

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	05	04	2023		04	04	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Postcode

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Blaxhall	Chair of Trustees		
2	Elisabeth Blaxhall	Trustee		
3	Christopher Edwards	Trustee		
4	Jayne Edwards	Trustee		
5	Norman John Mugleston	Trustee	Until 24 th October 2023	
6	Agnes Elaine Mugleston	Trustee	Until 24 th October 2023	
7				
8				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg trust, association, company)</small>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation – foundation model
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg appointed by, elected by)</small>	Appointed by Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional Information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

For the benefit, the relief of those in need in Uganda by way of but not exclusively relieving poverty and the advancement of education and health through the provision of financial assistance.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

- To support the purposes of Mercy Hands Uganda (MHU) for the public benefit in the prevention and relief of poverty, the advancement of education and health, the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage, living in rural and deprived communities in Uganda.
- The relief of poverty within local communities and among the world's deprived and needy peoples, with particular focus on Uganda or as determined by the Trustees from time to time.
- To raise awareness, gather and send funds and resources to MHU for them to provide buildings, facilities and items including clothing, food, educational resources, payment of staff and teachers, and other services and goods in the promotion of education and healthcare, clean water, training and equipment.

The Trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

All Trustees work on a voluntary basis for Mercy Hands Uganda UK and receive no financial benefit for their time or work. From time to time, trips are made by the trustees and other volunteers to visit the projects benefitting from the grants made by MHU UK. All costs for these trips are covered by the trustee or volunteer's own funds and not from the MHU UK charity funds.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

No trustee or team visits were made to Uganda during this year, but we have continued to have regular reports from the CEO of MHU – Daniel Waddimba, who, along with his family, continues to develop the Kafumu project in response to the needs of the community.

All donations and funds raised by MHU UK were forwarded in line with the charities' grant making policy to Mercy Hands Uganda, and the spending of those funds was regularly accounted for through photographic evidence and receipts.

Regular donations continue to be forwarded periodically for the purpose of paying staff salaries – teachers, cooks & a matron – at the Kafumu project.

We are very grateful to OMA who had generously donated funds and chosen MHU UK as their 'charity of the year' over the previous few years. We had some remaining funds available from this donor which has been used to significantly improve the Kafumu project this year.

Notably the Mercy Hands Nursery is officially government registered and being recognised for the quality education provided.

Primary 7s take national examinations at the end of their school year, and some funds were used to successfully register the school in Kafumu as an exam centre. This has the benefit of minimizing the costs for our pupils sitting the exam as they don't have to travel to unfamiliar venues, but also as an opportunity for MHU to generate some funds through other pupils coming to use the exam centre.

MHU decided to improve the P7 exam outcomes by providing boarding for the 16 pupils during the months leading to their exams. Often these children are sent out to work the fields after, or instead of, school, at the detriment of their education. The boarding has ensured good support, revision, extra tutoring, and nurture for the exam pupils around school times, the provision of food and place to sleep, all of which has led to better exam results and a nationally recognised level for Leaving Primary School. In turn this increases hope and opportunity for the next stage, be that Secondary School or some vocational skills training.

In 2024 some 85% of the pupils attending the MH Primary School required some sponsorship to enable them to receive education, and this remains one of our key areas for development of more regular donations to support children and/or teachers at the school.

Due to the remote area of the project, all 15 staff were housed on site.

Some of these staff are paid-in-kind with provision of free education, uniform and food for their children, plus accommodation and a meal each day.

Being close to the equator means a year round nightfall by around 6pm each evening. For teachers, who often teach through to 5pm, this added challenges for preparing for their next lessons and marking work, as well as cooking, in low light. It was therefore wonderful to send some funds to pay for some electrical infrastructure and a year's worth of electricity, as the government had finally laid the cabling to the village. Electricity in the classrooms and teacher's homes has been making a huge difference to the quality of life for staff and pupils.

Official inspectors advised MHU that they needed to fence the property, and we were able to send significant funds to get that completed this year.

MHU reported 2023 as being a 'challenging yet productive year', with pupil numbers having increased to more than 270, with some 80 being of nursery age. The nursery block was deemed to be too small for these numbers, yet the need to provide education for them was unquestionable. Therefore, MHU UK responded in March 24 to the

urgent request for funds to start building a ground floor nursery block more fit for purpose on the foundations which had been laid some years ago.

The Waddimba family and a team of volunteers work on the ground in Kafumu where the needs are huge and diverse. They work tirelessly and support the project sacrificially and financially from their own chicken & pig farm, through which they create small business opportunities and skills development for community families and young people.

Transforming community and giving hope.

This year the team developed the creative curriculum and celebrated the children's achievements through a music, dance, poetry and drama event – with the prize being a goat! The event showcased many hidden talents along with a debut for the Mercy Children's Choir, all of which was enjoyed by the whole community.

As a grant making charity, MHU UK continues to be inspired by the work of the Kafumu project and is very grateful for the Waddimba family and team of volunteers who make the needs known and use the funds we send wisely and with due diligence.

The needs of the Kafumu project continue to be vast and MHU UK is only able to make grants as and when monies come in. We are very grateful to our donors for giving funding which is sent 100% in full to specific aspects of the project as they arise. We would love to increase the number of regular donors to support more staff and help with school running costs, as well as fundraise for specific projects as the needs arise and developments continue.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

MHU UK does not intend to hold reserves as all donations are forwarded to the beneficiaries in line with the grant making policy and in a timely and cost-effective manner.
All residual funds held at the end of the last financial year – 22 to 23 – have been sent this year for fencing, exam centre registration, staff salaries and building materials for the new nursery block.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

A J Blaxhall

E Blaxhall

Full name(s)

Andrew John Blaxhall

Elisabeth Joy Blaxhall

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair of Trustees for MHU UK

Trustee

Date

25.02.2025



Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	To	Period end date
06.04.2023		05.04.2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Regular Donations		3,100	-	3,100	-
One off Donations	1,275	-	-	1,275	-
Fundraise donations	13	250	-	263	-
Gift Aid reclaim	1,378	-	-	1,378	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,666	3,350	-	6,016	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,666	3,350	-	6,016	
A3 Payments					
Grant to MHU - Kafumu Project	650	2,000	-	2,650	-
Grant to MHU - Kafumu Project		1,700	-	1,700	-
Grant to MHU - Kafumu Project		2,400	-	2,400	-
Grant to MHU - Exam centre & nursery registration	-	400	-	400	-
Grant to MHU - Electricity install & costs	-	745	-	745	-
Grant to MHU - Fencing	-	4,600	-	4,600	-
Grant to MHU - Kafumu Project	850	-	-	850	-
Grant to MHU - Fencing completion	-	1,300	-	1,300	-
Grant to MHU - Bricks for new block	-	1,300	-	1,300	-
Sub total	1,500	14,445	-	15,945	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,500	14,445	-	15,945	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,166	- 11,095	-	- 9,929	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		9,911	-	9,911	-
Cash funds this year end	1,166	- 1,184	-	- 18	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement End

Agreement End

OK

Unrestricted
funds
to nearest £

Restricted funds
to nearest £

Endowment
funds
to nearest £

Details

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

B2 Other monetary assets

Details

Fund to which asset
belongs

Cost (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value
(optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

B3 Investment assets

Details

Fund to which asset
belongs

Cost (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value
(optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details

Fund to which
liability relates

Amount due
(optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due
(optional)

B5 Liabilities

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature

AJ Blaxhall
EJ Blaxhall

Print Name

Andrew John Blaxhall
Elisabeth Joy Blaxhall

Date of approval

24.02.2025

24.02.2025