vulnerable disabled children in low-income African communities.

We work with local people and organisations in Kenya, The Gambia and Zambia – our Project Partners – this way we create sustainable behaviour



In 2024, 340 children in 3 countries across Africa visited our Playschemes 16,657 times...

Disability Africa uses playschemes delivered by local people as an effective – and we think the best way - to promote the inclusion of disabled children.

⁵ Kuper, H and Heydt, P (2019) The Missing Billion. Available at: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres/international-centre-evidence-disability/missing-billion> (Accessed: 2024)

Playschemes as hubs of inclusion and services that disabled children need

Play work is inclusive and the best way to get to know any child – especially a disabled child who may have been neglected and isolated. A Play Worker engages in the **child's** world and can, in turn, assess the best way to meet their needs. This can range from creating friendship groups, supporting relatives to interact with a disabled child in their family, to treating old wounds or spotting undiagnosed epilepsy – all through play.

*When children play, they are exploring their world and building critical skills that bring a lifetime of benefits.⁶ Play is one of the fundamental ways we learn how to understand our world and our sense of self. **Play builds essential and transferable life skills** – physical, social, cognitive and emotional – at all ages. Play in a stimulating and supportive environment provides opportunities to learn how to plan, strategise, engage and observe how people react and how objects work.⁷*

So we use playschemes as safe places where disabled children's health, welfare and happiness is prioritised and because a playscheme does all this...

- 
- **Immediately ends a disabled child's isolation and...**
 - **Can be run easily by local people at low cost.**
 - **Is a naturally child-centred way to assess what support disabled children need and build a picture of services needed at a community level.**
 - Is a *hub* to respond to assessed need with the delivery of social, education and medical support – as well as the benefits of play for disabled children.
 - Role models behaviour and relationships of equality – an on-the-ground appreciation of the **rights of the child**.
 - Improves the mental health of disabled children.
 - Helps parents with psycho-social support and allows time to work or attend education.
 - Provides a **clean, safe, fun, learning environment** – learning through play and accessing Early Childhood Development that disabled children may otherwise miss out on – this is part of the Sustainable Development Goals and a United Nations recognised right for all children.

⁶ UNICEF (2022) The Playbox Supercharge your child's learning through the power of play. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/playbox>. (Accessed 2024.)

⁷ UNICEF (2023) *For every child, safe spaces to play, live and learn*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/blog/every-child-safe-spaces-play-live-and-learn>. (Accessed 2025.)

Essential services delivered while children play

Once disabled children are registered, safe, fed, playing, having fun at the playscheme the Play Team also has the opportunity to provide wider support to the child and their family. Often for the first time, there is a team of local people who have the capacity to focus on the assessment of the needs of a disabled child – to look at their education, health, nutrition and protection.

Medical support

There is a lack of affordable, accessible, quality healthcare in most African countries. Playschemes allow staff to assess children's health and then deliver 'outreach medical services'. Our model of support has helped many disabled children's access health services. We routinely refer children to surgery and support the aftercare required, collecting medicines, attending appointments with children and making links with local healthcare professionals, like General Practitioners, Surgeons, and Physiotherapists.

The model includes employing local people to the team as Medical Support Officers (MSO) who will have oversight of children's health at the playscheme. They do not need a medical qualification – they only need the engagement and proactivity of a caring, sensible parent, who has the professional curiosity to challenge the barriers to healthcare for disabled children. The MSO will work out of the playscheme providing primary care alongside the Play Team but they will also visit children in their homes – especially if they are not able to attend playscheme.

Food support at playscheme

Every day every child gets a meal. This means that their nutrition is maintained and children have the energy to get the most out of the play day. Project partners are able to report neglect and malnutrition of disabled children. This support is a practical response to the real pressure families face - families are often forced to prioritise the children they will feed well within the family. Malnutrition is a reason for some disabled children not receiving the medical procedures they need.

Parent support

Parents of disabled children may also be vulnerable in their communities. Women in particular are left to be the sole care provider and if their child needs constant supervision, she will routinely be denied respite or work or educational opportunities. Project partners report that it is often the father whose attitude towards their disabled child needs to be understood and challenged so that the welfare of the child is protected, so we work to make sure that parents have companionship, information and support so that they may reconnect with their community.



**Using
playschemes as a
base 1,047
medical support
sessions were
delivered in 2024...**

**...things like physio
sessions, visits to hospitals,
medical outreach,
collecting medicines and
after care for surgery.**

**As well as meals at a playscheme we target the most vulnerable
children with additional food support in the form of food
supplements regularly supplied to the family.**



**There were 684 parent
support contacts in 2024
– things like home visits
and parent meetings.**

Our parent support includes meetings and social work-style home visits. Information about impairments and available services are shared and, in turn, parents can share experiences, supporting each other. Playschemes also give parents, especially mums and sisters, breaks from caring and time to pursue education or employment.

Education, school support and learning through play

The schools where we work are resource poor – school and parents alike struggle to provide the material resources needed for a disabled (and non-disabled) child to attend mainstream education. So disabled children are often excluded from school. The playscheme can be an effective and reliable place for disabled children to learn through play so that they do not miss out on essential Early Childhood Development - developing creative, social, physical and communication skills. This is recognised by UNICEF who say **'the early years of childhood is a time of great opportunity, but also great risk' and that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to missing out on early development**'.⁸ We are always ready to work with schools using our model to ...

- Help to train teachers to include disabled children in the school environment.
- Provide school materials for disabled children who cannot afford them.
- Demonstrate a replicable model for Inclusive Education.
- Show how a *play-based curriculum* may be the way for disabled children to access learning.
- Receive referrals from schools as a reliable professional local service for disabled children.

Monitoring, evaluation, learning and data

Not enough is known about the experience of disabled children in low-income countries⁹ - indeed data invisibility is a form of exclusion. So, alongside the delivery of services to disabled children we collect accurate data to:

- Learn about the children and families registered with projects so we can reflect on the delivery of the model.
- Identify disabled children hidden within the community.
- Follow up concerns – for example post-surgery care, child protection concerns, looking for themes/trends such as malnutrition or malaria that require response.
- Understand when we can take children from waiting lists.
- Maximise capacity - we use data to monitor growth and quality.
- Assess the impact of what we do.
- When appropriate share data to help with local planning.



⁸ UNICEF (2022) *Early childhood development for every child, early moments matter*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/early-childhood-development>. (Accessed 2023.)

⁹ UNICEF (2022) *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021>. (Accessed 2023.)



What we did

In 2024, we launched our DA2029 expansion strategy, an ambitious five-year plan to double our output across Africa and strengthen our small but dynamic UK core team. We also delivered...

- **341 disabled children attended our 3 projects 16,657 times.**
- Record breaking attendance in The Gambia where 128 children attended 4,287 times - **more than double the** number of visits in 2023.
- **Physiotherapy services were implemented across all projects.**
- Our Zambian partners opened for a fifth day each week.
- In Kenya, 118 children attended an incredible 9,738 times.
- Supported our partners in Sierra Leone to transition to financial independence.

DA2029 – Disability Africa is expanding

In 2024, Disability Africa's play-based template to promote the inclusion of disabled young people, reached a major landmark in its development. Based on the success of our programmes over the last 14 years, we launched 'DA2029'.

Our 'template' has been recognised as a **powerful and effective strategy to promote the welfare and inclusion of disabled children in African countries** and DA2029 is a five-year plan to build on our success by engaging additional project partners in Africa and doubling the number of children we support.

Our plan has always been to demonstrate the effectiveness of our template and then to replicate it as widely as possible, both by doing more ourselves, and crucially, to support and encourage other organisations to adopt our play-based approach.

At time of writing, we are delighted to confirm that Disability Africa was identified by The Fore as an **'exceptional small charity'** and we were invited to apply for funding specifically to develop our UK core team. Thanks to The Fore's recommendation, we secured a generous grant to employ a full-time Director to lead our small but dynamic UK team and spearhead delivery of the **DA2029** Expansion Strategy. Work is already underway to develop partnerships to deliver exciting new play projects in Eswatini and Uganda.

This success is due to the amazing work of our local partner teams in Africa who have adopted the 'DA Template' and worked with great dedication to achieve the great results you'll see below.

Kenya: The Malanga Inclusion Project

The Malanga Inclusion Project started in 2017 and runs 4 playschemes 5 days a week from 4 local schools within a rural community in northeast Kenya. It is our busiest project with **118 disabled children visiting 9,738 times in 2024**. The playschemes create a highly visible presence for disabled children in the heart of their community – ensuring they are seen and heard and included as part of the daily scene at each school. Without the playschemes, most of these children would not access any form of education or social activity.

A focus for our Kenyan partners in 2024 was to ensure that all play activities are fun and engaging. Overseeing 4 playschemes across the district, our project coordinators have to work hard to monitor play quality. In 2024, they delivered a major refresh of toys and creative materials for the children. They also set up a play-quality forum, where playworkers and volunteers share ideas for play activities. We have been delighted to see some really innovative play-work resulting from this effort.

Playschemes supporting inclusive education

The strategic position of our playschemes within local schools, facilitates a clear pathway for disabled children to transition from home, to the playscheme and then, if appropriate, to the more formal education settings in the classroom. The success of Disability Africa's Playschemes in Malanga has encouraged the Kenyan Government to employ a teacher with additional training to support disabled children. Disabled children



In Kenya, 117 disabled children visited our programmes 9,738 times in 2024.



who attend the Bahati Playscheme now receive a combination of play-based activities and more formal inclusive education from their teacher.

We are encouraged that this is a testament to the successful reputation of our projects and demonstrates how our model can be adopted and complimented by government services to create truly inclusive education.

An example of the importance of play to support children into education is shown by M's story: "M" is a 6 year old boy who had three limbs amputated, leaving him with significant physical impairments. M has been attending the Malanga playscheme regularly since 2022. He enjoys playing football, drumming and being with his friends. The Playteam support him to learn new skills and adapt activities so that he can join in. He was also provided with a prosthetic limb and receives physiotherapy to help him practise walking. At the end of 2024, it was agreed that M was ready to move into school, where he is now enjoying learning how to read. It was the playscheme environment where he was able to develop his confidence and adaptability and show his enthusiasm to learn that prepared him with the skills to enjoy and benefit from a more formal, inclusive educational setting.

Medical Support and Physiotherapy

The Medical Support Officer (MSO) in Malanga is Grace. She is a trained physiotherapist who visits the playschemes every day to work with children to increase flexibility and mobility. She also provides first aid at the playscheme and supports play staff with the care of conditions like epilepsy, sickle cell anaemia and cerebral palsy. Grace monitors the nutrition of children, provides food support where required, does home visits, and organises referrals to local hospitals.



Parent support in Kenya

Florence, our Parent Support Officer, builds mutual support in the community and safeguards children when they are absent from the playscheme. She keeps in touch with their families to ensure that when children are absent, they return to the supportive and therapeutic environment of the playscheme as soon as possible. In 2024, Florence conducted **77 visits to family homes, and hosted 340 attendances at her fortnightly parent meetings**. Florence's parents' meetings provide a safe space for parents of disabled children to **share experiences, advice and support**, which can truly transform whole families' lives.

An example of parent support in action: "G" a 1-year-old girl with cerebral palsy and a heart condition, was initially rejected by her father because of her impairments. This forced her mother to move

Everyday physiotherapy at playschemes in Kenya

Our Medical Support Officer, Grace is a qualified Physiotherapist. She delivered 570 physio sessions in 2024. She also conducted 88 visits to families in their homes.



back to her parents' home. Florence began to support G's mother with transport for hospital visits and provided her with nutritional supplements for G. They also encouraged G's father to attend parent meetings, which he started to do regularly. After attending, G's father decided to accept his child and support his whole family again. He told the group: "I was feeling depressed, but now I know I am not alone, I have other parents of disabled children to help me win".

The Gambia: The Gunjur Inclusion Project

The Gunjur Inclusion Project is the first project we started in 2012. It is based at a purpose-built play centre in the heart of the Gunjur community. The playscheme is delivered by a team of play workers, cooks, cleaners and a driver – everyone takes part in the play activities lead by Yaya, the Play Leader.

Back with a bang! Record breaking attendance at The Gunjur Inclusion Centre

2024 was the first full year of delivery at a fully operational, Gunjur Inclusion Centre (GIC), following disruptions from maintenance work in 2023. The impact of reclaiming our home is evident in the team's achievements throughout 2024. Our partners delivered their **highest ever attendance** figures since the project started in 2012 - **120 children visited the centre 4,287 times!** – more than double the attendance in 2023.

For the first time, the GIC stayed open throughout Ramadan, ensuring **consistent support for disabled children** in the community throughout the holy period. The re-opening of the centre has also enabled our team to be more ambitious, developing new partnerships and beginning to engage with more communities over a wider area, helping even more children access the centre.

Improving Mobility

Physically impaired children in Gunjur have been benefiting from mobility support, through our new partnerships with a local NGO. Our Medical Support Officer, Buba, has been working closely with Caring For Mobility, a Dutch NGO that provides assessments and mobility aids. Working together to identify and refer children, they provided 15 assessments and 10 mobility aids, for registered children this year. It is hard to overstate the impact which provision of appropriate mobility equipment makes for these children. Through mutual referrals and 'sign-posting', Caring for Mobility, have helped us add more children to our register who are now enjoying the benefits of the playscheme.

How the Playscheme helped "J" to walk independently, communicate and learn: *J is a 7-year-old boy with a range of complex impairments. When we met him, J was not enrolled in school, he stayed at home and was unable to walk or communicate. J's life changed when*



In The Gambia, 120 disabled children visited our programmes 4,287 times in 2024 – more than double the attendance in 2023.



our outreach team registered him, and he began to attend the playscheme at the GIC. J began to thrive at play - he was very curious, learnt new skills, and played well with others. He quickly realised that he could move around the various play spaces by using one of the tricycles as a 'walking aid'. Seeing his creativity and determination to be mobile using a playscheme trike, the playteam referred him to Caring 4 Mobility who provided him with the perfect design of walker to meet his needs and a pair of orthopaedic boots to support his ankles. Now this little lad, previously considered incapable of anything more than very limited mobility, is whizzing around the playcentre and engaging fully in all the activities on offer. Observing his capacity to learn quickly, the Playteam have secured sponsorship for J to attend a local pre-school where he is now learning his letters and sounds. Thanks to our amazing team, J is learning to be mobile and communicative, proving to his community that, with a focus on inclusion and appropriate support, anything is possible for him.

Minibus transforms playscheme access

With help from Campo, our wonderful supporters in Holland, we were able to buy a much-needed minibus to transport children to and from the Playcentre as well as provide transport to medical appointments. This is especially critical for disabled children with complex physical impairments. The second-hand car market in The Gambia is competitive, and acquiring good vehicles has been extremely difficult. Until recently, we have had to rely on expensive taxis and borrowed vehicles. **Having our own vehicle has transformed daily operations at The Gunjur Inclusion Project** and been a major factor in increasing the number of children who can attend.



The Sierra Leone Inclusion Project

As we predicted in our last annual report, we are pleased to report that our partners in Sierra Leone have completed their move to independent running of the project in Makeni. It is a crucial goal of all our projects that we work with partners to make the projects sustainable by the local team. Our aim is to support our partners, not only to have the skills to deliver a playscheme and all the associated services, but also to have the capacity to fundraise so that they can ultimately be self-sufficient and independent of financial support from Disability Africa. We declare this aim to all our partners at the very start of a new project and work steadily towards this goal. We recognise that every situation is varied and complex and each project will progress at their own pace. We know that changing attitudes towards disabled children, and acquiring the necessary skills and resources will take many years and so we have no fixed timetable for a project to transition to become self-sufficient, but only start the transition process when both we and our African partners feel it is appropriate.

The Sierra Leone Inclusion Project (SLIP) started late in 2018 following almost a year of discussions with the Sierra Leone Autistic Society (SLAS). The MoU was signed in December and the playscheme was launched very quickly. This was in response to hearing from our partners that one of the children known to them had 'disappeared'.

Infanticide is tragically still practiced by people who, in a stroke of dark irony, are often called 'traditional healers'. In some places the activities of these people, whilst of course, completely illegal, are accepted by many within a given community as an appropriate response to the birth of a disabled child. It became apparent that this had been the fate of the missing child, and in a phone conversation with the traditional healer in question, our partners had ascertained that the 'healer' had a list of some twenty other children who they expected to 'treat' at some point.

It is to the everlasting credit of our partners in Sierra Leone that they managed to launch the Playscheme in a matter of weeks and by offering parents of disabled children a cost-free, viable, optimistic and caring alternative, the lives of those children were saved.

In the seven years that have elapsed since, the SLIP has served over 100 disabled children and delivered thousands of hours of joy and care.

It is a testament to the quality of the SLIP team that we felt that they were ready to move the Sierra Leone Inclusion Project towards independence, and focussed discussions to this end were started in March 2023. Their plan was to add a skills-training facility for young disabled adults to their range of projects, and the revenue from this, they projected, would fund the ongoing play activities. Funding for the skills-training project was secured from a third party, and towards the end of 2023, we started to phase out our financial support and our MoU with SLAS officially ended with our final tranche of funding in March this year. We are so proud of what SLAS has achieved. We warmly congratulate them and wish them all future success.

Zambia: Kawama Inclusion Project

Due to increasing demand and popularity for our project in Kawama, we began opening for play 5 days a week in August 2024. Our partners in Kawama work with many children with complex needs and limited mobility, which limits the number of children per day that they can support at the playscheme. Opening on additional days increases the number of children who can access our support. The partnership with our current project partners in Kawama started in 2022 with a 3-day playscheme, and since then we are delighted to have witnessed its continuous growth.

Gregory and Esther, the Play Leader and Deputy, run a playscheme for 64 disabled children in a small purpose-built Playcentre. It is in the middle of a the Kawama community which means that non-disabled children often spontaneously join in and play – Inclusion!

Medical support in Kawama

Our Medical Support Officer in Kawama is Abigail. She is a trained nurse who works incredibly hard to ensure children are safe and supported and have access to necessary healthcare. She also provides their families with advice and support. Her nursing background enables her to **identify undiagnosed conditions in children, including signs of malnutrition and undiagnosed or poorly managed epilepsy.**

Medical support in action in Zambia: “K” is a 4-year-old boy living with a range of impairments. At the start of the year, Abigail flagged K as at risk of malnutrition as a possible consequence of frequent bouts of sickness. Abigail met with the family and noted that K’s mother had been given no knowledge or support about the best way to manage K’s impairments and the family lacked the resources to appropriately care for K. Without the right support, it is natural that the family of a disabled child often feel a sense of helplessness and negativity concerning the child’s future. This was the case with K’s family, and this was also contributing to his poor health.



In 2024, our Medical Support Officer, Abigail delivered 176 medical support visits, 160 family- support visits and facilitated 270 physiotherapy sessions.



Abigail provided guidance to his mother on affordable and available nutrition for K. He later began having seizures and Abigail supported the family to access the appropriate clinics and epilepsy organisations for K to get a CTT scan and medication and helped his mother to understand the importance of consistent dosages. When the first medication was not successful, Abigail continued to advocate for K and acquired an alternative medication. Without advocates like Abigail, disabled children and their parents are left without support or knowledge to navigate the medical system. Abigail helps disabled children live the best possible quality of life.

Weekly physiotherapy

A high proportion of the children accessing our Zambia Project require physiotherapy and so delivering regular physiotherapy is a priority for this project - it has the potential to significantly improve a child's quality of life.

From September 2024, The Kawama Inclusion Project has organised **weekly trips to a local physiotherapy clinic, where children receive treatment free of charge.** Parents can also attend and learn how to replicate the treatments at home. Abigail reports that children's mobility is improving gradually, and that the relief from muscle stiffness is allowing children to be much more comfortable.

Communities Call for More!

We were delighted to receive feedback from the community leaders in Kawama, who recognise the positive impact of the project and the work of the team at the Kawama Inclusion Project. Alfred Chapi, a local Councillor, from nearby Ndola requested that the KIP replicated in neighbouring communities. He said, "***Your Project has been the talk of the day, because those children who were not walking are now walking, and those who were not talking are now talking - kudos to DA***". This is a wonderful endorsement of our projects and an indication of their reputation within the communities around Kawama.

Thank you to our supporters

We are very grateful to Priscilla and Chris Brewer MBE and their family, who continue to support Disability Africa as they have since the charity was registered in 2011. Their remarkable commitment and support for our work means that the vast majority of other donors' funds are able to be directed to our Africa projects. **Thank you to all the trusts who have generously given or pledged grants in 2024. Your support allows us to plan ahead and develop projects with confidence.**

Alchemy Foundation, Ann and Christopher Fielden Charitable Trust, ARCAID, Birchley St Marys Third World Group, Campo Commodities B.V., CB and HH Taylor 1984 Trust, Gregory Mills Foundation, James Tudor Foundation, John and Susan Bowers Fund, Mageni Trust, Manglibai Haridas Khiara (UK) Charitable Trust, Margaret McEwen Trust, Marlborough Brandt Group, Marsh Charitable Trust, MJB Charitable Trust, MPM Charitable Trust, One World Charity Challenge, Paul Lunn-Rockcliffe Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, Sterry Family Foundation, Sydney E Franklin Deceased's New Second Charity, The Brown Source Trust, The Cauda Trust, The CP Charitable Trust, The Farthing Trust, The Gilander Foundation, The Paulson-Ellis Charitable Trust, The Thalassa Charitable Trust, The Tula Trust, Ward Family Charitable Trust.



Financial Review for the Year ended 31 December 2024

It is clear from this Annual Report that 2024 was another good year for Disability Africa and our project partners. Attendance figures have risen substantially – in some cases doubling and every project now augments the vital work done at the Playschemes by delivering physiotherapy, parents support programmes and two nutritious meals twice a day to every child that attends.

Income

Grant Income, at £161,000, remained more or less steady (£9,000 higher than in 2023), with a good proportion being from previous donors, but there were also some very welcome grants from new supporters.

Income from personal donations was also slightly higher resulting in total income increasing from £169,000 to nearly £180,000.

Expenditure

Grants to projects remained steady in 2024, with slightly higher UK staff costs as we hired a second staff member in October. This was offset by significantly fewer field trips in 2024 resulting in costs of charitable activities being reduced by approximately £6,000 compared to 2023.

Result

The surplus in 2024 was almost £24,000, a modest increase on £9,000 from the year before.

Cash Balances

The end of year cash balances for 2024 of just under £120,000, represents a fraction under the predicted 6 months' expenditure in the 2025 Budget. The trustees believe that this slim margin is acceptable and are confident that the charity's current financial situation, together with the anticipated results from future fundraising activities will maintain the charity's sustainability.

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the current policy of aiming to hold a minimum of 6 months' expenditure in reserves, is still appropriate for the charity.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance of public benefit published.

Independent Examination of Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

The trustees are satisfied that the charity meets the requirements for an Independent Examination.

Independent Examiner's Report on The Accounts Year Ended 31st December 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Disability Africa for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 24 to 29 below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Julie Slyfield FCMA CGMA

Date: 17/07/25

Statement of Financial Activities at 31 December 2024

DISABILITY AFRICA REGISTRATION NUMBER 1172163 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024								
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:								
Grants	3	105,583	55,909	161,492	89,887	62,776	152,663	
Donations and Gifts in Kind	4	18,228	-	18,228	16,124	-	16,124	
Total		£123,811	£55,909	£179,720	£ 106,011	£ 62,776	£ 168,787	
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds	5	11,829	-	11,829	9,190	-	9,190	
Charitable activities	6	6,463	137,616	144,079	4,530	146,222	150,752	
Total		£ 18,292	£ 137,616	£ 155,908	£ 13,720	£ 146,222	£ 159,942	
Net Income (Expenditure) before Transfers		105,519	(81,707)	23,812	92,291	(83,446)	8,845	
Transfers between funds	8	(81,707)	81,707	-	(82,405)	82,405	-	
Net movement in funds		£ 23,812	£ 0	£ 23,812	£ 9,886	£ (1,041)	£ 8,845	
Reconciliation of funds:								
Brought forward balances		94,507	-	94,507	84,621	1,041	85,662	
Fund balances carried forward		£ 118,319	£ 0	£ 118,319	£ 94,507	£ (0)	£ 94,507	

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

DISABILITY AFRICA REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163 BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024								
								AS AT 31/12/2023
FIXED ASSETS								
Tangible Assets	2		1,613					116
CURRENT ASSETS								
Debtors	9	622				5,773		
Cash at Bank and in Hand		137,074				96,067		
			137,696			101,840		
CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)	10	20,990				7,449		
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			116,706					94,391
NET ASSETS			118,319					94,507
Represented by:								
Unrestricted Funds	8		118,319					94,507
Restricted Funds	8		-					-
			118,319					94,507



RIC LAW (CHAIR), Date: 17/07/2025

Notes to the Financial Statements year ended 31 Dec 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where the charity receives assistance in the form of donated services, such incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. Where donated services are recognised an equivalent amount is included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, when the event takes place). Amounts received in respect of events which have not taken place are deferred to future periods.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

No government grants have been received.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants are made to partner organisations in Africa with the requirement for full accountability of expenditure, the records for which are checked on a monthly or quarterly basis by the charity's staff, and audited during their periodic visits to the projects.

Costs of generating funds are those incurred in attracting voluntary income and incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities costs are those incurred in providing the services to disabled children in Africa.

All Governance requirements were dealt with by trustees on a voluntary basis, with no costs incurred.

The charity has incurred expenditure in respect of support costs which are allocated to activities on the bases set out in the Notes to the Accounts.

Assets and Liabilities

The charity has minimal fixed assets consisting of IT and office equipment and furniture. Items are written down over 3 years.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

							2023		
		<u>Furniture & Equipment UK</u>	<u>Total</u>				<u>Furniture & Equipment UK</u>	<u>Total</u>	
		£	£				£	£	
2	FIXED ASSETS								
	Gross Book Value Balances at 1st January 2024	7,529	7,529				7,529	7,529	
	Additions in period	2,420	2,420				-	-	
	Gross Book Value Balances at 31st December 2024	£9,949	£9,949				£7,529	£7,529	
	Depreciation Balances at 1st January 2024	7,413	7,413				7,209	7,209	
	Depreciation charge for period	922	922				204	204	
	Depreciation Balances at 31st December 2024	£8,335	£8,335				£7,413	£7,413	
	Net Book Values at 31st December 2024	£1,614	£1,614				£116	£116	
		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
3	INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES								
	Grants received from Trusts and Foundations	105,583	55,909	161,492			89,887	62,776	152,663
		£105,583	£55,909	£161,492			£89,887	£62,776	£152,663
4	VOLUNTARY INCOME								
	Donations from Individuals and other supporters *	18,228	-	18,228			16,124	-	16,124
	Totals	£18,228	£0	£18,228			£16,124	£0	£16,124
	* including Gift Aid								
									2023
		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
5	COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS								
	Staff costs	10,607		10,607			8,337		8,337
	Support costs - Note 7	1,222		1,222			853		853
	Totals	£11,829	£0	£11,829			£9,190	£0	£9,190
6	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES								
	Grants to Disability Africa (The Gambia)		48,978	48,978			-	50,020	50,020
	Grants to Other service providers		52,021	52,021			-	64,874	64,874
	Staff costs		33,622	33,622			-	23,344	23,344
	Field trips to African projects		2,995	2,995			-	7,984	7,984
	Support costs - Note 7	6,463		6,463			4,530	-	4,530
		£6,463	£137,616	£144,079			£4,530	£146,221	£150,752
	Before we establish any project we visit the area under consideration and ensure that we meet the key personnel within our prospective partner organisations - which are all either NGOs or CBOs with a Board of Trustees. We also aim to meet community leaders and local government officials wherever possible. We explain in detail how the DA model works, not only in terms of how and what services and activities we provide for the children, but also the administrative, accounting and reporting systems required.								
	All the grants to support the work in African countries are paid to our partner organisations in-country. These are either NGO's or CBO's which each have a Board of Trustees. The organisations are all formally registered according to the relevant laws.								
	We agree budgets in advance and closely monitor how the money is spent, but all expenditure is managed by the local trustees.								
	Each project is required to submit full details of how it has spent each grant that we provide. These are closely examined by our UK staff and the next period's grant will be adjusted, if necessary, for any over-or under-spend, and will be sent once we are satisfied that all is in order.								
	In addition, our UK staff make periodic field trips to the projects. to see them in action and enable us to ensure that all the systems are functioning correctly, and to check that all the records and supporting documentation agree with what is being sent to us in support of each grant application .								
	The trips also enable us to assess playstaff performance and provide any additional training required to enhance the benefits to the children.								
	Staff costs are for the UK - based Project Development officers who develop, support, monitor and evaluate each of the projects, undertake the periodic field trips, and raise funds to enable the charity to perform its mission.								

Disability Africa Annual Report 2024

DISABILITY AFRICA NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024								
					2023			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
7	SUPPORT COSTS	Alloc'n						
	Property costs	Staff time	1,410	-	1,410	1,080	-	1,080
	IT costs	Staff time	1,609	-	1,609	1,239	-	1,239
	General office costs	Staff time	77	-	77	73	-	73
	Staff costs and fees	Staff time	2,092	-	2,092	1,667	-	1,667
	Insurances	Type	1,575	-	1,575	1,120	-	1,120
	Depreciation	Time	922	-	922	204	-	204
			£7,685	£0	£7,685	£5,383	£0	£5,383
	Allocated to:							
	Charitable Activities		6,463	-	6,463	4,530	-	4,530
	Generating Funds		1,222	-	1,222	853	-	853
			£7,685	£0	£7,685	£5,383	£0	£5,383
8	FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	Balances b/f	94,507	0	94,507	84,621	1,041	85,662	
	Movements in	123,811	55,909	179,720	106,010	62,777	168,787	
	Movements out	(18,292)	(137,616)	(155,908)	(13,720)	(146,222)	(159,942)	
	Transfers	(81,707)	81,707	-	(82,404)	82,404	-	
	Balances at 31st December 2024	£118,319	£0	£118,319	£94,507	£0	£94,507	
	Consisting of:							
	Fixed Assets	1,614	-	1,614	116	-	116	
	Debtors	622	-	622	5,773	-	5,773	
	Cash at Bank	137,074	-	137,074	88,618	7,449	96,067	
	Creditors - Grants received in advance	(20,990)	-	(20,990)	-	(7,449)	(7,449)	
	Totals	£118,319	£0	£118,319	£94,507	£0	£94,508	
	Funds Analysis							
	Balances b/f	Movements In	Movements Out	Transfers	Balances c/f			
	The Gambia	33,260	(60,189)	26,928	0			
	Kenya	14,649	(41,352)	26,703	0			
	Sierra Leone	0	(13,772)	13,772	0			
	Zambia	8,000	(22,304)	14,304	0			
	Unrestricted	94,507	123,811	(81,707)	118,319			
	Totals	£94,507	£179,720	(£155,908)	£0	£118,319		
9	DEBTORS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	Insurance prepayments	-	-	-	506	-	506	
	Gift Aid debtor	622	-	622	1,440	-	1,440	
	Other	-	-	-	3,827	-	3,827	
		£622	£0	£622	£1,946	£0	£1,946	
10	CREDITORS							
	Grants received in advance		20,990	20,990		7,449	7,449	
		£0	£20,990	£20,990	£0	£7,449	£7,449	
11	COMMITMENTS							
	None							
12	DONATIONS IN KIND							
	None							
13	TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS							
	None							
14	TRUSTEE EXPENSES							
	None							
15	TRUSTEES DONATIONS							
	A total of £1560 was donated by Trustees without conditions (2023 - £1560)							
16	INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEES							
	None							
17	RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS							
	None							
18	STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS							
	Salaries (One/Two Staff)	39,519	-	-	-	31,588	-	-
	Social security costs - NEST	2,321	-	-	-	1,760	-	-
	Other employee benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	£41,840	-	-	-	£33,348	-	-
	See Notes 5, 6 & 7							
19	REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL	None				None		

13	TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS								
	None								
14	TRUSTEE EXPENSES								
	None								
15	TRUSTEES DONATIONS								
	A total of £1560 was donated by Trustees without conditions (2023 - £1560)								
16	INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEES								
	None								
17	RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS								
	None								
18	STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS								
	Salaries (One/Two Staff)		39,519					31,588	
	Social security costs - NEST		2,321					1,760	
	Other employee benefits		-					-	
	Total		£41,840					£33,348	
	See Notes 5,6 & 7								
19	REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL		None					None	

DISABILITY AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1172163

Accounts



Annual Report 2023

Using play as a force for inclusion and to deliver essential social, medical, education and family support services to disabled children.

Disability Africa
www.disability-africa.org

Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, GU1 1BA, UK
Registered Charity Number 1172163

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Disability Africa Annual Report 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in *Notes to the Financial Statements* (p 26) comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 UK and Republic of Ireland* (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity number 1172163

Principal address: Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1BA

Trustees

Mr. Ric Law (Chair)

Mr. Adrian Abbott (Hon Treasurer)

Mr. Andrew Nowak (Assistant Chair)

Mr. Adam Edwards

Dr. Penny Gibson

Mrs. Sue Haworth-Edwards

Patrons

Mr. Christopher Brewer MBE

Mr. Damon Hill OBE

Mr. Ken Tyrrell

Hon Independent Accounts Examiner

Mr. Samuel Spriggs

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Employees

The charity employed one full time (4-day week) paid member of staff in the UK in 2023 to monitor charity delivery and finance and raise income. They report to the Chair of trustees.

Project Partnerships

The charity establishes working partnerships with independent community organisations in Africa who recruit and employ local staff to deliver services to disabled children in their communities in accordance with the Disability Africa Model (see p 5). These partnerships are described by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deliver projects and promote the Disability Africa model.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable objects as set out in the Trust Deed are:

1. To advance education and promote and protect health among people living in Africa, in particular children and young people with disabilities, through the provision of grants, items and services and by such other means as the trustees may determine.
2. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law.) The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees are content that the activities of the charity during the reporting period comply with the requirement for those activities to be of public benefit.

Trustees are recruited in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines laid out in document CC30. As vacancies arise, new trustees are sought and recruited with regard to skills and experience and the appropriate vetting and interview procedures are applied. All new trustees will be given a full induction prior to assuming their duties.

Ric Law ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Date: 19/09/2024

Our Mission

To work with communities to explore causes which exclude disabled young people. To challenge conventional attitudes and practice, to inform, inspire and deliver change because we believe that an approach that includes disabled children will be better for all children.

Our Vision

Disability Africa is working towards an inclusive global society in which the attitudes of the non-disabled are no longer barriers to the life-chances of those with impairments, where equity of opportunity exists for disabled people and societies recognise the benefits to all of inclusive thinking and action.



For children to achieve their full potential, they need different facilitators, ranging from good nutrition, protection from harm, opportunities for early learning, and the support of parents and caregivers, to access to timely and good quality health care...¹

The Disability Africa Model

Why do we do it?

Disabled children are more vulnerable to harm and exploitation across the world but especially so in low-income African communities. Negative attitudes, poverty and lack of information mean that disabled children are often isolated from their community and at risk of harm. Communities do not expect to see disabled children. This *invisibility is generally considered to be appropriate* and so the stigma is perpetuated. Their exclusion leads to isolation. This means they do not have access to protective and nourishing resources or access to people who might keep them safe, healthy, educated and happy. Their impairment and isolation combined, means they may be powerless and unaware of their rights. In addition to this, the exclusion of a population of disabled children from education means that they will be excluded from contributing as adults to their community and the economy.²

Project partners report concerns that many parents simply do not have the services, information or resources to ensure that their disabled child thrives. We also know that disabled children are 4 times more likely to be abused compared to non-disabled children³ and are 10 times more likely to be out of school.⁴

¹ WHO (2022) *Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities*. Available at:

<https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities>. (Accessed 2023.)

² WHO (2023) *Addressing health inequities faced by persons with disabilities to advance universal health coverage*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/addressing-health-inequities-faced-by-persons-with-disabilities-to-advance-universal-health-coverage>. (Accessed 2023.)

³ WHO (2022) *Key Facts on Disability*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>. (Accessed 2023.)

⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2017) *Still left behind: Pathways to inclusive education for girls with disabilities*. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/still-left-behind-pathways-inclusive-education-girls-disabilities>. (Accessed 2023.)

One billion people around the world live with disabilities... [and are] being “left behind” in the global community’s work on health. This lack of access not only violates the rights of people with disabilities under international law, but UHC ([Universal Health Care]) and SDG 3 cannot be attained without better health services for... people with disabilities.⁵

Poverty

Disabled young people have poverty imposed on them because they are excluded from so many levels of society – culture, employment, education and health. Until disabled children are included, they will have no chance of thriving. We help to change this by ending the child’s isolation, promoting inclusion and providing real services that children and families can rely on.

Where and what we do

Our model is adopted by project partners in Kenya, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Zambia with one clear vision – inclusion of disabled children. Our project partners:

- Engage with and deliver the Disability Africa model.
- Understand and improve the local experience of disabled children.
- Ensure good practice.
- Deliver appropriate local services.
- Work to dismantle barriers to inclusion.

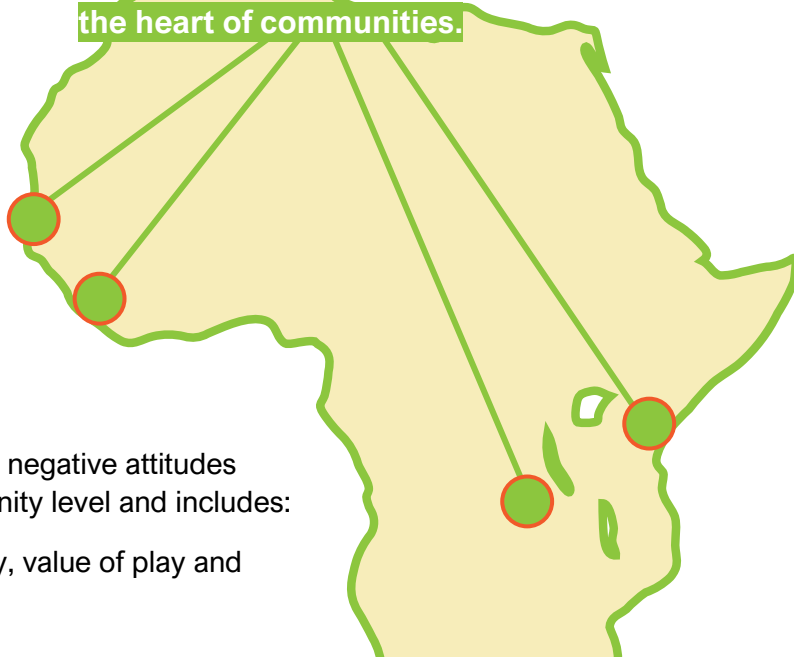
Challenging negative attitudes and learning

We take practical steps to understand and counter negative attitudes about disabled children. It all happens at a community level and includes:

- Training using the Social Model of Disability, value of play and safeguarding/child protection.
- Simply delivering a playscheme where disabled children and local staff are seen playing together joyfully is an excellent way to challenge how disabled children are perceived.
- Projects deliver training for other local organisations including schools.
- An *open management culture* that allows project partner staff and Disability Africa to reflect on practice without blame.

Since 2011 we have developed a model and approach that aims to end the exclusion of disabled children in low-income African communities.

We work with local people and organisations in Kenya, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Zambia – our *Project Partners* – this way we create sustainable behaviour and attitude change in the heart of communities.



In 2023 we delivered 14,610 visits to 399 disabled children at playschemes in 4 countries in Africa.

Disability Africa uses playschemes delivered by local people as an effective – and we think the best way – to end the exclusion of disabled children.

⁵ Kuper, H and Heydt, P (2019) The Missing Billion. Available at: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres/international-centre-evidence-disability/missing-billion> (Accessed: 2024)

Playschemes as hubs of inclusion and services that disabled children need

Playwork is inclusive and the best way to get to know any child – especially a disabled child who has been neglected and isolated. A Play Worker engages in the **child's** world and can, in turn, assess the best way to meet their needs. This can range from creating friendship groups, supporting relatives to interact with a disabled child in their family, to treating old wounds or spotting undiagnosed epilepsy – all through play!

When children play, they are exploring their world and building critical skills that bring a lifetime of benefits.⁶ Play is one of the ways we learn how to understand our world and our sense of self. Play builds essential and transferable life skills – physical, social, cognitive and emotional – at all ages. Play in a stimulating and supportive environment provides opportunities to learn how to plan, strategise, engage and observe how people react and how objects work.⁷

- **Immediately ends a disabled child's isolation.**
- Can be run easily by local people at low cost.
- Is a naturally child centred way to assess what support disabled children need and build a picture of services needed at a community level.
- Is a **hub to respond to assessed need** with the delivery of social, education and medical support – as well as the benefits of play for disabled children.
- Role models behaviour and **relationships of equality** – an *on-the-ground* appreciation of the rights of the child.
- Improves the mental health of disabled children.
- Helps parents with psycho-social support and allows time to work or attend education.
- Provides a **clean, safe, fun, learning environment** – learning through play and accessing Early Childhood Development that disabled children may otherwise miss out on – and part of the SDGs⁸ and a right for all children.⁹



So we use playschemes

as safe places where disabled children's health, welfare and happiness is prioritised and because a Playscheme...



⁶ UNICEF (2022) *The Playbox Supercharge your child's learning through the power of play*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/playbox>. (Accessed 2024.)

⁷ UNICEF (2023) *For every child, safe spaces to play, live and learn*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/blog/every-child-safe-spaces-play-live-and-learn>

⁸ UNICEF (2018) *Learning through play*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/UNICEF-Lego-Foundation-Learning-through-Play.pdf>. (Accessed 2023.)

⁹ UNICEF (2018) *Early childhood development For every child, early moments matter*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/early-childhood-development>. (Accessed 2023.)

Essential services delivered while children play

Once disabled children are registered, safe, fed, playing, having fun at the playscheme the Play Team also has the opportunity to provide wider support to the child and their family. Often for the first time there is a team of local people who have the capacity to focus on the assessment of the needs of a disabled child – to look at their education, health, nutrition and protection.

Medical support

There is a lack of affordable, accessible, quality healthcare in most African countries. Playschemes allow staff to assess children's health and then deliver 'outreach medical services'. Our model of support has helped many disabled children's access health services. We routinely refer children to surgery and support the aftercare required, collecting medicines, attending appointments with children and making links with local healthcare professionals, like General Practitioners, Surgeons, and Physiotherapists.

The model includes employing local people to the team as Medical Support Officers (MSO) who will have oversight of children's health at the playscheme. They do not need a medical qualification – they only need the engagement and proactivity of a caring, sensible parent, who has the professional curiosity to challenge the barriers to healthcare for disabled children. The MSO will work out of the playscheme providing primary care alongside the Play Team but they will also visit children in their homes – especially if they are not able to attend playscheme.

Food support at playscheme

Every day every child gets a meal. This means that their nutrition is maintained and children have the energy to get the most out of the play day. Project partners are able to report neglect and malnutrition of disabled children. This support is a practical response to the real pressure families face - families are often forced to prioritise the children they will feed well within the family. Malnutrition is a reason for some disabled children not receiving the medical procedures they need.

Parent support

Parents of disabled children may also be vulnerable in their communities. Women in particular are left to be the sole care provider and if their child needs constant supervision, she will routinely be denied respite or work or educational opportunities.

Project partners report that it is often the father whose attitude towards their disabled child needs to be understood and challenged so that the welfare of the child is protected, so we

Using playschemes as a base 1,385 medical support sessions were delivered in 2023 – costing (on average) £7.78 per contact.

Things like physio sessions, visits to hospitals, family visits, collecting medicines and after care for surgery.



29,220 meals provided for disabled children in 2023 at a cost of £22,075 – or 75p for each meal.

As well as meals at a playscheme we target the most vulnerable children with additional food support in the form of food supplements regularly supplied to the family.

There were 921 parent support contacts in 2023 – things like home visits and parent meetings.

work to make sure that parents have companionship, information and support so that they may reconnect with their community. Our parent support includes meetings and social work-style home visits. Information about impairments and available services are shared and, in turn, parents can share experiences, supporting each other. Playschemes also give parents, especially mums and sisters, breaks from caring and time to pursue education or employment.

Education and school support and learning through play

The schools where we work are resource poor – school and parents alike struggle with the material resources needed for a disabled (and non-disabled) child to attend mainstream education. So disabled children are often excluded from school. The playscheme can be an effective and reliable place for disabled children to learn through play so that they do not miss out on essential Early Childhood Development - developing creative, social, physical and communication skills. This is recognised by UNICEF who say *'the early years of childhood is a time of great opportunity, but also great risk' and that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to missing out on early development*'.¹⁰ We are always ready to work with schools using our model to...



- Helping to train teachers to include disabled children in the school environment.
- Providing school materials for disabled children who cannot afford them.
- Demonstrating a replicable model for Inclusive Education.
- Showing how a *play-based curriculum* may be the way for disabled children to access learning.
- Receiving referrals from schools as a reliable professional local service for disabled children.

Monitoring, evaluation, learning and data

Not enough is known about the experience of disabled children in low-income countries¹¹ - indeed data invisibility is a form of exclusion. So, alongside the delivery of services to disabled children we collect accurate data to:

- Learn about the children and families registered with projects so we can reflect on the delivery of the model.
- Identify disabled children hidden within the community.
- Follow up concerns – for example post-surgery care, child protection concerns, looking for themes/trends such as malnutrition or malaria that require response.
- Understand when we can take children from waiting lists.
- Maximise capacity - we use data to monitor growth and quality.
- Assess the impact of what we do.
- When appropriate share data to help with local planning.



¹⁰ UNICEF (2022) *Early childhood development for every child, early moments matter*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/early-childhood-development>. (Accessed 2023.)

¹¹ UNICEF (2022) *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021>. (Accessed 2023.)



What we did

In 2023 we delivered 16,940 visits to disabled children across 4 projects. Zambia increased delivery by opening a fourth day every week.

In The Gambia we completed essential works to the playcentre paving the way to deliver at full capacity at a purpose-built play and community centre – a unique asset in The Gambia.

Our Kenya team delivered over 9,000 child visits this year.

Kenya: The Malanga Inclusion Project

The Malanga Inclusion Project started in 2017 and runs playschemes 5 days a week from 4 local schools in a rural community in northeast Kenya. It is still our busiest project delivering 9,310 visits in 2023 for 121 disabled children. The playschemes are based in 4 local schools creating a highly visible presence for disabled children in the heart of their community – making sure they are seen and heard and part of the daily scene at each school. Without the playschemes, none of these children would access any form of education or social activity.

The team in Kenya delivered 9,310 visits in 2023 to 121 disabled children.

Medical Support and physio at playscheme

The Medical Support Officer – Grace – is a trained physio and she visits playschemes every day to work with children to increase flexibility and mobility. She also ensures there is first aid at the playscheme, and she supports play staff with the care of conditions like epilepsy, sickle cell anaemia and cerebral palsy. Grace monitors the nutrition of children, does home visits, and organises referrals to local hospitals.

Everyday physio at playschemes in Kenya

Our Medical Support Officer (MSO) – Grace – is a qualified Physiotherapist and she delivered 522 physio sessions in 2023.

Around 7 of the most vulnerable disabled children receive food support and routine check-ups. This mitigates the real risk of malnutrition reported locally where – in Kenya for example – ‘access to adequate quantities of nutritious food remains a challenge for many’¹² and ‘children with disabilities are often more at risk of negative health outcomes in food security-related emergencies, with evidence that they are 1.5–2.7 times more likely to be underweight for age’.¹³

Parent support in Kenya

Florence – the Parent Support Officer – worked with 82 children and their parents in 2023. She reported on the following incident as an example of her work: ‘S’ has been coming to the project for a few years. She has cerebral palsy and difficulty walking and using spoken language. She has a difficult family background – her parents abandoned her and she was ‘rescued’ by her grandparents. The staff team check in on the family home as she has had falls and fractures before. But as well as this she attends playscheme where she plays, sings and dances with other children. Changes staff have reported are that she can now feed herself and walk with help but she still needs to be monitored by the team and Florence will keep checking in on her at home to encourage attendance at playscheme as she is an extremely vulnerable child living in a rural family home with very few resources.



Florence (Parent Support Officer) at a weekly home visit at the Malanga Inclusion Project.

¹² World Food Programme data on Kenya. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/kenya>. (Accessed 2024.)

¹³ WHO (2022) *Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities>. Accessed 2023.

Inclusive education in action in Kenya – the playscheme functions as the school's SEN department...

The school could not give some children a place but were confident to make a referral to the Kenya team as a realistic choice and service that the children and their parents could rely on. Parents often need convincing to send their disabled children to playscheme because they perceive it as somehow not worth it or there's no point because it's just play. Grace (Medical Support Officer) said that it has not been easy to convince mum but that the child has started playscheme so now gets to learn through play, a breakfast and lunch and is in a safe place with adults who care for her.

The Gunjur Inclusion Project, The Gambia

The Gunjur Inclusion Project is the first project Disability Africa started in 2012 and is based at a purpose-built play and community centre open 5 days/week in the heart of the Gunjur community. The playscheme is delivered by a team of Play Workers, cooks, cleaners and a driver – everyone takes part in the play activities lead by the project Play Leader.

Post-pandemic, the team in The Gambia have delivered 5,278 visits to 216 disabled children.

Reopening the playcentre

A combination of COVID and significant works conducted at the playcentre have disrupted delivery over the last 3 years. During this disruption services were sustained by running playschemes at community venues such as local schools. At the end of 2023 works were completed to the centre including to the roof, solar electricity and water supply. The team and a community of 216 disabled children now have their *home* back. We aim to increase delivery as we go in to 2024.

Playcentre is an asset to the community

The Gunjur Inclusion Centre will be made available to the local community. For example, community meetings and Physiotherapy could be offered to the wider community (but still prioritising disabled children at the playscheme). The purpose-built playcentre is owned by local project partners so it will be a lasting and significant asset to disabled children, their families, staff and the local community – as well as a beacon of inclusion of disabled children.

Disability Africa have agreed an action plan with the team in Gunjur to fully exploit the centre and fill it with busy playschemes for disabled children alongside community use.

The team are well placed to think about their future capacity to sustain and really own the model and it's delivery – for example the Executive Director has experience fundraising for international NGOs and the Operations Manager is a qualified SEN Teacher and is completing an MBA in project management.

The team's presence in the Gunjur community is raising the profile of the project and promoting the rights of disabled young people far beyond



The Gunjur team at the Grand Re-Opening of the playcentre in November

the Centre itself. Potential partners are coming forward to add quality to the services delivered. A few examples are, a partnership with the local hospital to deliver physiotherapy is in discussions, a partnership with a Dutch charity providing supportive and mobility equipment is working well and a school in Gloucester has offered training and support in alternative communication strategies for children who have limited verbal communication.

We know that GIP will always need income from charitable donations but the staff team are enthusiastic to articulate and promote the model – in this way the behaviour and attitude change both within the team and in the wider community is a demonstrably sustainable part of the model that is every bit as important as simple *income*.

Physio based at the playcentre

As part of the development of the Medical Support Programme we always planned to add a community physiotherapy service based at the centre. So at the end of 2023 we engaged a teaching hospital (Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital and university) to base their outreach physio service in two purpose-built rooms at the playcentre to assess and deliver treatment to disabled children registered to the project.

Once demand and need has been assessed we expect to open the service to the rest of the Gunjur community. This way inclusion is a force for good and the health of all of the community. (And the soft play is great physiotherapy!)

Medical support in action in The Gambia...

'G' is a 10 year old girl with a complex impairment known to the playscheme. On a home visit Buba – the Medical Support Officer – found that she was severely malnourished. She was already having food supplements but this time she had deteriorated and had to be admitted to hospital. Her impairment means eating and drinking is difficult and takes a long time and her care is difficult to manage for her mother on her own.

When G was discharged the team increased the home visits – as she was too weak to attend playscheme – and increased delivery of food support to make sure mum has enough food. Buba continued to monitor G's health and make sure the hospital's advice was followed – especially keeping G hydrated. As well as monitoring the girl's welfare, the mum needed support and information and not a small amount of encouragement with such a significant task of caring on very few resources. G gained over 10kgs in weight and is thriving now.

Sierra Leone Inclusion Project

The team in Makeni (in the middle of Sierra Leone) delivered 2,544 visits for 123 disabled children registered at a playscheme that is open 5 days/week. Disabled children here are especially vulnerable in a part of the world ranked 182 out of 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index¹⁴. Despite enormous challenges, the project is at an exciting stage since we expect it to complete its transition to running independently of financial support from Disability Africa by June next year.

The Sierra Leone Autistic Society (who have been our partners in Sierra Leone) are planning to add a skills training facility for young disabled adults to their range of projects and the revenue from this is hoped to fund the ongoing play activities.

We are so proud of what they have achieved and wish them well for the future.

¹⁴ World Food Programme. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone>.

Medical support programme in Sierra Leone

The team's Medical Support Officer continues to monitor and provide basic primary care alongside the playteam to a highly vulnerable group of disabled children – themes that the MSO reports on are malnutrition, care of wounds, malaria and clean water.

Elections disrupting play...

The team in Makeni had to deal with significant disruptions in 2023 when the playscheme had to close in June and July while there was a version of *lockdown* while national elections took place. But the team still ran home visits and distributed food to families while it was difficult for them to get out of the house and to the shops. The playscheme reopened at the end of July.

Sustainability for project partners

Project partners we work with are *partners in our work* not simply *recipients of aid*. The Disability Africa model is that eventually the project partner will take on the delivery of the project independently – from developing good practice through to income generation. We have started this work with partners in Sierra Leone to think critically about how the project would sustain delivery as and when Disability Africa funding reduces. We have chosen this project to have this discussion with because they are well established community organisation based in Freetown and already contribute income to the project. But we anticipate that this will still be a sensitive and difficult one.

Kawama Inclusion Project, Zambia

We have been working with project partners in Kawama since 2022 and since then they have grown and grown – starting off opening 3 days/week and in 2023 opened 4 days/week and employed Abigail – the Medical Support Officer. The team plan to open 5 days/week in 2024.

Gregory and Esther – the Play Leader and Deputy – run a playscheme for 60 disabled children in a small building that is their playcentre. It is in the middle of a the Kawama community – which means that non-disabled children often spontaneously join in and play – Inclusion! we just love it!

Parent support

At the end of 2023 there was an outbreak of cholera in Zambia. Groups like schools and churches could not meet – including the

Despite the challenges the team in Sierra Leone delivered 2,554 visits to 121 disabled children and 4,356 meals – mitigating the real risk of malnutrition reported locally.



The Kawama team in Zambia delivered 2,986 visits in 2023 to 60 disabled children.



Kawama playscheme. So while the playscheme was closed, the team visited all the children – checking in on families, offering support (and soap!). Ndola area was not badly affected and all the children and staff are well.

Parent support in action...

Gregory visits parent homes if a child is absent - an example is 'M' who was not coming to playscheme. They visited the mother to discuss the playscheme then again with the father who made it clear that he is not interested. Gregory obviously hopes to change dad's mind in time and not lose touch with M and her parents. This sort of attitude has been reported for other families but the team persevere and try to explain the benefits of the playscheme.

Finding reliable, affordable adapted equipment is difficult. So staff source locally manufactured chairs and standing frames tailored to fit each individual.

Medical support in Zambia

Abigail – a trained nurse – joined the team as the project Medical Support Officer at the start of 2023. She immediately reviewed care plans and took time to get to know the children at playscheme. She quickly spotted previously undiagnosed conditions including signs of malnutrition and undiagnosed or poorly managed epilepsy.

Medical support in action – following up on undiagnosed epilepsy

Abigail reported that she met with parents and a local voluntary organisation who will support disabled children who have epilepsy including monitoring their health and free anti epilepsy medication. Before this could be set up Abigail had to arrange appointments and follow up with local hospitals to confirm suspected epilepsy. Once this was done it meant that a group of children had been sign posted to a service that means their epilepsy will be better controlled and monitored. Alongside this work Abigail also had to work with children's parents who found the diagnosis of epilepsy difficult to accept and understand.



Thank you to our supporters

We are very grateful to Priscilla and Chris Brewer MBE and their family, who continue to support Disability Africa as they have since the charity was registered in 2011. Their remarkable commitment and support for our work means that the vast majority of other donors' funds are able to be directed to our Africa projects.

Thank you to all the trusts who have generously given or pledged grants in 2023. Your support allows us to plan ahead and develop projects with confidence.

ARCAID, Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust, Christ Church Epsom Mothers' Union, CP Trust, CRH Trust, De La Rue Charitable Trust, Dorfred Trust, Dr Richard Solomons' Charitable Trust, Gilbert Edgar Trust, Gilchrist Educational Trust, Gregory Mills Foundation, Guildford United Reformed Church, Hudson Charitable Trust, James and Grace Anderson Trust, James Tudor Foundation, John and Susan Bowers Fund, Lambury Charitable Trust, Mageni Trust, Manglibai Haridas Khiara (UK) Charitable Trust, Margaret McEwen Trust, Marlborough Brandt Group, MJB Charitable Trust, MPM Charitable Trust, Pat Newman Memorial Trust, Paul Lunn-Rockcliffe Trust, Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity, SMB Charitable Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, Squire Patton Boggs Charitable Trust, Stanley Grundy Foundation, The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, The Bart Caulker Foundation, The Brown Source Trust, The Cauda Trust, The Community of the Presentation Trust, The Gilander Foundation, The Green Room, The Haremead Trust, The Jam Trust, The Paulson-Ellis Charitable Trust, The Rest-Harrow Trust, The Tula Trust, Ward Family Charitable Trust.

Financial Review for the Year ended 31 December 2023

As reported elsewhere in the Annual Return, 2023 saw further good progress being made in various areas of our activities. A big development was the completion of the refurbishment of our building in The Gambia. This had been a challenging project to undertake and manage remotely but was aided hugely by generous financial support from some previous and new supporters and a committed Gambian building company.

More generally, it has become increasingly obvious that a significant number of the children are not being adequately fed, due to poverty and/or neglect. As a result, providing a mid-day meal is now a feature of children's visits. In addition, regular assessment by qualified nurses is carried out at each centre to identify children requiring medical attention which can result in accompanied hospital visits and regular follow-up support.

Income

Grant Income, at £150,000, was just over 10% higher than in 2022, with a good proportion being from previous donors, but there were also some very welcome grants from new supporters.

Income from personal donations was also slightly higher resulting in total income increasing from under £150,000 to nearly £170,000.

Expenditure

Grants to projects were nearly £10,000 higher than in the previous year, but staff costs were less than half those in 2022 as paid staff reduced and there were also fewer Field trips. As a result, overall expenditure reduced by nearly £30,000.

Result

The combination of higher income and reduced costs transformed the £40,000 'deficit' made in 2022 to a small surplus of just under £9,000.

Cash Balances

The end of year cash balances for 2023 of just under £100,000, represents over 6 months' expenditure based on the 2024 Budget. This is close to the target level, but the trustees believe that the charity's current financial situation, together with the anticipated results from future fundraising activities will maintain the charity's sustainability.

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the current policy of aiming to hold a minimum of 6 months' expenditure in reserves, is still appropriate for the charity.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance of public benefit published.

Independent Examination of Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

The trustees are satisfied that the charity meets the requirements for an Independent Examination.

Independent Examiner's Report on The Accounts Year Ended 31st December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Disability Africa for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 24 to 29 below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 11/10/2024

Name: Mr Samuel Spriggs

Statement of Financial Activities at 31 December 2023

DISABILITY AFRICA								
REGISTRATION NUMBER 1172163								
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023								
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	Total	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:								
Grants	3	89,887	62,776	152,663	70,000	67,897	137,897	
Donations and Gifts in Kind	4	16,124	-	16,124	11,273	-	11,273	
Total		£106,011	£62,776	£168,787	£ 81,273	£ 67,897	£ 149,170	
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds	5	9,190	-	9,190	14,229	-	14,229	
Charitable activities	6	4,530	146,222	150,752	6,171	168,226	174,397	
Total		£13,720	£146,222	£159,942	£ 20,400	£ 168,226	£ 188,626	
Net Income (Expenditure) before Transfers		92,291	(83,446)	8,845	60,873	(100,329)	(39,456)	
Transfers between funds	8	(82,405)	82,405	-	(92,494)	92,494	-	
Net movement in funds		£9,886	(£1,041)	£8,845	£ (31,621)	£ (7,835)	£ (39,456)	
Reconciliation of funds:								
Brought forward balances		84,621	1,041	85,662	116,242	8,876	125,118	
Fund balances carried forward		£94,507	£0	£94,507	£ 84,621	£ 1,041	£ 85,662	

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

DISABILITY AFRICA						
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163						
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023						
	Notes					AS AT 31/12/2022
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible Assets	2		116			320
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	9	5,773			1,551	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		96,067			99,505	
		101,840			101,056	
CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)	10	7,449			15,714	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			94,391			85,342
NET ASSETS			£94,507			£85,662
Represented by:						
Unrestricted Funds	8		94,507			84,621
Restricted Funds	8		-			1,041
			£94,507			£85,662

Signed: RIC LAW (CHAIR)



Date: 19/09/2024

Notes to the Financial Statements year ended 31 Dec 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where the charity receives assistance in the form of donated services, such incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. Where donated services are recognised an equivalent amount is included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, when the event takes place). Amounts received in respect of events which have not taken place are deferred to future periods.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

No government grants have been received.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants are made to partner organisations in Africa with the requirement for full accountability of expenditure, the records for which are checked on a monthly or quarterly basis by the charity's staff, and audited during their periodic visits to the projects.

Costs of generating funds are those incurred in attracting voluntary income and incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities costs are those incurred in providing the services to disabled children in Africa.

All Governance requirements were dealt with by trustees on a voluntary basis, with no costs incurred.

The charity has incurred expenditure in respect of support costs which are allocated to activities on the bases set out in the Notes to the Accounts.

Assets and Liabilities

The charity has minimal fixed assets consisting of IT and office equipment and furniture. Items are written down over 3 years.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Disability Africa Annual Report 2023

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
	<u>Furniture & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Furniture & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	UK	£	UK	£
2 FIXED ASSETS				
Gross Book Value Balances at 1st January 2023	7,529	7,529	7,182	7,182
Additions in period	-	-	347	347
Gross Book Value Balances at 31st December 2023	£7,529	£7,529	£7,529	£7,529
Depreciation Balances at 1st January 2023	7,209	7,209	7,002	7,002
Depreciation charge for period	204	204	207	207
Depreciation Balances at 31st December 2023	£7,413	£7,413	£7,209	£7,209
Net Book Values at 31st December 2023	£116	£116	£320	£320
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	
3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Grants received from Trusts and Foundations	89,887	62,776	152,663	
	£89,887	£62,776	£152,663	
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	
4 VOLUNTARY INCOME				
Donations from Individuals and other supporters *	16,124	-	16,124	
	£16,124	£0	£16,124	
Totals	£16,124	£0	£16,124	

* including Gift Aid

	2023			2022		
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS						
Staff costs	8,337		8,337	12,997		12,997
Support costs - Note 7	853		853	1,232		1,232
Totals	£9,190	£0	£9,190	£14,229	£0	£14,229
6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Grants to Disability Africa (The Gambia)		50,020	50,020	-	32,077	32,077
Grants to Other service providers		64,874	64,874	-	74,418	74,418
Staff costs		23,344	23,344	-	48,737	48,737
Field trips to African projects		7,984	7,984	-	12,994	12,994
Support costs - Note 7	4,530		4,530	6,171	-	6,171
	£4,530	£146,222	£150,752	£6,171	£168,226	£174,397

Before we establish any project we visit the area under consideration and ensure that we meet the key personnel within our prospective partner organisations - which are all either NGOs or CBOs with a Board of Trustees. We also aim to meet community leaders and local government officials wherever possible.

We explain in detail how the DA model works, not only in terms of how and what services and activities we provide for the children, but also the administrative, accounting and reporting systems required.

All the grants to support the work in African countries are paid to our partner organisations in-country. These are either NGOs or CBOs which each have a Board of Trustees. The organisations are all formally registered according to the relevant laws.

We agree budgets in advance and closely monitor how the money is spent, but all expenditure is managed by the local trustees.

Each project is required to submit full details of how it has spent each grant that we provide. These are closely examined by our UK staff and the next period's grant will be adjusted, if necessary, for any over-or under-spend, and will be sent once we are satisfied that all is in order.

In addition, our UK staff make periodic field trips to the projects. to see them in action and enable us to ensure that all the systems are functioning correctly, and to check that all the records and supporting documentation agree with what is being sent to us in support of each grant application.

The trips also enable us to assess playstaff performance and provide any additional training required to enhance the benefits to the children.

Staff costs are for the UK - based Project Development officers who develop, support, monitor and evaluate each of the projects, undertake the periodic field trips, and raise funds to enable the charity to perform its mission.

Disability Africa Annual Report 2023

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Alloc'n				2022		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
7 SUPPORT COSTS							
Property costs	Staff time	1,080	-	1,080	1,080	-	1,080
IT costs	Staff time	1,239	-	1,239	1,406	-	1,406
General office costs	Staff time	73	-	73	218	-	218
Staff costs and fees	Staff time	1,667	-	1,667	3,249	-	3,249
Insurances	Type	1,120	-	1,120	1,242	-	1,242
Depreciation	Time	204	-	204	208	-	208
		£5,383	£0	£5,383	£7,403	£0	£7,403
Allocated to:							
Charitable Activities		4,530	-	4,530	6,171	-	6,171
Generating Funds		853	-	853	1,232	-	1,232
		£5,383	£0	£5,383	£7,403	£0	£7,403

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
8 FUNDS	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
Balances b/f	84,621	1,041	85,662	116,242	8,876	125,118
Movements in	106,010	62,776	168,786	81,273	67,897	149,170
Movements out	(13,720)	(146,221)	(159,941)	(20,400)	(168,226)	(188,626)
Transfers	(82,404)	82,404	0.00	(92,494)	92,494	-
	£94,507	£0	£94,507	£84,621	£1,041	£85,662
Balances at 31st December 2023						
Consisting of:						
Fixed Assets	116	-	116	320	-	320
Debtors	5,773	-	5,773	1,551	-	1,551
Cash at Bank	88,618	7,449	96,067	82,750	16,755	99,505
Creditors - Grants received in advance		(7,449)	(7,449)		(15,714)	(15,714)
Totals	£94,507	£0	£94,507	£84,621	£1,041	£85,662

Funds Analysis

	Balances b/f	Movements In	Movements Out	Transfers	Balances c/f
The Gambia		10,834	(46,488)	35,654	0
The Gambia - Refurbishment	1,041	-	(17,351)	16,310	0
Kenya		24,898	(38,947)	14,049	0
Sierra Leone		16,000	(21,181)	5,181	0
Zambia		11,044	(22,254)	11,210	0
Unrestricted	84,621	106,011	(13,721)	(82,404)	94,507
Totals	£85,662	£168,787	(£159,942)	(£0)	£94,507

				2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
9 DEBTORS						
Insurance prepayments	506		506	706		706
Gift Aid debtor	1,440		1,440	845		845
Other	3,827		3,827			
	£5,773	£0	£5,773	£1,551	£0	£1,551

10 CREDITORS						
Grants received in advance		7,449	7,449		15,714	15,714
	£0	£7,449	£7,449	£0	£15,714	£15,714

11 COMMITMENTS
None

12 DONATIONS IN KIND
None

13 TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

None

14 TRUSTEE EXPENSES

None

15 TRUSTEES DONATIONS

A total of £1560 was donated by Trustees without conditions (2022 - £1560)

16 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEES

None

17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

None

18 STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Salaries (One/Two Staff)

31,588

61,498

Social security costs - NEST

1,760

3,484

Other employee benefits

-

-

Total

£33,348

£64,982

See Notes 5,6 & 7

19 REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

None

None



Accounts



Annual Report 2022

Using play as a force for inclusion and
to deliver essential social, medical,
education and family support services

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DISABILITY AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in *Notes to the Financial Statements* (p 26) comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)* (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number 1172163

Principal address: Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1BA

Trustees

Mr. Ric Law (Chair)
Mr. Adrian Abbott (Hon Treasurer)
Mr. Adam Edwards
Dr. Penny Gibson
Mrs. Sue Haworth-Edwards
Mr. Andrew Nowak

Patrons

Mr. Christopher Brewer MBE
Mr. Damon Hill OBE
Mr. Ken Tyrrell

Hon Independent Accounts Examiner

Mr. Samuel Spriggs

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Employees

The charity employs two paid Development Officers in the UK in 2022 who reported to the Chair of trustees. In 2022 Disability Africa trialled and (at time of writing) made permanent a 4-day working week.

Project Partnerships

The charity establishes working partnerships with independent community organisations in Africa who recruit and employ local staff to deliver services to disabled children in their communities. These partnerships are described by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deliver projects and promote the Disability Africa model.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charitable objects as set out in the Trust Deed are:

1. To advance education and promote and protect health among people living in Africa, in particular children and young people with disabilities, through the provision of grants, items and services and by such other means as the trustees may determine.
2. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law.) The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees are content that the activities of the charity during the reporting period comply with the requirement for those activities to be of public benefit.

Trustees are recruited in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines laid out in document CC30. As vacancies arise, new trustees are sought and recruited with regard to skills and experience and the appropriate vetting and interview procedures are applied. All new trustees will be given a full induction prior to assuming their duties.

RIC LAW ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Date: 20/07/2023

OUR MISSION

To work with communities to explore causes which exclude disabled young people. To challenge conventional attitudes and practice, to inform, inspire and deliver change because we believe that an approach that includes disabled children will be better for all children.

OUR VISION

Disability Africa is working towards an inclusive global society in which the attitudes of the non-disabled are no longer barriers to the life-chances of those with impairments, where equity of opportunity exists for disabled people and societies recognise the benefits to all of inclusive thinking and action.



WHY WE EXIST...

For children to achieve their full potential, they need different facilitators, ranging from good nutrition, protection from harm, opportunities for early learning, and the support of parents and caregivers, to access to timely and good quality health care...¹

¹ WHO (2022) *Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities>. (Accessed 2023.)



Disabled children are vulnerable

Disabled children are more vulnerable to harm and exploitation across the world but especially so in low-income African communities.

A combination of harmful negative attitudes, poverty and lack of information mean that disabled children are excluded and actively isolated from their local community and, in turn, are at risk of significant harm. Communities are simply used to disabled children being *invisible* and the stigma is perpetuated. The impact of this is that disabled children's health, welfare and education are not prioritised or provided for. The greater a disabled child's exclusion

from schools, family and health-care agencies, the greater the risk that they will experience abuse, neglect and significant harm. Their exclusion and invisibility mean they do not have access to protective resources or people who might keep them safe. Neither are they learning how to protect themselves from harm. They are often unaware that they have the right to protection.

Communities are poorer for this exclusion. The exclusion of disabled children from education means that they will be excluded from making a contribution as adults to their community and the economy.²

A community which includes disabled children will automatically have services which are superior. Through inclusion, the quality of health, education and family services are improved.

Project partners report concerns that many parents are not be able to prioritise the care of their disabled child because of these attitudinal and material factors. They simply do not have the information or local practical resources to ensure that their disabled child thrives.

- Disabled children are 4 times more likely to be abused compared to non-disabled children.³
- Disabled children are 10 times more likely to be out of school.⁴
- Literacy rates for people with impairments is 3% worldwide - just 1% when considering women and girls.⁵

Data invisibility – another form of exclusion

Data invisibility is just another form of exclusion – exclusion from local service planning and provision.

When absent from official statistics, children and adults with disabilities remain politically and socially 'invisible', increasing their marginalization and exposure to rights violations.⁶

² WHO (2023) *Addressing health inequities faced by persons with disabilities to advance universal health coverage*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/addressing-health-inequities-faced-by-persons-with-disabilities-to-advance-universal-health-coverage>. (Accessed 2023.)

³ WHO (2022) *Key Facts on Disability*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>. (Accessed 2023.)

^{4,3} United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2017) *Still left behind: Pathways to inclusive education for girls with disabilities*. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/still-left-behind-pathways-inclusive-education-girls-disabilities>. (Accessed 2023.)

⁶ UNICEF (2022) *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021/>. (Accessed 2023.)

Monitoring the inclusion of children with disabilities in development efforts has long been held back by the lack of reliable and comprehensive data... (UNICEF 2022 *Children with Disabilities in the Middle East and North Africa: A statistical overview of their well-being.*)

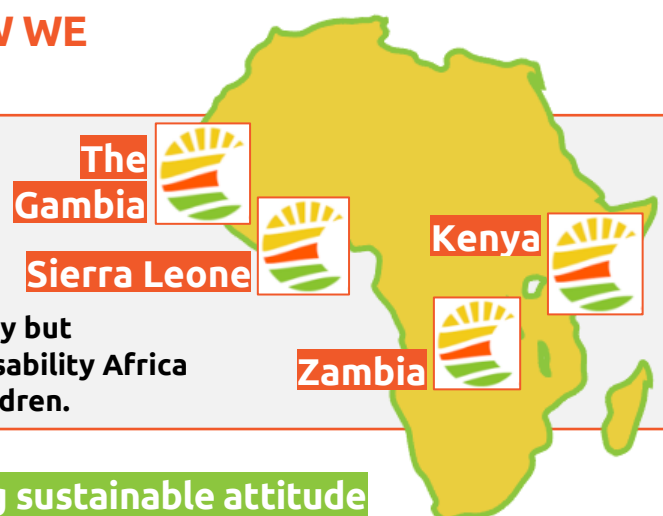
The 'serious absence' of data about disabled children means that measurement on the progress of Sustainable Development Goals for disabled children is difficult.⁷ **Our projects contribute to many of the UN SDGs** – directly addressing the goals of *No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Communities and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.*

Poverty

Poverty is complex and systemic but disabled young people have poverty imposed on to them because they are excluded from so many levels of society – employment, education and health. Until disabled children are included, they will have no chance of thriving. We help to change this by promoting inclusion and providing real solutions. Our most important work to alleviate poverty is ending the child's isolation and raising awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children – this is systematically encouraging communities to think about how they can include disabled children and improve services for everyone.

THE DISABILITY AFRICA MODEL – HOW WE WORK, WHAT WE DO

Since 2011 we have developed a model and approach that aims to end the exclusion of disabled children in low-income African communities. We are actively working in Kenya, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Zambia – the model is adapted by project partners to work in each community but the aim and vision of project partners, UK staff and Disability Africa trustees is clear – to end the exclusion of disabled children.



Working with local project partners creating sustainable attitude change in the middle of the community

We choose Project partners who can demonstrate an attitude and capacity to engage with the Disability Africa approach and model. We mobilise sustainable local management of our projects so that change is led from within the community. Our projects are all delivered by locally registered community organisations with whom we establish partnerships to:

- Understand and improve the local experience of disabled children.
- Ensure good practice.
- Deliver locally relevant services.
- Work to dismantle barriers to inclusion where and when they see them.



⁷ United Nations (2022) *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>. (Accessed 2023.)

Sustainability means different things to different people. Disability Africa and our project partners will always need to generate income to pay for service delivery, so for us, sustainability is about creating local systems and opportunities for projects to ultimately take charge of their own fundraising. But even without this, the *changes in attitudes* and the *development experience* within the communities in which our projects thrive *will be sustained*. Staff who have worked on our Inclusion Projects may go on to choose roles where they can affect decisions about how disabled children are included. Staff will have acquired work experience and represent a local resource of insight and expertise regarding the support and inclusion of disabled people in their communities. Overall, we would expect that higher expectations of inclusion within a community would be sustained – the disabled children (and their parents) who use the project, the local staff employed on projects, local teachers, medical staff, right through to local Chiefs will be more inclusive as a result of their engagement with the Disability Africa Template. **The good practice and organisational governance developed will be key to any practical version of sustainability especially as partners generate income independently of Disability Africa.**

CHALLENGING NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AND LEARNING

A range of practical steps make up the work to understand then challenge negative attitudes about disabled children, but it all happens at a community level and includes:

- Delivery of training using the social model of disability, prioritising the value of play and introducing safeguarding and child protection measures.
- Delivery of a playful and joyful service where children and staff are seen together in a practical and visual way to challenge and change how disabled children are perceived.
- Project partners deliver training and awareness-raising events for other community organisations including schools.
- Nurturing and *open management culture* that allows project partner staff and Disability Africa to reflect on practice so that we understand better how to deliver the model in different contexts.

Playschemes as hubs of inclusion

Disability Africa uses play delivered by local people as an effective way to end the exclusion of disabled children. Playwork is inclusive - *if you're doing it right* – so it is the best way to include any child, requiring us (the Playworker) to get to know the child and be interested in what's going right and wrong in their world. In this way, a Play Team is ideally placed to assess the needs of disabled young people who are a neglected group – this can range from creating friendship groups, supporting relatives to interact with a disabled child in their family to treating old wounds or spotting undiagnosed epilepsy.

HERE'S WHY WE THINK PLAYSCHMES ARE POWERFUL AND THE BEST WAY TO INCLUDE DISABLED CHILDREN...

- **Playschemes immediately bring disabled children out of isolation and into a clean, caring and safe environment.**
- They can be run easily by local people, with little expertise, at a minimal cost.
- Staff use play as a natural child centred way to assess what support individual disabled children need and then build a local picture of services needed at a community level.
- Playschemes become *hubs* to respond to assessed need with the development and then delivery of social, education and medical support – in addition to the many proven benefits of play for disabled children.
- Play Work role models a relationship of equality and an *on-the-ground/real world* appreciation of the rights of the child.



- Significantly improve the mental health of disabled young people.
- Ease pressure on their families by providing psycho-social support or allowing time to work or attend education.
- Children learn through play – the playscheme and Play Teams provide disabled children with crucial early childhood development that they may otherwise be missing out on either at home or in school. Primary education is now considered an essential tool for achieving Universal Primary Education and the SDGs⁸ and as a right for all children.⁹

PLAYSCHEMES
INEXPENSIVE, ACCESSIBLE &
INSTANTANEOUS MEANS TO END A CHILD'S ISOLATION;
CHANGE ATTITUDES
& DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT.

- **A safe place where disabled children's health, welfare and happiness is prioritised.**

Playschemes as hubs for essential services

Once disabled children are registered, playing, having fun at the playscheme the Play Team also has the opportunity to provide wider support to the child and their family. Often for the first time there is a team of local people who have the capacity and the *model* to focus on the assessment of the needs of a neglected group of disabled children – to look at their education, health, nutrition and protection.



MEDICAL SUPPORT

There is a lack of affordable, accessible, quality healthcare in most African countries. Playschemes allow staff to informally assess children's health and offer a safe child-friendly place for the delivery of outreach medical services. Our model of support has experience supporting disabled children with first aid as well as access to vital life-saving medical treatment – for example referring to surgery and then the aftercare required, collecting medicines and attending appointments with children. We also work with local healthcare professionals, like General Practitioners, Surgeons, and Physiotherapists to ensure children receive the support they need.

Practically this is delivered by employing local people to the team as Medical Support Officers (MSO). This role does not have to have a medical qualification – we describe them as needing the same qualities as a caring sensible adult who has professional curiosity to challenge the barriers to healthcare for disabled children. The MSO will work out of the playscheme providing primary care alongside the Play Team but they will also visit children in their homes – especially if they are not able to attend playscheme.

**We supported
1,382 medical
support
sessions in
2022...**

⁸ UNICEF (2018) *Learning through play*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/UNICEF-Lego-Foundation-Learning-through-Play.pdf>. (Accessed 2023.)

⁹ UNICEF (2018) *Early childhood development For every child, early moments matter*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/early-childhood-development>. (Accessed 2023.)



FOOD SUPPORT

It's simple – every day every child gets a meal. This means that their nutrition is maintained and that children have the energy to get the most out of the play day. Project partners report that this is a crucial area of work and is an obvious need among the community of disabled children we work with while we continue to receive reports of neglect and malnutrition of disabled children. This support is a practical response to the real pressure families face with increasing costs and environmental pressures – for example drought in Kenya – alongside the real vulnerability of disabled children. Malnutrition is also a reported reason for some disabled children not progressing with certain medical procedures they have been referred for.

For children who the teams are particularly concerned about, we will target additional food support in the form of ingredients and food supplements sent to the family to be used for the child. This is in addition to the meals at playscheme.

...and more than 33,000 meals were provided to disabled children at a cost of £22,440 – just 68p for each meal.



PARENT SUPPORT

Parents of disabled children may also be vulnerable in their communities. Women in particular are left to be the sole care provider and if their child needs constant supervision it will put her in a very difficult position in terms of her ability to have respite or leave the home to work or attend education. Project partners report that it is often the father whose attitude towards their disabled child needs to be understood and challenged so that the welfare of the child is protected, **so we work to make sure that parents have companionship, information and support so that they may reconnect with their community.** Our parent support programmes include meetings and social work-style home visits. Information about impairments and available services are shared in a safe forum to reassure parents and, in turn, parents can share experiences, supporting each other. Playschemes also give parents, especially mums and sisters, breaks from caring and time to pursue education or employment, helping alleviate poverty.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL SUPPORT



By running playschemes, we impact the non-existent participation of disabled children in education. We know that Playschemes are fun, stimulating and immersive educational environments.

We also work with schools...

- Supporting disabled children with classroom assistants (who are often also their playworkers).
- Helping to train teachers to include disabled children in the school environment.
- Providing school materials for disabled children who cannot afford them.
- Demonstrating a replicable model for Inclusive Education.

We are realistic – the schools where we work are resource poor – school and parents alike struggle with the material resources needed for a disabled (and non-disabled) child to attend mainstream education. Where this is the case, the playscheme is an effective and practical place for disabled children to learn through play so that they do not miss out on essential skills – social, physical, communication, creative and Early Childhood Development. This is recognised by UNICEF – ***'the early years of childhood is a time of great opportunity, but also great risk' and that disabled children are particularly vulnerable to missing out on early development.***¹⁰

DATA COLLECTION AND REGISTERING DISABLED CHILDREN

Not enough is known about the experience of disabled children in low-income countries.¹¹ So, alongside the delivery of services to disabled children that are focussed on assessed local need, we also collect accurate data about the children and families registered to projects. This provides data which we use to reflect on the delivery of the model, to understand the communities better and to share data to help with local government planning.



Monitoring and evaluation

Over 2021 and 2022 we introduced some new, simple systems with project partners to capture the work delivered and the impact of that work. We continue with the most effective ways to capture the delivery and the impact of what we do so that we can use the data to start conversations that encourage reflection on our practice and share impact with supporters of our model. Some examples of how we use data:

- Identify disabled children who are registered with projects but whom we have not seen for a while.
- Follow up on contacts made by the Medical Support Officers with children and families – for example post-surgery care, child protection concerns, looking for themes/trends like malnutrition or malaria that require response.
- Understand the capacity that a team has to take children off waiting lists, but to also challenge the quality of delivery. For example, understanding when the numbers of children attending may negatively impact the quality of service.
- Projects in Kenya and Zambia expanded in 2022 so delivery data allowed teams to track and monitor this planned growth.

¹⁰ UNICEF (2022) *Early childhood development For every child, early moments matter*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/early-childhood-development>. (Accessed 2023.)

¹¹ UNICEF (2022) *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021>. (Accessed 2023.)

Key targets for the UK team and African project partners

Disability Africa aims to create an effective replicable template which improves outcomes for disabled young people primarily by promoting their inclusion in their communities and delivering or supporting local services to meet that primary objective.

1. Support partners in Africa to improve and expand skills and good governance so that they are confident to and have capacity to deliver, grow and initiate new Inclusion Projects that are relevant and effective for disabled children in the local area.
2. Make sure that there are systems in place to monitor all aspects of delivery and behaviours so that UK staff and project partners learn and collect evidence to support replication.
3. Promote a demonstrably successful 'template' to other development actors and support them to replicate the template.
4. Expand rollout of Inclusion Projects to other countries and engage new project partners.
5. Support project partners to become sustainable so that projects can function independently of Disability Africa with established and demonstrable good governance, capacity to raise income and to maintain delivery of projects to include disabled children.



IMPACT – WHAT WE DID IN 2022...

In 2022 we delivered 20,380 visits to disabled children across 4 projects. This is 32% more than in 2021. The increase is largely because of expansion in Kenya and Zambia but also returning to full capacity as we *return from* COVID and work with families so that we see as many children as possible.

Working with Project Partners, evaluation and learning

We spent time with Project Partners to improve how we collect data to better capture all the work delivered and use that data to improve our understanding of the communities we work with and the impact of the Disability Africa approach. Routine monitoring includes:

- Monthly monitoring meeting with project partners.
- Quarterly reports from project partners.
- Monthly financial reports.
- Day-to-day messaging including reporting of safeguarding concerns.
- Collection of case studies about the experience of disabled children that highlight the impact of work or the challenges they face.

We make sure that there is a regular exchange of ideas, concerns and successes that in turn characterises a genuine open partnership between project partners and Disability Africa. This is an important part of our model and a desired impact – that project partners are allowed to develop the capacity to use their local experience to shape the project while at the same time adopting the Disability Africa model of inclusion.

In 2022 UK staff made 3 monitoring trips – 2 to Kenya and 1 to Zambia – when we were able to observe delivery, complete audits, give feedback as well as support the setup of a new project in Zambia. Monitoring trips are also an important means to give our donors and other supporters confidence that we are *doing what we say we do*.

KENYA – Malanga Inclusion Project

The Malanga Inclusion Project started in 2017 and now runs playschemes 5 days a week from 4 local schools – which means we're in the heart of a community. Kenya is still our busiest project delivering 10,584 visits in 2022 for 130 disabled children living in Kilifi County – a very rural area effected by drought putting extra strain on already scarce local resources.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

The playschemes run from 4 local schools. The team have a small online message group that allows the schools and the Malanga Inclusion Project team to share questions, ask for help and send and receive referrals of disabled children. Because of the playscheme, disabled children are part of the daily scene at each school and are enjoying an appropriate, accessible *play-based curriculum*. **Without the playschemes none of these children would be attending school.**



An example of the Kenya team's impact on disabled children is the story of 'L'...

Visits by the team to L's house showed that she is living in very poor conditions. Her mother has left the home and area to work so L (age 5) is being looked after by her 13-year-old sister. Grace – the Medical Support Officer – reports that living conditions are very poor and they are concerned for the child's welfare even though L does attend playscheme. Elders and the local Chief are also concerned for the child's safety and have even met with the mother and told her to stay to care for her children but she has left the area again. For now we agreed that the playscheme was a very important and positive part of L's life – she attends playscheme every day where she receives two meals and social care in a happy, stimulating environment. The community elders are aware that the playscheme and the associated care it provides to 'L' is a good thing. Without the playscheme L would be extremely vulnerable and her life in danger.

PLANNED GROWTH IN 2022 – 23% MORE...

In 2022, we worked with the team in Kenya to increase the days we open from 3 days to 5 days a week. This means that the team delivered 10,584 visits to 130 disabled children - a 23% increase on delivery in 2021. A fourth playscheme at Yembe still opens 3 days a week. The playschemes are based in local schools creating a highly visible presence for disabled children in the heart of their community.

Being located in schools also allows the team to develop a day-to-day working relationship with school staff so the team can make and receive referrals to and from the school as appropriate for individual children. We are gradually establishing a model where the playscheme is the schools' *inclusion*

department – so all children who approach the school have a realistic choice to be included and are not turned away.

What the Malanga Inclusion Project achieves in a rural, challenging environment shows how local attitudes is a primary driver of inclusion even more than the availability of resources (although we still need those too!).

EVERYDAY PHYSIO

We have reported in the past on the work of Grace – our Medical Support Officer (MSO) and qualified Physiotherapist. Grace visits playschemes every day through the week giving children regular physiotherapy to improve flexibility and mobility – children who once only crawled can now walk! In 2022 Grace delivered 780 physio sessions to disabled children. During this contact, Grace can also monitor children's welfare – in particular their nutrition, weight and any known health conditions like epilepsy.



MONITORING VISITS TO OBSERVE DELIVERY

UK staff visited Kenya twice in 2022 when we delivered training, observed delivery and completed a financial audit. In training we explored what a good playscheme would really look like for a child. We also refreshed reporting systems and safeguarding procedures. Areas covered were signs of abuse/harm, how to report harm, vulnerability of disabled children, open working cultures and how they protect children and foster learning.

THE GAMBIA – Gunjur Inclusion Project

The team at the Gunjur Inclusion Project started work in 2012 in the Kombo South area – it is our first project. 157 disabled children are registered and come to play at our own purpose-built play centre 5 days a week.

PREPARING TO RUN AT FULL CAPACITY AT THE CENTRE IN GUNJUR

In 2021 there was significant rain damage which needed essential repairs to the roof and to most areas of the building. We also installed solar power and a sustainable, fresh-water bore hole. These works certainly made the team's life difficult – while this work was done a majority of playschemes were delivered at community sites local to the centre and we expect to retain elements of this practice in the future. The team are thinking how to keep one day each week as a community based playscheme as well as looking at ways that the centre will be a resource for the local community to use alongside playschemes – for example community meetings.

The team are not back to full capacity but we expect to achieve this by end of 2023. From August children started to return to the playcentre which was wonderful to see and the team – lead by Lamin and Anchu – are planning how to set up the centre to be a hub of inclusion.

OUTREACH AND CHECKING IN ON VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN THE GAMBIA

We were concerned that 'T' was losing weight so were visiting her home regularly. We were also aware that she was being kept at home and not allowed out. Bue – the Assistant Medical Support Officer – decided to take T to hospital for a check-up and was seen by Dr Kante who gave advice. The problem the outreach team have is persuading the family to let T come to the playscheme as we know she's being isolated, so we work with the parents and keep in touch with home visits until that changes.

MEDICAL SUPPORT IN ACTION

The Medical Support and Community Officers (Buba and Bue) use a mix of time at the playscheme and family visits to monitor health and welfare of 75 disabled children through the year. This is a simple but crucial element of the project – being a consistent presence and an advocate for disabled children's health so that they have the chance to be healthy and strong enough to thrive like other children in their community.

These examples of work are collected from monitoring meetings and the messages exchanged with Disability Africa...



'M' is a happy chatty child aged 4 who the team know well and visit his home every month but over the course of the year M has not been well – in January he had pneumonia and later in the year has had various appointments to arrange an operation on his tummy. Buba has coordinated these appointments with M's family including – when necessary – being assertive about the care that M needs and follow up appointments so that he got the medical attention he needed. Buba's regular visits mean that the family feel supported and cared for, M's health and welfare is monitored and he receives extra food support –

it also means that Buba and Bue can play with M and have a some fun!

SOME SIMPLE BUT IMPORTANT FIRST AID...

'A' got a swollen knee so the team took him to a clinic for attention – A has haemophilia so any injury or bleeding could be serious. Later in the year the team got a call from A's mum – he was vomiting and bleeding from his mouth. On each occasion the team took A to the local clinic for prescribed medication and advice. It is not that the health agencies do not exist locally but that without the Play Team's attention A's health may not be prioritised.

PLAYSCHEMES AS A SAFE CARING PLACE...

'N' was not attending playschemes after the death of father so the Family Support Officer – Danno – visited the family to check on her and found that she is not attending school either because she gets bullied. So right now the team make sure that N is collected from home to attend playscheme - the happiest place for her at the moment and mum is reassured that the playscheme is a place where N is safe and cared for. Danno has also made contact with school for advice and plan.

SIERRA LEONE Sierra Leone Inclusion Project

Our project partners have run a playscheme in Makeni (central Sierra Leone) since 2019 for 109 disabled children and in 2022 delivered 6,368 visits. Our project partners – the Sierra Leone Autistic Society (SLAS) – already run a school for disabled children in Freetown so they understand the experience of disabled children and their families.

PARENT TEACHER INCLUSION WORKSHOP

The team have a routine of home visits and group parent meetings but this year there was an event that brought together parents, teachers and other local community groups to talk about the barriers facing disabled children particularly in education.

The event involved the whole team facilitating sessions that covered the stigma of disability, teaching strategies in the classroom, abuse of disabled children and practical ways that parents and teachers can

work together. SLAS operate a school for disabled children in Freetown so are well placed and have the credibility to deliver this sort of event where parents and teachers alike felt able to contribute and get involved. SLAS founder and Project Director – Mary and Gibril – have reported that since the event they do not have to step in to mediate disputes and teachers have reported that parents visit the school with their child more often. This work will be reinforced in the routine visits and relationships that the team have with 8 local schools.



VISITS FROM DR ROGERS AND THE PHYSIO TEAM

The work of the Medical Support Programme in Sierra Leone is made up of a locally employed Medical Support Officer (Sembu), quarterly visits from Dr Rogers and a team of physiotherapists. Together this means that disabled children have access to a team of people who give advice, prescribe, make referrals and provide primary health care so that disabled children are healthy and their welfare is protected. This is a strong part of the project in Sierra Leone because this sort of health-care is rare in Makeni.

As well as the management of existing health conditions of registered children, the areas of concern for the medical support team are malnutrition, typhoid and malaria. The risk and vulnerability of disabled children is real – sadly, 2 of our registered children died from malaria this year. The team make sure that parents understand the signs of malaria and how to treat fever and Sembu is on call to go to the family home to help and when necessary, take the child to hospital.

The Medical Support Officer follows up all of this work in between Dr Rogers' visits. Sembu gives advice and checks in with families at their homes. He also works with the Play Team, monitoring the welfare of children at playscheme – looking out for signs of fever, malnutrition and everyday bumps and bruises.



ZAMBIA Kawama Inclusion Project

The Kawama Inclusion Project opened the playscheme in February this year with new project partners – The Ex-Mayors Association. The team have immediately registered 40 disabled children to the playscheme running 3 days a week in Kawama (a district of Ndola in the north of Zambia). At time of writing we are very pleased to say that the team have increased to running 4 days a week.

FIRST, WE SET UP A PLAYScheme...

True to the Disability Africa model and established successful practice, **the team set up the playscheme and registered 40 disabled children**. Leaders (Esther and Gregory), three Play Workers and 2 cooks all lead by Samuel and Alfred who are the volunteer Project Coordinators form the local staff team. We previously funded the construction of a small building next to a market and church so we're in the heart of the

community where everyone can see the work the team do – a really quick and simple way to start changing a community's perceptions with the happy joyous sounds and images of disabled children playing and having fun. It also means that the Play Team need to employ their crowd management skills when non-disabled come to play as well – which is great!

We know that the playscheme allows staff to get to know the children in a very natural way. You could call it *child centred*. We call it play work – finding out what children are good at, what makes them giggle, what help they need, see how they make friends. The Play Team start to work with parents and talk about their observations. The Leaders have experience working with disabled children so there is a confidence and attitude that's really helpful and they know what to be alert to.



Mike and Jon travelled to Zambia to get to know our new project partners, and deliver some basic introductory training including play work, safeguarding, inclusion and the Disability Africa model as well as to hand over some basic management systems.

In 2022 the Kawama team delivered 1,974 visits – a great start in the first year and only running 3 days a week. The team have a strong idea of how they want to grow and improve the site – for example getting adapted equipment for children, toilet facilities, improved weather protection as well as employing a Medical Support Officer early 2023.

THE CHALLENGES



Sustainability

Part of the Disability Africa model is that project partners become independent and achieve some independence and sustainability. As soon as they start, a project begins to impact the attitudes of the staff team and the community around. Disabled young people begin to be seen in a more positive light and to this extent sustainable change has already happened. Project partners have also demonstrated that they quickly develop the capacity to deliver complex projects for a vulnerable and neglected group of children. These skills will endure and create a sustained change. But services will always need to generate income and we know that this is not easy. Project partners will always have to use some sort of external sources of income, including European streams of income for targeted grant funding ideally alongside some sort of local income generation. Disability Africa will work with project partners to make this step towards sustainability. It is key that we test this particular stage of the Disability Africa model when partners demonstrate and express their readiness to become more self-sufficient.

Personal care and toileting

The speed and enthusiasm that project partners set up and sustain delivery is impressive. A mix of a critical attitude and a real lack of materials and resources mean that teams quickly want to improve the play environments and grow the project. One common area of need is the availability of adapted toilet facilities. We know that most of the sites we operate from do not have running water but we are looking at how local technology and

methods can be used so that simple adaptations can be installed so that there are clean toilets near to the playscheme.

Rising costs

The challenges seen in the global economy are reflected in increased costs of our projects in Africa – particularly in fuel and food costs. Projects report that costs rise through the year so this makes planning budgets difficult and makes vulnerable families and their children at further risk of malnutrition and going without essentials. Despite this we still provide every child who comes to playscheme with a breakfast and lunch. We also provide targeted additional food support for specific children whose health is at risk – making the playscheme a safe and protective force for disabled children.



WE COULDN'T MANAGE WITHOUT OUR SUPPORTERS

Priscilla and Chris Brewer MBE and their family have supported Disability Africa since the charity was registered in 2011 and we couldn't have done it without them. The ongoing support of the Brewer family funds much of our core costs in the UK and allows the vast majority of other donors' funds to be directed to our Africa projects.

We are so pleased to congratulate Chris on being awarded the MBE in 2022 for his charitable services to young people – we know that Chris and his family support many causes in the UK and abroad. We are proud to have Chris as such an engaged and supportive patron.



Thank you to our supporters in 2022...

We are enormously grateful to all those trusts who have given grants or pledged grants in 2022 which allow us to plan ahead and develop projects with confidence despite these financially challenging times.

ARCAID	James and Grace Anderson Trust	The Allan & Nesta Ferguson
Ashworth Charitable Trust	John and Susan Bowers Fund	Charitable Trust
Beatrice Laing Trust	Lambury Charitable Trust	The Casey Trust
Brown Source Trust	Margaret McEwen Trust	The Cauda Trust
CP Trust	Marlborough Brandt Group	The Claremont Trust
CRH Trust	Maurice and Hilda Laing Charitable	The Gilander Foundation
Dorfred Trust	Trust	The Grace Trust
Dr Richard Solomons' Charitable	Mirianog Trust	The Green Room Charitable Trust
Trust	MJB Charitable Trust	The Haremead Trust
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	MPM Charitable Trust	The Marsh Charitable Trust
Ernest Ingham Trust	Pat Newman Memorial Trust	The Paulson-Ellis Charitable Trust
Hasluck Charitable Trust	Peter Storrs Trust	Tula Trust
Ian Askew Charitable Trust	Thalassa Charitable Trust	

THE FUTURE – WHAT'S NEXT?

A quick summary of what's coming up for Disability Africa.

- Continue to develop and **improve Monitoring and Evaluation** including producing a document that describes the impact of our work so far so that the model can be promoted and replicated.
- Work with the team at the Gunjur Inclusion Project (The Gambia) to **fully reopen the playcentre a Centre for Inclusion** now that essential works have been completed.
- Continue to **grow delivery with new project partners in Zambia** – including employing a full time Medical Support Officer in 2023, open 4 days a week in 2023 and increase to 5 days a week by 2024.
- Review the Disability Africa **strategic plan**.
- **What does sustainability look like?** Identify project partners as they are ready to critically investigate how partners could become increasingly independent of Disability Africa - what that should look like and the 'markers' that would characterise this stage of the model.

Please continue to support us in whatever way you can - Disability Africa and its partners commit to expanding the inclusion and thereby, improving the life-chances, of more & more disabled young people across Africa.

Thank you.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Income

The previous year had been a good year for fundraising with a combination of generous support from existing funders, and success in attracting new ones. In addition, there had been a special campaign to fund the refurbishment of the charity's children's centre in The Gambia which had been damaged by storms before the pandemic. However, the total income for 2022 was just under £150,000, some £39,000 less than in 2021. Several trusts continued to support us again, and two of them are funding three years' costs on specific projects, which is a tremendous help.

It was disappointing to have slipped behind, but further resources have been put into fundraising which are beginning to yield results in the current year.

Expenditure

The Covid pandemic continued to affect the number of children attending the playschemes to begin with, but the expansion of the schemes in Kenya and Zambia, boosted the number of visits to just under 20,400 - an overall increase of over 30% on the 2021 figures.

The Feeding programme was expanded so that every child had at least one good meal a day while they were at the playcentres. This doubled the cost of the scheme to over £20,000.

The Medical Support programme continued at a very similar cost to that in 2021.

Field trips were made by UK staff, (none in 2021 due to Covid), to monitor and evaluate progress in both Kenya and The Gambia. These were in addition to the monitoring of the regular reports from all the projects, which provide written, video and photographic evidence of activities taking place.

Result

The fall in Income generated, together with the increase in Expenditure resulted in a Deficit for the year of just under £40,000.

Total Bank balances at the year-end amounted to £100,000 with grants, received in advance, accounting for nearly £16,000.

Cash Balances

The end of year cash balances for 2022 of £100,000, (less £16,000 which relates to grants received in advance) represents a little over 6 months' expenditure based on the 2023 Budget. This is close to the target level, but the trustees believe that the charity's current financial situation, together with the anticipated results from future fundraising activities will maintain the charity's sustainability.

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the current policy of aiming to hold a minimum of 6 months' expenditure in reserves, is still appropriate for the charity.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance of public benefit published.

Independent Examination of Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

The trustees are satisfied that the charity meets the requirements for an Independent Examination.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Disability Africa for the year ended 31st December 2022 set out on pages 24 to 29 below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 09/08/2023

Name: Mr Samuel Spriggs

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

DISABILITY AFRICA								
REGISTRATION NUMBER 1172163								
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022								
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	Total £	
Income and endowments from:								
Grants	3	70,000	67,897	137,897	75,600	98,267	173,867	
Donations and Gift in Kind	4	11,273	-	11,273	14,980	-	14,980	
Total		£ 81,273	£ 67,897	£ 149,170	£ 90,580	£ 98,267	£ 188,847	
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds	5	14,229	-	14,229	10,800	-	10,800	
Charitable activities	6	6,171	168,226	174,397	5,976	147,554	153,530	
Total		£ 20,400	£ 168,226	£ 188,626	£ 16,776	£ 147,554	£ 164,330	
Net Income (Expenditure) before Transfers		60,873	(100,329)	(39,456)	73,804	(49,287)	24,517	
Transfers between funds	8	(92,494)	92,494	-	(58,163)	58,163	-	
Net movement in funds		£ (31,621)	£ (7,835)	£ (39,456)	£ 15,641	£ 8,876	£ 24,517	
Reconciliation of funds:								
Brought forward balances		116,242	8,876	125,118	100,601		100,601	
Fund balances carried forward		£ 84,621	£ 1,041	£ 85,662	£ 116,242	£ 8,876	£ 125,118	

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

DISABILITY AFRICA							
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163							
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022							
							AS AT 31/12/2021
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible Assets	2		320				180
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	9	1,551			2,751		
Cash at Bank and in Hand		99,505			151,348		
		101,056			154,099		
CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)	10	15,714			29,161		
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			85,342				124,938
NET ASSETS			£85,662				£125,118
Represented by:							
Unrestricted Funds	8		£84,621				116,242
Restricted Funds	8		£1,041				8,876
			£85,662				£125,118

Signed: RIC LAW (CHAIR)



Date: 20/07/23

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where the charity receives assistance in the form of donated services, such incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. Where donated services are recognised an equivalent amount is included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, when the event takes place). Amounts received in respect of events which have not taken place are deferred to future periods.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

No government grants have been received.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants are made to partner organisations in Africa with the requirement for full accountability of expenditure, the records for which are checked on a monthly or quarterly basis by the charity's staff, and audited during their periodic visits to the projects.

Costs of generating funds are those incurred in attracting voluntary income and incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities costs are those incurred in providing the services to disabled children in Africa.

All Governance requirements were dealt with by trustees on a voluntary basis, with no costs incurred.

The charity has incurred expenditure in respect of support costs which are allocated to activities on the bases set out in the Notes to the Accounts.

Assets and Liabilities

The charity has minimal fixed assets consisting of IT and office equipment and furniture. Items are written down over 3 years.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

DISABILITY AFRICA							
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163							
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS							
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022							
						2021	
	Furniture & Equipment UK	Total				Furniture & Equipment UK	Total
	£	£				£	£
2 FIXED ASSETS							
Gross Book Value Balances at 1st January 2022	7,182	7,182				6,912	6,912
Additions in period	347	347				270	270
Gross Book Value Balances at 31st December 2022	£7,529	£7,529				£7,182	£7,182
Depreciation Balances at 1st January 2022	7,002	7,002				5,798	5,798
Depreciation charge for period	207	207				1,204	1,204
Depreciation Balances at 31st December 2022	£7,209	£7,209				£7,002	£7,002
Net Book Values at 31st December 2022	£320	£320				£180	£180

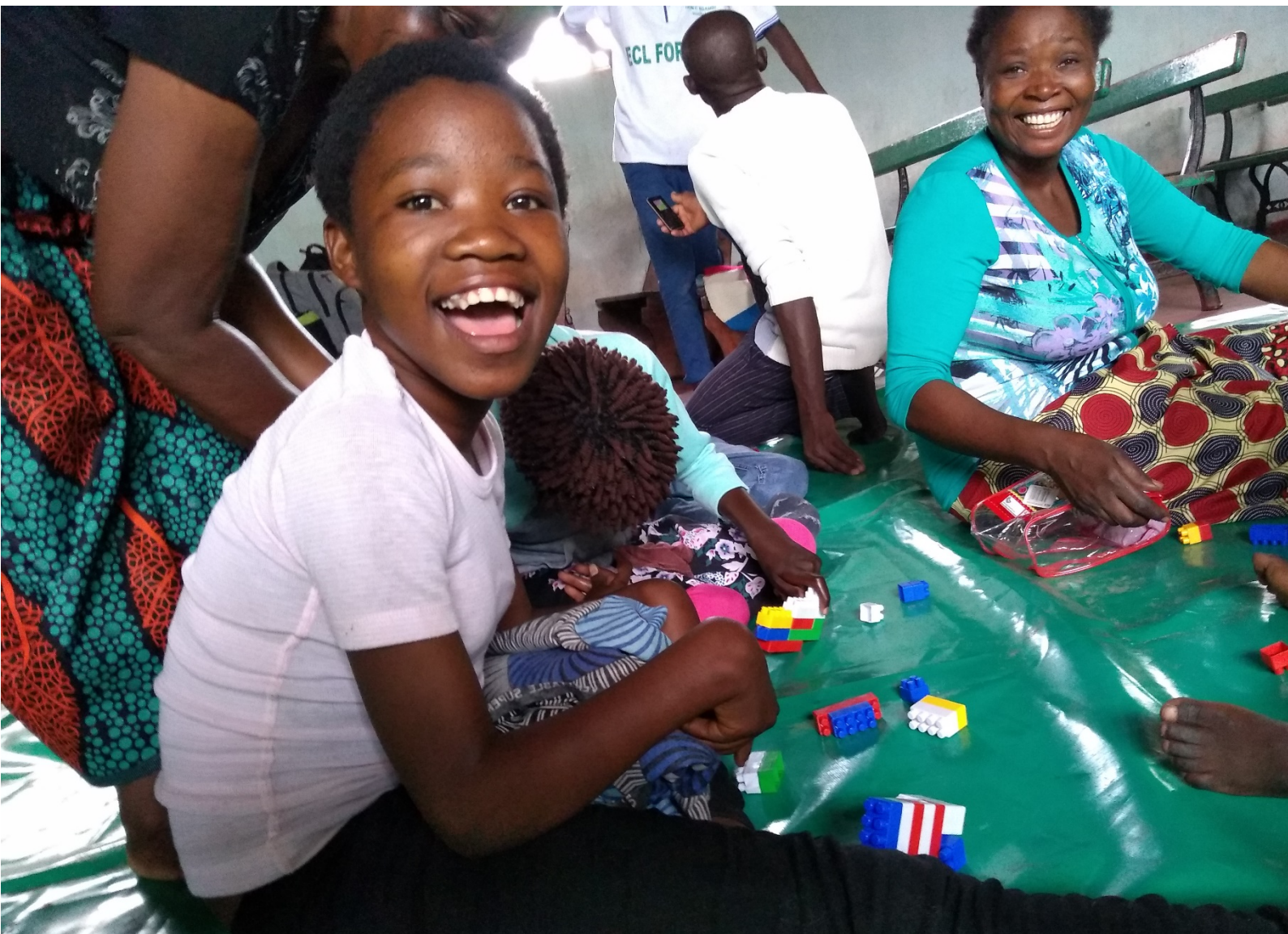
DISABILITY AFRICA REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022								
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
2021								
3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES								
Grants received from Trusts and Foundations	70,000	67,897	137,897		75,600	98,267	173,867	
	£70,000	£67,897	£137,897		£75,600	£98,267	£173,867	
4 VOLUNTARY INCOME								
Donations from Individuals and other supporters *	11,273	-	11,273		14,980	-	14,980	
Totals	£11,273	£ -	£11,273		£14,980	£ -	£14,980	
* including Gift Aid								
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS								
Staff costs	12,997		12,997		9,530		9,530	
Support costs - Note 7	1,232		1,232		1,270		1,270	
Totals	£14,229	£ -	£14,229		£10,800	£ -	£10,800	
6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES								
Grants to Disability Africa (The Gambia)		32,077	32,077		-	58,214	58,214	
Grants to Other service providers		74,418	74,418		-	53,603	53,603	
Staff costs		48,737	48,737		-	35,737	35,737	
Field trips to African projects		12,994	12,994		-	-	-	
Support costs - Note 7	6,171		6,171		5,976	-	5,976	
	£6,171	£168,226	£174,397		£5,976	£147,554	£153,530	
All the grants to support the work in African countries are paid to our partner organisations in-country. These are either NGO's or CBO's who each have a Board of Trustees. The organisations are all formally registered according to the relevant laws.								
We agree budgets in advance and closely monitor how the money is spent but all expenditure is controlled by the local trustees.								
Staff costs are for the UK - based Project Development officers who develop, support, monitor and evaluate each of the projects.								
Staff trips to monitor projects 'on the ground', which had to be abandoned in 2021 due to the pandemic, were re-instated during the year. These trips are a crucial element of the Disability Africa methodology. Before we establish any project we visit the area under consideration and ensure that we meet the key personnel within our prospective partner organisations, together with relevant community leaders and local government officials wherever possible. We go through the proposed project in detail to ensure that our prospective partners fully understand the DA model and how it works. During this process the project leaders are made aware of the records and documentation that will be required to be scrutinised by us before grants will be confirmed. Field trips enable us to support our partners with further direction and training, and audit the supporting documentation behind the figures submitted by each project.								
As Restricted income was only for the direct costs of projects, all support costs, except for travel insurance, have been allocated against Unrestricted income.								
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
7 SUPPORT COSTS	Alloc'n							
Property costs	Staff time	1,080	-	1,080	1,080	-	1,080	
IT costs	Staff time	1,406	-	1,406	1,163	-	1,163	
General office costs	Staff time	218	-	218	520	-	520	
Staff costs and fees	Staff time	3,249	-	3,249	2,383	-	2,383	
Insurances	Type	1,242	-	1,242	896	-	896	
Depreciation	Time	208	-	208	1,204	-	1,204	
		£7,403	£ -	£7,403	£7,246	£ -	£7,246	
Allocated to:								
Charitable Activities		6,171	-	6,171	5,976	-	5,976	
Generating Funds		1,232	-	1,232	1,270	-	1,270	
		£7,403	£ -	£7,403	£7,246	£ -	£7,246	

DISABILITY AFRICA								
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163								
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022								
					2021			
		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		
8 FUNDS		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Balances b/f		116,242	8,876	125,118	100,601	-	100,601	
Movements in		81,273	67,897	149,170	90,580	98,267	188,847	
Movements out		(20,400)	(168,226)	(188,626)	(16,776)	(147,554)	(164,330)	
Transfers		(92,494)	92,494	-	(58,163)	58,163	-	
Balances at 31st December 2022		£84,621	£1,041	£85,662	£116,242	£8,876	£125,118	
Consisting of:								
Fixed Assets		320	-	320	180	-	180	
Debtors		1,551	-	1,551	2,751	-	2,751	
Cash at Bank		82,750	16,755	99,505	113,311	38,037	151,348	
Creditors - Grants received in advance			(£15,714)	(15,714)		(29,161)	(29,161)	
Totals		£84,621	£1,041	£85,662	£116,242	£8,876	£125,118	
<u>Funds Analysis</u>								
	Balances b/f	Movements In	Movements Out	Transfers	Balances c/f			
The Gambia		11,972	(39,091)	27,119	0			
The Gambia - Refurbishment	8,876	0	(7,835)	0	1,041			
Kenya		34,058	(52,413)	18,355	0			
Sierra Leone		19,074	(38,342)	19,268	0			
Zambia		2,793	(30,544)	27,751	0			
Unrestricted	116,242	81,273	(20,401)	(92,494)	84,621			
Totals	£125,118	£149,170	(£188,626)	£ -	£85,662			
		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	2021	
		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	
9 DEBTORS								
Insurance prepayments		706		706	482		482	
Gift Aid debtor		845		845	275		275	
				-				
		£1,551	£ -	£1,551	£757	£ -	£757	
10 CREDITORS								
Grants received in advance			15,714	15,714		29,161	29,161	
		£0	£15,714	£15,714	£0	£ 29,161	£29,161	
11 COMMITMENTS								
None								
12 DONATIONS IN KIND								
None								
13 TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS								
None								
14 TRUSTEE EXPENSES								
None								
15 TRUSTEES DONATIONS								
A total of £1560 was donated by Trustees without conditions (2021 - £1260)								
16 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEES								
None								
17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS								
None								
18 STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS								
Salaries (One/Two Staff)		61,498				45,086		
Social security costs - NEST		3,484				2,563		
Other employee benefits		-				-		
Total		£64,982				£47,649		
See Notes 5,6 & 7								
19 REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL		None				None		

Accounts

DISABILITY AFRICA

CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES



Annual Report 2021

Using playschemes as a force for inclusion and
a means to deliver essential social, medical,
education and family-support services

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Disability Africa
Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, GU1 1BA
www.disability-africa.org

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period from January 1st 2021 to 31st December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number 1172163

Principal address: Albany House, 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1BA

Trustees

Mr. Ric Law (Chair)

Mr. Adrian Abbott (Hon Treasurer)

Mr. Adam Edwards

Dr. Penny Gibson

Mrs. Sue Haworth-Edwards

Mr. Andrew Nowak

Patrons

Mr. Christopher Brewer MBE

Mr. Damon Hill OBE

Mr. Ken Tyrrell

Hon Independent Accounts Examiner

Mr. Samuel Spriggs

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The charitable objects as set out in the Trust Deed are:

1. To advance education and promote and protect health among people living in Africa, in particular children and young people with disabilities, through the provision of grants, items and services and by such other means as the trustees may determine.

2. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law.) The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees are content that the activities of the charity during the reporting period comply with the requirement for those activities to be of public benefit.

Trustees are recruited in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines laid out in document CC30. As vacancies arise, new trustees are sought and recruited with regard to skills and experience and the appropriate vetting and interview procedures are applied. All new trustees will be given a full induction prior to assuming their duties.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Date: 23/08/2022



OUR MISSION

To work with communities to explore causes which exclude disabled young people. To challenge conventional attitudes and practice, to inform, inspire and deliver change because we believe that an approach that includes disabled children will be better for all children.

OUR VISION

Disability Africa is working towards an inclusive global society in which the attitudes of the non-disabled are no longer barriers to the life-chances of those with impairments; where equity of opportunity exists for disabled people and societies recognise the benefits to all of inclusive thinking and action.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Disability Africa aims to create a 'replicable template' which improves outcomes for disabled young people primarily by promoting their inclusion in their communities and delivering or supporting local services to meet that primary objective.

Key targets for the UK team and our African partners are that they have sufficient capacity to:

1. **Support local partners in Africa to improve and expand their skills to the point that they are confident to, and capable of, growing and initiating new Inclusion Projects.**
2. **Promote a demonstrably successful 'template' to other development actors and support them to replicate the template.**
3. **Expand rollout of Inclusion Projects to other countries.**

Due to the pandemic (funding uncertainties and impossibility of travel) our plans were inevitably delayed – during 2021, we were primarily focused on target 1 above. Particularly 're-energising' local teams to re-open projects after covid restrictions were lifted. In May, we recruited a new member of staff to the DA UK team. This additional capacity along with covid restrictions being relaxed, will ensure that we are able to progress on all three targets in 2022.

2021 was a year in which we were able to 'bounce back' much better than anticipated. This was largely down to keeping fundraising to reasonable levels, while maintaining staff teams and outreach services at all 4 projects in Africa.

In 2022, we will continue to improve the quality of the schemes, seek to expand existing projects and seek new partnerships, particularly with our new project partners in Zambia and the education authorities in Kenya where our goal is to gain official recognition of our projects as valuable alternative education for disabled young people. At the time of writing, global inflation is presenting challenges and expansion may need to be slowed, our priority will be existing projects. However, we anticipate growth of delivery across all our projects – in particular in Kenya, where we have expanded the number of days we are open from 3 days/week to 5 days/week.

These post-covid times are far from settled but we remain optimistic and determined. These times require us to re-double our efforts to support those who are left behind.

Ric Law, Chair Disability Africa

WHAT WE DO...

As an organisation centred on the simple but life-supporting principle of Inclusion, we found 2020 a very difficult year. Having prided ourselves on bringing people together since 2011, suddenly we were told that social gatherings and interaction were dangerous and that keeping people apart would save lives. Fortunately, we were still able to offer isolated disabled children with essential services, and in 2021, we were delighted to begin the year in a much more positive way. All programmes returned to normal, and our projects were able to run at full capacity once again.

We were concerned that the pandemic had caused an already vulnerable group, disabled young people, even greater challenges – in 2020, 94% of families we surveyed said things had got difficult or very difficult since the pandemic. Due to the stigma surrounding disability, disabled young people are routinely isolated. They are left behind – deprived of social interaction, education, healthcare and the most basic human rights.

- Disabled children are 4 times more likely to be abused compared to non-disabled children.¹
- Disabled children are 10 times more likely to be out of school.²
- Literacy rates for people with impairments is 3% worldwide - just 1% when considering women and girls.³



PLAYSCHEMES are at the core of our model

So why playschemes?

- They can be run easily by local people, with little expertise, at a minimal cost.
- Are *hubs* where staff assess children and deliver social, education and medical support – in addition to proven benefits of play for disabled children.
- Playschemes are a powerful intervention which help us deliver our two-step approach – **raise awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children within their communities and develop and deliver services to meet those needs.**
- Playschemes immediately bring disabled children out of isolation and into a safe supportive environment.
- Significantly improve the mental health of disabled young people.
- Ease pressure on their families.
- Offer appropriate educational experiences for disabled children.
- A safe place where disabled children's welfare and happiness is prioritised.

Working with local communities we mobilise sustainable local management of our projects so that change is led from within the community – we have active projects in **Kenya, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Zambia** - dismantling barriers and creating Inclusive Communities.

Using this approach in 2021 we delivered more than 15,000 visits to disabled children...

¹ Key Facts on Disability. World Health Organisation. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>. (Accessed 2022.)

^{2,3} Still left behind: Pathways to inclusive education for girls with disabilities. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/still-left-behind-pathways-inclusive-education-girls-disabilities>. (Accessed 2022.)

PLAYSCHEMES ARE A FORCE FOR INCLUSION AND HUBS FOR...

Medical support



There is a lack of affordable, accessible, quality healthcare in most African countries. Playschemes allow staff to informally assess children's health and offer a safe child-friendly place for the delivery of outreach medical services. Our model of support has experience supporting disabled children with first aid as well as access to vital life-saving medical treatment – for example referring to surgery and then the aftercare required, collecting medicines, and attending appointments with children. We also work with local healthcare professionals, like General Practitioners, Surgeons, and Physiotherapists to ensure children receive the support they need.

Protect, preserve and prioritise the health and welfare of disabled children.

Inclusive Education

By running playschemes, we are improving the non-existent participation of disabled children in education by ending their isolation. Playschemes are fun, stimulating and an immersive educational environment. We also work with schools...

- Supporting disabled children with classroom assistants
- Helping to train teachers
- Providing school materials for disabled children who cannot afford them
- Encouraging non-disabled pupils to become advocates for their disabled peers
- Demonstrating a replicable model for Inclusive Education

Parent support

Our parent support programmes include meetings and social work-style home visits. Information about impairments and available services can be shared in a safe forum to reassure parents and, in turn, parents can share experiences, support each other, and reconnect with their community. Playschemes also give parents, especially mums and sisters, breaks from caring and time to pursue their own education or employment, helping alleviate poverty.

It's just simple... children get a meal every day they come to playscheme – reducing pressure on family resources and simply making sure the child is nourished. This means they have energy and capacity for play and learning. Our Medical Officer in Kenya reports that without food, children will not get the most out of their physio sessions. The meal may be the only food the child gets in the day. Partners also identify children who need extra support and provide their family with food. Ensuring children have sufficient food helps to reduce inequality, advances health and improves educational outcomes.

Feeding programme

ON POVERTY...

Poverty is complex and systemic but the root cause of poverty for disabled young people is their exclusion: Poverty is imposed on them by excluding them and isolating them from community life. We help to change this by promoting inclusion and providing real solutions, but we know change doesn't happen overnight.

Our most important work to alleviate poverty is raising awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children – this will gradually encourage communities to think about how they can include disabled children. Currently, disabled people around the world are in poverty due to *the negative attitudes and actions of non-disabled people*. **The fundamental solution is to be found – not in traditional attempts to alleviate poverty - but in strategies to promote inclusion.**

Our projects continue to contribute to many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". We directly address the goals of No Poverty, Zero Hunger, *Good Health and Well-being, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Communities and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT IN 2021

The Gambia



The Gunjur Inclusion Project (GIP) covers the Kombo South region of The Gambia. It is Disability Africa's oldest and largest project; the GIP has been running since 2012. It started as a small playscheme, run from a local pre-school with some ancillary programmes. It has registered 203 disabled young people with a full range of services throughout the Kombo South region.

Supporters of Disability Africa may recall significant difficulties with the **Gunjur Inclusion Centre's roof**. **Work started in 2021 to fix these problems so that we can have a Centre of Inclusion in The Gambia which would house a lively playscheme, community engagement activities, physiotherapy workshops, and a facility from which we can work with other social, education and medical services to train them on inclusion and safeguarding disabled young people.** The centre will reopen in 2022. But that has not stopped the team who have continued with the outreach programme - taking the playscheme to communities in Kombo South albeit on a smaller scale to disabled children's homes or using community

sites – for example local schools. This year, 69 children were supported through our Outreach Play Programme. Not only is this a way to end a child's isolation but it helps to maintain a positive relationship with the family in the absence of a centre and while some COVID restrictions were in place.

Finding 500 in The Gambia

The teams also use the outreach work to 'find' and register new disabled children. Disabled children are often hidden away due to the strength of stigma. Building, and then maintaining, a compassionate and professional relationship with new families is critical. It is based on the very real and practical support that we can offer through something as simple as a playscheme.

In the absence of formal structures to register disabled children, the work it takes to find disabled children should not be underestimated.

Below, a disabled child and his siblings get a home visit from our Deputy Playleader – Rohey – as part of the outreach programme. Rohey and the child interact through play and his siblings see how much he is valued and the care and attention that disabled children deserve. The child will



come to our playscheme when he is old enough – until then, we will continue to visit him in his home.

The outreach programme also supports disabled children into school. This year, the team almost doubled the number of disabled children supported in school from 16 to 27. Many schools have one teacher to very large classes, so being able to provide one-to-one support for 27 children is real progress.

Our Medical Support Programme (MSP) in The Gambia worked with 66 disabled young people – including visits to the doctor, first aid at home and provision of medication. The MSP also provides general oversight of the safeguarding, welfare and health of all the children who come to playscheme making sure that everyone is safe, happy and healthy.

An example of work in The Gambia

An example of safeguarding, well-being, and medical support that we provide...

People around the market reported that a disabled young woman – 'R' – had not been seen for a while and when she did appear, she was malnourished. The existence of the Gunjur Inclusion Project means that there was someone the community could go to so that she could be visited – her welfare can be monitored by our home visits – providing social contact, food and health care as needed.

Sierra Leone



Our Sierra Leone Inclusion Project is based in Makeni, Sierra Leone's fifth biggest city - the project started in April 2019. Across the year, around 100 children attended our playscheme. We recorded more than 6,000 visits across all our programmes at the Sierra Leone Inclusion Project. Traditional dances, gardening, sports days and music activities have all taken place to provide children with a fun, stimulating and educational environment. We have received reports of children who have been non-ambulant, beginning to walk unaided. Other children have learned to talk after interacting with others at the playscheme. Some children have reached a stage where they can be supported in schools after making significant progress at the playscheme.

Our Social Worker, Fatmata, is now engaging with the Ministry of Social Welfare while supporting schools and families to ensure that disabled children's education, development and well-being is prioritised and understood. Fatmata plans

training for staff at 15 schools on the practical application of inclusion as well as monitoring progress of disabled children in the schools. Indeed, one young person who found school very challenging, has been supported in an apprenticeship with a tailor – an environment more conducive to his development and a place he can gain real skills and paid employment. These are early days - prejudices take a while to change while best practise takes a considerable time to implement – but early indicators are very positive.

Our Physiotherapist in Sierra Leone worked with 48 disabled children delivering tailored exercises for individual children, manual therapy to relieve stiffness and education and advice to children, families and the playteam.

We also purchase mobility aids for children who need them. Our partners reported that the Physiotherapist was, *"intrigued by the happy parents who welcomed them for coming to see and help their children. Mr. Bangura explained the process to them; as the team always does. He said every parent should also be a physiotherapist in their own right (for their child) and they should be able to perform basic exercises on their children at home to maintain improvement on every child's physiotherapy needs. Staff used toys to engage each child during the activities to distract them positively."*



Twice a month a General Practitioner visits the playscheme to provide treatment and refer children to appropriate services.

This level of support is unprecedented in Makeni and is a practical way to make sure that disabled children's health is prioritised and that their families have the capacity to provide the right care with the right information that they otherwise would not be able to receive or afford.

Our work in action in Sierra Leone

As part of our innovative playscheme, the SLIP team has been working with the children to plant some crops in the garden. A report in 2021 stated, *"The introduction of the SLIP children's garden was a very useful tool in developing their ability to plant and harvest different crops and we also taught them how to identify any crop we planted such as groundnuts, corn/maize, potato leaves and cassava leaves which is called an intercropping garden. Some children can identify a great deal of the crops whilst others struggle. The children planted the crops with some supervision from staff in September and harvested them on the 8th of December 2021. All the crops provided a good meal for the Children at SLIP."*

Kenya

Malanga is an isolated, rural area in Kilifi County, Kenya. We started playschemes for disabled children at Bahati, Yembe and Malanga Primary Schools in 2017. We then added another site in 2019 at Ngamani Primary School. **The Malanga Inclusion Project runs our busiest playschemes which delivered 8,077 visits last year to 128 disabled children.**

Disabled children get regular visits through the week from our Medical Support Officer and full-time physiotherapist – Grace. As well as delivering 870 physio sessions in 2021 she provided a range of services including setting and plastering simple fractures, treating infections and monitoring nutrition of children who attended the playschemes and assisted children in accessing further medical care.



Florence - our Family Support Officer – has very close and warm relationships with parents. **Florence works with parents to educate a whole community and raise awareness of the rights of disabled children.** Neighbours and elders of the community are invited to different family homes of disabled children where support meetings take place. This allows the parents to be seen and their challenges to be heard and understood. Offers of practical and emotional support from their immediate community are often forthcoming. The community begins to understand and value the parent and their disabled child. Neighbours even provide food. Disabled children are often placed in 'orphanages' when parents feel too isolated and helpless - Florence works to support such families so

their disabled child is not sent away from their families and the community where they can be better supported.

Our work in Kenya

A story about Elina* from our project partners... Elina is 14 and she has been coming to our playschemes running in Bahati and Ngamani since she was 9 and since DA started working in Kenya. Elina has a physical impairment – Cerebral Palsy - and while she is at playscheme she gets physio sessions with Grace. In fact, she had 48 physio sessions last year. When Elina started, she found it difficult to walk, speak or use her hands but the staff have seen how now she walks, speaks and happily plays with other children. She attends the playscheme nearly every week. Because of a playscheme, she is out and about, playing with others and having fun. She is being seen in her community and no longer isolated. As well as this, her family get a break from caring and maybe a chance to work, confident that their daughter is safe, happy and being looked after.

The team at Malanga also support Elina and her family with food that the family struggle to provide. Famine and food insecurity in the region means the vulnerable are just made more vulnerable.

**Name has been changed*

Kawama is a township within Ndola, Zambia's third largest city in the industrial Copperbelt region. Kawama is a Peri-urban area lying on the outskirts of the urban area of Ndola but retaining rural characteristics.

Zambia

After being one of our most long-standing partners, our partnership with Wukwashi Wa Nzambi (WWN) amicably ended in 2021. WWN elected to focus more on running a school and physiotherapy programmes and did not feel able to support our planned expansion of play-based projects. To better focus the **Kawama Inclusion Project** on the Playscheme as the central strategy for inclusion and





the hub from which all services are delivered, Disability Africa began a partnership with the Ex-Mayors' Association (EMA). WWN were kind enough to continue their support groups which ran at their 'pre-covid levels', and gradually handed over the project to EMA in December.

Our primary aim in this year was to establish a strong partnership with EMA and the local people so that we could re-new our vision of our play-based template to reach as many disabled young people with our life-supporting services. At the time of writing, EMA has made a strong start delivering a service to 40 disabled children 3 days/week. They have delivered more than 500 child visits in their first five months of operation.

A HUGE THANKS TO...

We are, as always, extremely grateful to individuals and trusts who support our work. We continue to be deeply indebted to Mr Chris Brewer for all the support he offers as Patron of Disability Africa and to his family trust, the CP Trust who have supported DA from the start. **Their ongoing support funds much of our core costs in the UK and allows the vast**

majority of other donors' funds to be directed to our Africa projects.

We are enormously grateful to those trusts who have given grants or pledged grants over more than one year. These donations allow us to develop projects with confidence and make a significant difference to our ability to plan ahead.

Our supporters in 2021...

The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
Ann and Christopher Fielden Charitable Trust
ARCAID
Beatrice Laing Trust
Birchley St Mary's Third World Group
Cauda Trust
Chalk Cliff Trust
Clark Charitable Trust
CP Trust
CRH Trust
De Brye Charitable Trust
Dr Richard Solomons' Charitable Trust

E C Hendry Charitable Trust
Gilander Foundation
Gregory Mills Foundation
Labone Charitable Trust
Lambury Charitable Trust
Love is Kindness
Mageni Trust
Manglibai Haridas Khiara (UK) Charitable Trust
Margaret McEwen Trust
Marlborough Brandt Group
Maurice and Hilda Laing Charitable Trust
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Foundation
MJB Charitable Trust

MPM Charitable Trust
Paul Lunn-Rockcliffe Trust
Rhododendron Trust
SMB Charitable Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
Stanley Grundy Foundation
Stery Family Foundation
The Community of the Presentation Trust
The Paulson-Ellis Charitable Trust
Tula Trust
W F Southall

Sincere thanks to you all on behalf of our Project Partners, families and all the children you have supported in 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Income

With a combination of generous support from existing funders, and success in attracting new ones through new initiatives, 2021 saw a gratifying increase in grants and donations of nearly 30%. This included a £44,000 special grant to enable the refurbishment of the charity's children's centre in The Gambia which had been largely unusable for children's activities since before the pandemic.

Expenditure

Following the Covid pandemic, playschemes re-opened progressively, starting with Sierra Leone in November 2020 and Kenya in January 2021. Without a Centre, Gambia was a bit slower to get going. In overall terms, Expenditure increased by just over 40%, but this included £35,000 of refurbishment costs for the Gambia centre. During the previous year, the charity started to provide lunchtime meals for the children as it became apparent during the pandemic that many were under-nourished due to the pressures on families. This feature of our service was expanded across all projects during the year. We are very grateful to several charitable trusts which have enabled this additional service to be provided.

As mentioned elsewhere, there were no monitoring trips to the projects due to all the pandemic restrictions. Instead, regular documentary, photographic and video evidence was provided by the schemes to demonstrate what was happening with the children. Thus, there were no travelling costs incurred.

Earlier in the year, due to the reduced level of work, it was decided to delay appointing a second UK member of staff. (In 2020, the three members of staff had been put on furlough. The two junior members subsequently resigned). The re-opening of the schemes and the need to increase funding levels led to the appointment of a second member of staff in May 2021.

Result

Whilst overall Income was over £42,000 higher than in the previous year, overall Expenditure was over £48,000 higher, resulting in a slightly lower surplus of £24,500.

Total Bank balances amounted to just over £150,000 with grants received in advance accounting for nearly £30,000.

Cash Balances

The costs Budget for 2022 is just under £250,000 due to the expansion of all the projects, as outlined in the Trustees' Report. The end of year cash balances for 2021, represent a little over 7 months' expenditure based on that Budget. This is close to the target level and the trustees believe that the charity's current financial situation, together with the anticipated results from future fundraising activities will maintain the charity's sustainability.

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the current policy of aiming to hold a minimum of 6 months' expenditure in reserves, is still appropriate for the charity.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance of public benefit published.

Independent Examination of Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

The trustees are satisfied that the charity meets the requirements for an Independent Examination.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Disability Africa for the year ended 31st December 2021 set out on pages 16 to 22 below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 25/08/2022

Name: Mr Samuel Spriggs

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

DISABILITY AFRICA
 REGISTRATION NUMBER -1172163
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Grants	3	75,600	98,267	173,867	72,104	62,996	135,100
Donations and Gift in Kind	4	14,980	-	14,980	11,258	-	11,258
Total		90,580	98,267	188,847	£83,362	£62,996	£146,358
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	10,800	-	10,800	11,083	-	11,083
Charitable activities	6	5,976	147,554	153,530	6,337	98,688	105,025
Total		16,776	147,554	164,330	£17,420	£98,688	£116,108
Net Income (Expenditure) before Transfers		73,804	(49,287)	24,517	65,942	(35,692)	30,250
Transfers between funds	8	(58,163)	58,163	-	(25,078)	25,078	-
Net movement in funds		15,641	8,876	24,517	£40,864	(£10,614)	£30,250
Reconciliation of funds:							
Brought forward balances		100,601	-	100,601	59,737	10,614	70,351
Fund balances carried forward		116,242	8,876	125,118	£100,601	£ -	£100,601

BALANCE SHEET

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

AS AT
31/12/2020

FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	2		180		1,114
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	2,751		757	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		151,348		138,730	

				139,487	
CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)					
	10	29,161		40,000	

NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			124,938		99,487
NET ASSETS			<u>£125,118</u>		<u>£100,601</u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted Funds	8		116,242		100,601
Restricted Funds	8		8,876		-
			<u>£125,118</u>		<u>£100,601</u>

Signed:



Ric Law Chairman

Date: 25/08/2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where the charity receives assistance in the form of donated services, such incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. Where donated services are recognised an equivalent amount is included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, when the event takes place). Amounts received in respect of events which have not taken place are deferred to future periods.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

No government grants have been received.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants are made to partner organisations in Africa with the requirement for full accountability of expenditure, the records for which are checked on a monthly or quarterly basis by the charity's staff, and audited during their periodic visits to the projects.

Costs of generating funds are those incurred in attracting voluntary income and incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities costs are those incurred in providing the services to disabled children in Africa.

All Governance requirements were dealt with by trustees and the director on a voluntary basis, with no costs incurred.

The charity has incurred expenditure in respect of support costs which are allocated to activities on the bases set out in the Notes to the Accounts.

Assets and Liabilities

The charity has minimal fixed assets consisting of IT and office equipment and furniture. Items are written down over 3 years.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Furniture & Equipment UK		2020	Furniture & Equipment UK		2020
	£	£	Total	£	£	Total
2 FIXED ASSETS						
Gross Book Value Balances at 1st January 2021		6,912	6,912		6,912	6,912
Additions in period		270	270		-	-
Gross Book Value Balances at 31st December 2021		£7,182	£7,182		£6,912	£6,912
Depreciation Balances at 1st January 2021		5,798	5,798		4,276	4,276
Depreciation charge for period		1,204	1,204		1,522	1,522
Depreciation Balances at 31st December 2021		£7,002	£7,002		£5,798	£5,798
Net Book Values at 31st December 2021		180	£180		£1,114	£1,114
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Grants received from Trusts and Foundations	75,600	98,267	173,867	72,104	62,996	135,100
	£75,600	£98,267	£173,867	£72,104	£62,996	£135,100
4 VOLUNTARY INCOME						
Donations from Individuals and other supporters *	14,980	-	14,980	11,258	-	11,258
Totals	£14,980	£ -	£14,980	£11,258	£ -	£11,258
* including Gift Aid						
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS						
Staff costs	9,530		9,530	9,785		9,785
Support costs - Note 7	1,270		1,270	1,298		1,298
Totals	£10,800	£ -	£10,800	£11,083	£ -	£11,083
6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Grants to Disability Africa (The Gambia)		58,214	58,214	-	16,476	16,476
Grants to Other service providers		53,603	53,603	-	45,520	45,520
Staff costs		35,737	35,737	-	36,692	36,692
Field trips to African projects		-	-	-	-	-
Support costs - Note 7	5,976		5,976	6,337	-	6,337
	£5,976	£147,554	£153,530	£6,337	£98,688	£105,025

All the grants to support the work in African countries are paid to our partner organisations in-country. These are either NGO's or CBO's who each have a Board of Trustees. The organisations are all formally registered according to the relevant laws.

We agree budgets in advance and closely monitor how the money is spent but all expenditure is controlled by the local trustees.

Staff costs are for the UK - based Project Development officers who develop, support, monitor and evaluate each of the projects.

As a result of the pandemic restrictions, no monitoring trips to projects were possible during the year but these will resume as soon as conditions allow.

These trips are a crucial element of the Disability Africa methodology. Before we establish any project we visit the area under consideration and ensure that we meet the key personnel within our prospective partner organisations, together with relevant community leaders and local government officials wherever possible. We go through the proposed project in detail to ensure that our prospective partners fully understand the DA model and how it works. During this process the project leaders are made aware of the records and documentation that will be required to be scrutinised by us before grants will be

confirmed. Field trips enable us to support our partners with further direction and training, and audit the supporting documentation behind the figures submitted by each project.

As Restricted income was only for the direct costs of projects, all support costs, except for travel insurance, have been allocated against Unrestricted income. For 2021, there were no travel insurance costs.

DISABILITY AFRICA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total
7 SUPPORT COSTS	<u>Alloc'n</u>						
Property costs	Staff time	1,080		1,080	1,080		1,080
IT costs	Staff time	1,163		1,163	1,163		1,163
General office costs	Staff time	520		520	278		278
Staff costs and fees	Staff time	2,383		2,383	2,446		2,446
Insurances	Type	896		896	1,146		1,146
	Time	1,204		1,204	1,522		1,522
Depreciation	Time						
		7,246	£ -	£7,246	£7,635	£ -	£7,635
Allocated to:							
Charitable Activities		5,976		5,976	6,337		6,337
Generating Funds		1,270		1,270	1,298		1,298
		£7,246	£ -	£7,246	£7,635	£ -	£7,635

Travel insurance is all allocated to Charitable activities. As there were no trips in 2020, all insurance costs were allocated to Other costs on a Staff time basis as the same staff perform all functions.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
8 FUNDS	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
Balances b/f	100,601	0	100,601	59,737	10,614	70,351
Movements in	90,580	98,267	188,847	83,362	62,996	146,358
Movements out	(16,776)	(147,554)	(164,330)	(17,420)	(98,688)	(116,108)
Transfers	(58,163)	58,163	0	(25,078)	25,078	0
Balances at 31st December 2021	116,242	8,876	125,118	100,601	0	100,601
Consisting of:						
Fixed Assets	180	0	180	1,114	0	1,114
Debtors	2,751	0	2,751	757	0	757
Cash at Bank	113,311	38,037	151,348	138,730	0	138,730
Creditors		(29,161)	(29,161)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)
Totals	116,242	8,876	125,118	100,601	0	100,601

DISABILITY AFRICA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

				2020		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
9 DEBTORS						
Insurance prepayments	834		834	482		482
Gift Aid debtor	1,060		1,060	275		275
Trip Exps re 2022		857	857			
	<u>1,894</u>	<u>857</u>	<u>2,751</u>	<u>£757</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£757</u>
10 CREDITORS						
Grants received in advance	29,161		29,161	40,000	-	40,000
	<u>£29,161</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£29,161</u>	<u>£40,000</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£40,000</u>
11 COMMITMENTS						
During the year, a solution to the roof problems at the Gunjur Inclusion Centre, alluded to in the Trustee' Report, was devised and costed. Funding to support it was found. Work commenced in September and has continued into 2022. Once this has been completed and the Centre is 'dry', other refurbishments will be necessary. The situation will be reviewed once the costs of these are known, but they are expected to be manageable. Additional Funding will need to be raised, but the target is for all work to be completed by the end of 2022.						
12 DONATIONS IN KIND						
None						
13 TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS						
None						
14 TRUSTEE EXPENSES						
None						
15 TRUSTEES DONATIONS						
A total of £1260 was donated by Trustees without conditions (2020 - £360)						
16 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEES						
None						
17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS						
None requiring disclosure						
18 STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS						
Salaries (One/Two Staff)	45,086			46,006		
Social security costs - NEST	2,563			2,918		
Other employee benefits	-			-		
Total	<u>£47,649</u>			<u>£48,924</u>		
See Notes 5,6 & 7						
Employment allowance has been applied against National Insurance contributions						
19 REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL						
Nil						

Accounts

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172163

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

Disability Africa Albany House 6-8 Woodbridge Meadows Guildford GU1 1BA

www.disability-africa.org

**DISABILITY AFRICA REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2020**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Registered Charity number
1172163

Principal address
Albany House
6-8 Woodbridge Meadows
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 1BA

Trustees

Mr. Ric Law (Chair)
Mr. Adrian Abbott (Hon Treasurer)
Mr. Adam Edwards
Dr. Penny Gibson
Mrs. Sue Haworth-Edwards
Mr. Andrew Nowak

Patrons

Mr. Christopher Brewer DL
Mr. Damon Hill OBE
Mr. Ken Tyrrell

Hon Independent Accounts Examiner

Mr Samuel Spriggs



"I support Disability Africa because they focus on real partnership with local people and they recognise that changing hearts and minds is as crucial in the fight against prejudice as providing practical help to children that need it."

Damon Hill OBE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charitable objects as set out in the Trust Deed are:

1. To advance education and promote and protect health among people living in Africa, in particular children and young people with disabilities, through the provision of grants, items and services and by such other means as the trustees may determine.
2. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law.) The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees are content that the activities of the charity during the reporting period comply with the requirement for those activities to be of public benefit.

Trustees are recruited in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines laid out in document CC30. As vacancies arise, new trustees are sought and recruited with regard to skills and experience and the appropriate vetting and interview procedures are applied. All new trustees will be given a full induction prior to assuming their duties.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Ric Law - Chairman of Trustees

Date: 8th July 2021

Our Mission:

To work with communities to explore causes which exclude disabled young people. To challenge conventional attitudes and practice, to inform, inspire and deliver change because we believe that an approach that includes disabled children will be better for all children.

Our Vision:

Disability Africa is working towards an inclusive global society in which the attitudes of the non-disabled are no longer barriers to the life-chances of those with impairments; where equity of opportunity exists for disabled people and societies recognise the benefits to all of inclusive thinking and action.

A Message from Our Chairman

Prior to Covid-19 we knew that there were large numbers of people being excluded, left behind and living precariously, but the pandemic has thrown into stark relief the gargantuan inequalities that exist. Low-income populations around the world are unfairly paying the price for the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, Disability Africa has worked flexibly and pro-actively to continue to assist disabled young people and their families who constitute some of the most vulnerable groups.

Disabled children in Kenya, The Gambia and Sierra Leone are once again benefitting from the social, educational and therapeutic environment of a Disability Africa playscheme.

Despite some financial difficulties early in the year caused by a dip in trust income, we kept all the teams in Africa together - no-one lost their job! Our dedicated teams continued to visit children in their homes (observing social distancing rules!) to make sure that malnourished disabled children were fed and supplied with nutritional supplements; a boy who broke both bones in his lower leg received surgery and now walks again for the first time in four years; a young man with cerebral palsy and haemophilia received life-saving support from the medical support team. But best of all, towards the end of the year, the Playschemes began to

re-open. At the time of writing, Disabled children in Kenya, The Gambia and Sierra Leone are once again benefitting from the social, educational and therapeutic environment of a Disability Africa playscheme. Support groups in Zambia are also up and running.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to those individuals and trusts who support our work. We would like to thank **all our regular supporters** who donate every month. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to rely on £600 a month throughout 2020 - which is almost half the total monthly cost of our programmes in Kenya!

We continue to be deeply indebted to Mr Chris Brewer for all the support he offers as Patron of Disability Africa and to his family trust, the **CP Trust** who have supported DA from its inception. Their ongoing support funds much of our core costs in the UK and allows the vast majority of other donors' funds to be directed to our Africa projects.

We are enormously grateful to those trusts who have given grants or pledged grants over more than one year. These donations allow us to develop projects with confidence and make a significant difference to our ability to plan ahead. **The Chalk Cliff Trust**, which has generously supported us for the last six years; **The Margaret McEwen Trust** and **The Green Room Charitable Trust**, both trusts have supported us every year since 2017; the **Waterloo Foundation** which has supported the expansion of our projects in Kenya, as did **The Alan & Nesta Ferguson Foundation**; **The Fore** and the **Big Lottery Fund**, continued their support of our ME&L systems

and the projects in Kenya and Zambia. We are also extremely grateful to **The Abba Charitable Trust and The Austin Bailey Foundation** who have both made a second donation to our work. Also, for the second year running, **The Rhododendron Charitable Trust** and the **MJB Charitable Trust** kindly supported us. While **The Stanley Grundy Foundation** made a very generous donation to Disability Africa for the first time. Lastly, a special thanks to the **Thalassa Trust** and **Mr Paul van den Bosch** who both made additional donations to help us through the Covid crisis.

We are grateful to all our donors and those who follow and support our work. You are a valued part of our movement and we appreciate you being alongside us.

As you will read below, the early stages of the pandemic in the UK brought a severe drop in grants and so we must give very special thanks to **Bilal Patel and Alex Davis** who co-ordinated with the **St. James's Place Foundation and the Marlborough Brandt Group** to jointly donate £30,000 to support our projects across Africa. This support came at a crucial time early in the year when the lockdown seemed to have choked off all funding. We are extremely grateful for this rapid and generous response when our situation was extremely vulnerable.

Those mentioned above are just a few of the many kind donors, individuals and organisations, some of whom have asked to be anonymous. On behalf of the young people in Africa whom we serve, we are grateful to you all.

Of course, we are always seeking further support. Almost everywhere on the African continent the rights of disabled young people go unrecognised and their basic needs are neglected. With the support of all our donors, we will continue to improve outcomes for this most underprivileged section of our global society.

As a final note, it is important to say that as a charity which is all about inclusion and bringing people together, we also value the interest and involvement of those people who may not be in a position to donate but who follow and support our work in other ways. You are a valued part of our movement and we appreciate you being alongside us.



Ric Law, Chairman

Activities and Impact During The Year of Global Pandemic

In March 2020 the World Health Organisation declared the Covid-19 virus to be a global pandemic. This has affected the operations of almost every organisation globally. Unsurprisingly, Disability Africa and our partners did not escape the impact of the pandemic.

It is worth remembering that there had not been a global pandemic in living memory and in March 2020, the implications of such an event on everyday life were unknown to all but a few epidemiologists. Internationally, different governments took different steps to manage the virus - some governments seemed to embark on one course and then change their approach later. Our approach under these circumstances was to contact all our African partners and advise them to follow their own government's advice as it pertained to schools and apply that same advice to the projects.

As the number of hospitalisations and deaths in the UK from Covid-19 reached a peak in mid-April, we were very fearful of the impact that the pandemic would have on the vulnerable children and families with whom we worked. It was clear that resources in the UK were being stretched to their limit - what would the impact be on our partners living in some of the poorest and under-resourced economies in the world? We were acutely aware that we might need to adapt our services and ways of working, to provide as safe and effective a service as possible, following government and WHO guidance.

Our priorities were:

- to preserve the well-being of the young people
- to sustain the local infrastructure of the projects
- to enable a flexible approach to the events of the coming months
- to protect the livelihoods of the staff employed on DA projects
- to monitor the impact of the pandemic on disabled young people and their families

Enabling Flexible Strategies to Preserve the Well-being of Young Disabled People

Disability Africa promotes the inclusion of young disabled people in their communities. We address the stigma that traditionally isolates them and deprives them of social interaction, education, healthcare and so much more. Our primary strategy to combat this isolation is the provision of Playschemes. This is because they can be run easily by local people, with little expertise, at a minimal cost. Playschemes are a powerful intervention which:

1. **Raises awareness of the rights and needs of disabled young people**
2. **Provides a 'hub' from which to deliver services to meet identified needs.**

Playschemes also significantly improve the mental health of disabled young people and ease the pressure on their families. Our model has consistently shown to be a powerful agency to dismantle barriers and create Inclusive Communities.

However, in a world where social gatherings were increasingly dangerous, we were challenged to adapt our services to meet these extraordinary times.

Following in-country government guidelines for schools, all the Playschemes were closed by April. Our staff were 'reoriented' to check on the families by phone and social-distanced home visits to monitor the welfare of the disabled young people known to us. This work became increasingly important - The United Nations stated that there has been a worldwide increase in domestic abuse which constitutes a 'shadow pandemic'. Incidents of abuse increased by as much as 20% during 'lockdown'. Our teams were directed to work particularly with children on our 'safeguarding list', ensuring that disabled children and their families were supported, and their welfare prioritised.

In a world where social gatherings were increasingly dangerous, we were challenged to adapt our services to meet these extraordinary times.

The teams also continued to support children to access medical care. Our teams delivered medicines and nutritional supplements to those children who needed them, and our medical support staff ensured that all 'post-op' care was still delivered and routine treatment of injuries and infections was maintained.

During the 'socially-distanced home visits' our teams continued to advocate for the power of play. It was very encouraging to hear from parents that their children continued to play at home, both independently, and with others in the household. Nevertheless, the playschemes were sorely missed - many parents told us that their children were missing their friends and playworkers.

Sustaining the Infrastructure of the Projects.

Whilst many organisations favour construction of buildings or provision of equipment, Disability Africa prioritises programmes which target social change. These programmes depend upon the local teams who understand the importance of Inclusion not just for disabled young people but for the wider community. We considered it crucial for the eventual ‘post-pandemic’ resumption of the projects that the teams continued to, not only deliver the essential services mentioned above, but they continued to be seen as a presence in their communities and a resource to which people could continue to turn throughout the duration of the pandemic. Even though their workload would inevitably be reduced to some extent, we judged it essential to maintain the teams as working units and also to **protect their livelihoods** by continuing to sustain the same level of grants for their salaries so that they would not suffer financial hardship during the pandemic.

94% of families said things had got difficult or very difficult since the pandemic

Monitoring the Impact of the Pandemic on Disabled Young People and their Families.

People living in countries with smaller economies and less infrastructure are always the worst affected in times of crisis. However, at the time of writing, most of Africa seems to have weathered the pandemic well. We have not seen the catastrophic numbers of deaths that many of us feared and, for whatever reasons, the poorer populations in which DA supports projects have been very lightly affected by the virus itself. However, we have always known that the isolation which disabled children and their families face is by far the largest factor which impacts their quality of life. It was obvious that a national lockdown could only exacerbate the impact of isolation.

To achieve a clearer picture of the situation, we worked with our project partners to develop and undertake a survey of as many families of disabled children who could be reached by phone or with a home visit. The project staff - who had been in communication with families throughout the playscheme shutdowns, worked through the survey with parents and caregivers. It quickly became apparent that lockdowns and restrictions were having a heavy impact on these families.

- 94% of families said things had got difficult or very difficult since the pandemic (6% said they have stayed the same)
- 93.6% of families reported a loss of income, a failure to provide basics and a vast majority of these reported that meals are being skipped. Some jobs have been lost due to lockdown restrictions; others no longer had childcare and were, therefore, unable to work.
- 96% said that things have got more difficult or very difficult for disabled young people without DA providing our usual services.
- In Kenya, some respondents have described it as being the hardest time in their lives and one even said they wished they had not been born.

One of our partners reported, “With regards to the Covid-19 pandemic . . . ***we have been getting more calls in relation to child protection issues and family break downs. With the worsened poverty situation families are having to deal with extreme stressful situations such as not been able to provide food for their children, etc.*** . . . Sierra Leone hasn’t been ravaged by the pandemic itself as was expected; i.e. the number of deaths is still low and many affected are recovering. However, the repercussions from having a country under curfew, lockdown, and of course restricted business operations, including goods coming into the country; for some period of time have all helped to worsen the poverty situation in the country. As many children’s wards have been turned into isolation wards, healthcare provision for children has also worsened. Cost of living has increased; e.g. food and transportation costs, and healthcare provision is now more difficult and more expensive too.”

Projects Re-Open

As mentioned above, our projects partners in Africa were following their own national and local government guidelines regarding Covid 19 as they were applied to schools in each country.

At the time of writing, the situation in each of our projects is as follows:

Kenya

Schools in Kenya all fully re-opened on 4th January and we resumed all project activities at that stage. We are hearing of children being malnourished and not properly cared for during the pandemic and are pleased that, with playschemes, lunches, parent support groups running again, disabled children and their families are being supported.

The playschemes recommencing have now replaced the Outreach Play Programme (OPP) which was instituted during the pandemic. The OPP was our response where playworkers visited homes, especially of those children on our 'safeguarding/well-being concerns' list and conducting a small-scale playscheme in the families' compounds.

Sierra Leone

"The re-opening of the SLIP (Sierra Leone Inclusion Project) Centre has brought great joy to our children and their families"

The playscheme at Makeni in Sierra Leone re-started in November. A recent report said, *"The re-opening of the SLIP (Sierra Leone Inclusion Project) Centre has brought great joy to our children and their families. We were overwhelmed with emotions when we first re-opened. Some mums cried as they explained how much they have "suffered" during the closure of SLIP as they struggled to engage their children who have disabilities. Without SLIP some had nowhere to leave their children for them to go to work (petty trading mainly). The children and young people themselves were very happy to see each other and the staff team again."*

The Gambia

Schools re-opened in December and playschemes have also resumed. The team has begun work with schools, trying to find disabled young people who may need extra support in the classroom and registering them with the project.

In The Gambia, we have also increased our level of activity with an OPP running since the 17th November.

Zambia

Our partners in Zambia (WWN) re-opened their support groups in December and are now running at their 'pre-covid levels' once again.

Fundraising in the UK

By early March 2020 it was clear that the pandemic would substantially affect the operations of the charity. Despite the usual number of fundraising applications being sent in the previous six months, donations from grants almost dried up. This was an unprecedented development in the history of the charity.

Disability Africa has a policy to try to keep at least 6-months of running costs in the bank. This is in order that we are always in a position to give our partners 6 months' notice in the event that we need to cease operating and also to create a cushion against unexpected 'shocks' (such as a global pandemic!) We consider this is important to allow time for either an orderly shut-down of projects or, more hopefully, other sources of support to be found. In March 2020, the quarter two transfer of grants to our African partners, caused the charity's resources to drop below this '6-month marker' and trustees were alerted that, if the drop-off in funding continued, we would be closing down by September.

We are deeply indebted to Alex Davis and Bilal Patel who co-ordinated with the St. James's Place Foundation and the Marlborough Brandt Group to jointly donate £30,000 to support our projects across Africa at this crucial time. This cash injection was sufficient to prevent a complete shutdown at a time when our situation was extremely vulnerable.

UK Staffing

During 2019 we had increased the UK staff team to three. This was to increase our capacity to develop projects and to devise more robust monitoring, evaluation and learning systems prior to launching a strategy to promote the "Disability Africa Template" to other development actors. As the pandemic restricted both funding and our charitable activities in Africa, the decision was taken in early 2020, to furlough all staff for a period of six weeks in order to save on salary costs at a time when income was much reduced. During this time, the trustees stepped in to 'caretake' the operations of the charity.

We were sorry to lose Tom Wright and Lex Rosenthal, who both resigned during this year. Given the ongoing situation with the pandemic, the decision was taken not to replace them until such time as projects could re-start and fundraising income was sufficient. At the time of writing, there are plans to hire new staff in 2021.

Covid-19 Impact on Strategic Plans

Disability Africa aims to create a 'replicable template' which improves outcomes for disabled young people primarily by promoting their inclusion in their local and wider communities and providing and supporting local services as required to meet that primary objective.

Key targets for the UK team and our African partners are that they have sufficient capacity to:

- 1) Support local partners in Africa to the point where they are confident to, and capable of, initiating new Inclusion Projects within nearby communities
- 2) Promote a demonstrably successful 'template' to other development actors and support them to replicate the template
- 3) Expand rollout of Inclusion Projects to other countries.

An important factor in developing the necessary capacity to deliver the above targets is to maintain a balance of acceptably small UK core costs with the significant majority of donors funds being used to develop the Africa-based work. This balance is made challenging by the disparity between costs in the

UK versus costs in African countries. Put starkly, it is feasible to fund an entire Inclusion Project in one African community which will support 200 children for the costs of one UK salary.

Disability Africa aims to create a 'replicable template' which improves outcomes for disabled young people by promoting their inclusion.

This pressure to keep a very small team in the UK means that the charity is vulnerable in the event of even one member of staff leaving, and 'contingency planning' is challenging. Since expanding operations to four countries, it has been appropriate to aim for a UK staff team of a minimum of two people to manage the development, fundraising, and administration required to manage target 1) above.

In 2019, progress was considered sufficient across all projects to hire a third member of staff to begin work on target 2).

The Covid pandemic not only shut down the vast majority of our activities, it also stopped all training and monitoring visits. It stopped all possibilities of local expansion plans which were in progress and it sent many staff members in Africa 'back to their homes'.

We made the immediate decision that (regardless of any other ethical and humane considerations) projects would stand the best start of recommencing after the pandemic was over

if the African staff teams could be protected by continuing to pay their full salaries regardless of how much actual work they were able to achieve.

The successful resumption of all projects to their 'pre-covid' levels of activity has vindicated this decision.

Nonetheless, as already noted, UK staff vacancies occurring during the pandemic have not been filled. This has impacted on our ability to deliver on targets 2) and 3) above as the one member of UK staff currently employed is totally dedicated to achieving target 1).

We are enthusiastic and confident about the continued success of Disability Africa to address the desperate inequalities that exist for disabled young people

We plan to recruit a second member of staff in 2021 who will pick up the workstreams required for target 2). This will be an individual with sufficient experience in development, fundraising and disability issues but it is recognised that it will take until the end of 2021 for all systems and resources to be in their pre-pandemic condition.

In summary, the Covid pandemic has set back our strategic timetable by approximately two years. That said, the UK infrastructure remains robust. We have experienced and skilled staff and trustees and the projects in Africa have survived intact and are now all working to pre-covid levels.

We are collectively enthusiastic and confident about the prospects of continued success of Disability Africa and its work to address the desperate inequalities that exist for disabled young people in some of the poorest communities on Earth.

Financial Review for the Year ended 31st December 2020

The accompanying accounting statements are in respect of the year ended 31st December 2020.

Income

There was considerable trepidation that income from grants would be seriously reduced when the Covid-19 pandemic first struck early in the year. It was decided to launch a special appeal to seek support from charitable trusts, trustees and individuals known to us. The response was extremely heartening and, as a result of this and subsequent fundraising approaches, total grants in the year were £20,000 higher than in 2019.

Expenditure

As has been referred to elsewhere in the Report, the pandemic severely curtailed the activities at our projects. The playschemes were all closed as a result of governments' restrictions. However, it was recognised that we had to do whatever we could to support the children and their families. We did this by arranging for the staff to check in with them via regular telephone and social distanced visits. This included monitoring the medical status of the children with particular regard to safe-guarding which became a significant issue as pressures were put onto families struggling to cope with the effects of the pandemic.

Although only a proportion of the staff were gainfully employed, the decision was taken to continue to pay everyone their normal wages. Whilst this was a considerable commitment, it was vital to do what we could to protect the staff teams and support them at a very difficult time.

Other running costs of the playschemes were not incurred as they were not operating and grants to projects were correspondingly lower as a result - £62,000 (2019 - £97,000)

We started the year with three UK - based members of staff but when the pandemic struck we put all of them into the Government's Furlough Scheme for a period of six weeks to save costs. With projects largely on hold, the workload was less, and trustees stepped in to cover this for the period. One member of staff resigned and the remaining two returned to full pay. Subsequently, the other junior member of staff resigned and the decision was taken not to replace them as fundraising work could be reduced (following the successful appeals for funds), and required support for projects was lower. This continued until the year end resulting in a reduction in costs to £36,700 (2019 - £45,500)

A major effect from the pandemic was the inability to carry out any field trips in the year. Instead, regular contact was maintained with each of the projects. This was supported by photographic and documentary evidence and frequent reports on activity taking place. The lack of field trips resulted in another significant reduction in costs. £Nil (2019 - £14,400)

Fundraising costs were slightly lower and there were no consultancy fees incurred in the year.

Result

The combination of an increase in incoming funds, and a significant decrease in costs because of the pandemic, led to an overall surplus for the year of just over £30,000 compared to a deficit of nearly £58,000 in 2019. Total funds increased to just over £100,000.

Total funds were represented by nearly £139,000 in the bank which included a £40,000 grant relating to 2021 which was received just before the end of the year.

Cash Balances

The year end cash balances represent over 14 months of expenditure based on the 2020 costs but based on the more normal 2019 year expenditure it represents just over 9 months. With inevitable higher costs in 2021 and uncertain levels of grant income the little extra cushion is welcome.

Post Balance Sheet Issues

The first four months of 2021 have shown a reduction in income from grants but, as the projects have opened up, a significant increase to more normal expenditure is expected.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves policy was set at a target of 6 months expenditure last year. While at the end of 2020 this was exceeded, there is an expectation that income for the current year will be lower and costs will certainly be higher.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance of public benefit published.

Independent Examination of Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

The trustees are satisfied that the charity meets the requirements for an Independent Examination.

Independent Examiner's Report On The Accounts Year Ended 31st December 2020

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Disability Africa for the year ended 31st December 2020 set out on pages 15 to 20 below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 17th July 2021

Name: Samuel Spriggs

DISABILITY AFRICA								
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163								
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020								
	Notes							
		Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:								
Grants	3	72,104	62,996	135,100	61,100	51,558	112,658	
Donations and Gift in Kind	4	11,258	-	11,258	10,699	-	10,699	
Total		£83,362	£62,996	£146,358	£71,799	£51,558	£123,357	
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds	5	11,083	-	11,083	12,167	-	12,167	
Charitable activities	6	6,337	98,688	105,025	6,927	162,247	169,174	
Total		£17,420	£98,688	£116,108	£19,094	£162,247	£181,341	
Net Income (Expenditure) before Transfers		65,942	(35,692)	30,250	52,705	(110,689)	(57,984)	
Transfers between funds	8	(25,078)	25,078	-	(94,682)	94,682	-	
Net movement in funds		£40,864	(£10,614)	£30,250	(£41,977)	(£16,007)	(£57,984)	
Reconciliation of funds:								
Brought forward balances		59,737	10,614	70,351	101,714	26,621	128,335	
Fund balances carried forward		£100,601	£0	£100,601	£59,737	£10,614	£70,351	

DISABILITY AFRICA							
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163							
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020							
							AS AT
							31/12/2019
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible Assets	2			1114			2,636
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	9	757			921		
Cash at Bank and in Hand		138,730			71,121		
		-----			-----		
		139,487			72,042		
CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)	10	40,000			4,327		
		-----			-----		
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS				99,487			67,715
NET ASSETS				<u>£100,601</u>			<u>70,351</u>
Represented by:							
Unrestricted Funds	8			100,601			59,737
Restricted Funds	8			0			10,614
				<u>£100,601</u>			<u>£70,351</u>

Signed: Ric Law, Chairman



Date: 08/07/2021

DISABILITY AFRICA
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where the charity receives assistance in the form of donated services, such incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. Where donated services are recognised an equivalent amount is included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, when the event takes place). Amounts received in respect of events which have not taken place are deferred to future periods.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.
No government grants have been received.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants are made to partner organisations in Africa with the requirement for full accountability of expenditure, the records for which are checked on a monthly or quarterly basis by the charity's staff, and audited during their periodic visits to the projects.

Costs of generating funds are those incurred in attracting voluntary income and incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities costs are those incurred in providing the services to disabled children in Africa.

All Governance requirements were dealt with by trustees and the director on a voluntary basis, with no costs incurred.

The charity has incurred expenditure in respect of support costs which are allocated to activities on the bases set out in the Notes to the Accounts.

Assets and Liabilities

The charity has minimal fixed assets consisting of IT and office equipment and furniture. Items are written down over 3 years.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

DISABILITY AFRICA						
REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1172163						
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020						
			2019			
			<u>Furniture & Equipment UK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Furniture & Equipment UK</u>	<u>Total</u>
			£	£	£	£
2	FIXED ASSETS					
	Gross Book Value Balances at 1st January 2020		6,912	6,912	3,567	3,567
	Additions in period		-	-	3,345	3,345
	Gross Book Value Balances at 31st December 2020		£6,912	£6,912	£6,912	£6,912
	Depreciation Balances at 1st January 2020		4,276	4,276	3,114	3,114
	Depreciation charge for period		1,522	1,522	1,162	1,162
	Depreciation Balances at 31st December 2020		£5,798	£5,798	£4,276	£4,276
	Net Book Values at 31st December 2020		£1,114	£1,114	£2,636	£2,636
			<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>
				<u>Total</u>		<u>Total</u>
3	INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
	Grants received from Trusts and Foundations		72,104	62,996	135,100	
			£72,104	£62,996	£135,100	
4	VOLUNTARY INCOME					
	Donations from Individuals and other supporters *		11,258	-	11,258	
	Totals		£11,258	£0	£11,258	
	* including Gift Aid					

DISABILITY AFRICA								
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020								
					2019			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
7	SUPPORT COSTS	Alloc'n						
	Property costs	Staff time	1,080	1,080	1,080	-	1,080	
	IT costs	Staff time	1,163	1,163	754	-	754	
	General office costs	Staff time	278	278	1,942	-	1,942	
	Staff costs and fees	Staff time	2,446	2,446	2,662	-	2,662	
	Insurances	Type	1,146	1,146	847	639	1,486	
	Depreciation	Time	1,522	1,522	1,162	-	1,162	
			£7,635	£0	£7,635	£8,447	£639	£9,086
	Allocated to:							
	Charitable Activities		6,337	-	6,337	639	7,566	
	Generating Funds		1,298	1,298	1,520	-	1,520	
			£7,635	£0	£7,635	£8,447	£639	£9,086
Travel insurance is all allocated to Charitable activities. As there were no trips in 2020, all insurance costs were allocated to Unrestricted costs								
Other costs on a Staff time basis as the same staff perform all functions.								
8	FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	Balances b/f	59,737	10,614	70,351	101,714	26,621	128,335	
	Movements in	83,362	62,996	146,358	71,799	51,558	123,357	
	Movements out	(17,420)	(98,688)	(116,108)	(19,094)	(162,247)	(181,341)	
	Transfers	(25,078)	25,078	-	(94,682)	94,682	-	
	Balances at 31st December 2020	£100,601	£0	£100,601	£59,737	£10,614	£70,351	
	Consisting of:							
	Fixed Assets	1,114	-	1,114	2,636	-	2,636	
	Debtors	757	-	757	921	-	921	
	Cash at Bank	138,730	-	138,730	57,988	13,133	71,121	
	Creditors	(40,000)	-	(40,000)	(1,808)	(2,519)	(4,327)	
	Totals	£100,601	£0	£100,601	£59,737	£10,614	£70,351	

					2019			
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
9	DEBTORS							
	Insurance prepayments	482		482	737		737	
	Gift Aid debtor	275		275	184		184	
		£757	£0	£757	£921	£0	£921	
10	CREDITORS							
	Accruals/Receipts in advance	40,000		40,000	1,808	2,519	4,327	
		£40,000	£0	£40,000	£1,808	£2,519	£4,327	
11	COMMITMENTS							
	A solution for the roof problems at the Gunjur Inclusion Centre has been devised and costed. Work was prevented in 2020 by the pandemic.							
	It is hoped that this work will be completed in 2021. £35,000 has been allocated in the budget to cover the costs.							
	Once the roof is complete and the centre is 'dry', other refurbishments will be necessary.							
	We will review the situation once we are clearer on what those costs will be.							
12	DONATIONS IN KIND							
	None							
13	TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS							
	None							
14	TRUSTEE EXPENSES							
	None							
15	TRUSTEES DONATIONS							
	A total of £360 was donated by Trustees without conditions (2019 - £360)							
16	INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEES							
	None							
17	RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS							
	None requiring disclosure							
18	STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS							
	Salaries - One/Two staff (2019 - Three/Two)	46,006				57,634		
	Social security costs - NEST	2,918				1,185		
	Other employee benefits	-				-		
	Total	£48,924				£58,819		
	See Notes 5, 6 & 7							
	Employment allowance has been applied against National Insurance contributions							
19	REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL							
	Nil							