

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The trustees present their report with the impact of the work and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number: 1184273

Registered Office: Unit 15 Challenge Enterprise Centre
Sharps Close
Portsmouth
PO3 5RJ

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, foundation model constitution, and constitute a Charitable Incorporate Organisation (CIO).

Recruitment and Appointment

Future trustees must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Upon appointment new trustees will receive a copy of the constitution, a copy of the most recent year impact report and a copy of the charity's latest report and statements of accounts.

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, error and volunteer's health and safety when supporting the charity. A risk analysis form is in place and is utilised prior to volunteer involvement in any activities, events, and trips.

Objective and activities

The charity was founded with the primary purpose of helping local communities to integrate and support each other in overcoming key issues affecting society. In the UK URBOND is working to advance diversity and equality, thereby promoting a community which is strong, cohesive, and inclusive of all beliefs, backgrounds, and ideologies.

Through its Youth Development Programme, the charity is driving opportunities, wellness and success for the youth and their future.

The charity works in conjunction with local partners to engage with residents and deliver real impact via a range of workshops, activities and events specifically aimed at improving the community and wellbeing of its residents. The charity activities and events designed to encourage togetherness, provide a sense of belonging and embrace and celebrate the differences of all those who take part.

In the Republic of Guinea, the Child Education Programme is achieving this by working with partners and the local community to provide educational support and resources to children who would otherwise go without.

To achieve the goal of advancing education, the charity is working to raise awareness, support and funds to power the following three campaigns: Build a primary school in an area where one is not easily accessible to educate the children, support the recruitment of teachers for schools where there are shortage and, finally, working with communities to overcome the barriers (such as gender disparities or financial hardship) which prevent families from sending their children to school.

We have already purchased land in Kountaya and have started work on a brand-new school building, so children will no longer have to make the exhausting journey by foot, or risk perilously crossing the sea to reach their nearest educational establishment.

We are working with an establish school in Dubréka (Ecole Primaire Public d'Application) to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education is provided.

We are working with parents in rural areas to eliminate gender disparities and vulnerable situations in education and to promote sustainable lifestyles.

It is the vision of the organisation to embed a philosophy of 'bigger, stronger communities' both on a local and on a wider scale. The work undertaken in Portsmouth forms a foundation that will spread this message exponentially by positively impacting the lives of those individuals within communities that the organisation serves.

Significant Activities

In planning our activities for the year, we have kept in mind the governing document and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and our trustee's meetings.

Across the year, URBOND has scheduled a successful rostrum of activities, under often challenging circumstances. In the initial stages of the year, restrictions in place to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt in-person activities. In the latter stages of the year, the easing of restrictions led to re-establishment of in-person events; greater support in a changing world for the community and organising an international volunteer trip compliantly, as part of the Child Education Programme.

Activities introduced during the period of restrictions, such as online fitness classes; regular weekly calls to those alone; workshops and games nights, continued throughout the easing of restrictions, uniting the community and helping prevent isolation. Once restrictions were successfully eased, URBOND worked alongside local MPs, businesses and community groups to establish the best way in which the charity could support and cohesively work together within the community at this challenging time.

As part of the Community Integration Programme, URBOND successfully re-established youth and community volleyball, basketball and football, including regular well-attended sessions for young people as part of the Youth Development Programme. The URBOND young people entered the Hampshire Volleyball Association Grand Prix, competed at the Volleyball England Nationals U18s Competitions which was a positive and influential experience to them and others in our community. They are likely to compete again in future tournaments. URBOND also held dedicated football sessions with an express aim to get those over the age of 35 exercising once more.

Elsewhere, URBOND continued its tree planting programme in the community, working with volunteers and local tree wardens to enhance local areas and plant more trees. Portsmouth has been identified as a city which needs to reduce air pollution levels as quickly as possible, so this work is vital to the future of the city and those who live in it. Conversations have also taken place to expand this project across Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

In September, URBOND acquired its new office and hosted an event which was attended by members of local community groups, local MPs, local business representatives and the Lord Mayor for Portsmouth. This networking session was instrumental in continuing to engrain URBOND in the local community where the charity gained even greater traction, support and awareness.

In the latter stages of the year, URBOND hosted the 2nd annual charity ball at the Marriot Hotel in Portsmouth. Over 150 guests attended and helped raise over £13,000, through ticket sales and a live charity auction, for the Child Education Programme in Guinea, which also had significant activity across the year.

Most notably, in October 2021 eleven volunteers from the local community travelled to Dubreka in Guinea to build a library and computer room for those who would not otherwise be able to access education, or for those children who must take incredibly dangerous, and sometimes fatal, journeys into school. During this trip, the URBOND team also ran educational

workshops for girls, supported teachers and utilised a trained medical professional to help with healthcare questions. The charity also provided vital PPE to the area during the COVID-pandemic.

Back in the local community, URBOND's year was rounded off with a visit to the local pantomime, in which sixty-three participants attended for free. The Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), supporting children who are entitled to Free School Meals whilst school is not in session, partnered with URBOND so the charity could provide a day of activities, including international dance, arts and crafts, lunch, games and music. In November 2021 URBOND was awarded Community Innovation of the year by The News Portsmouth. Finally, URBOND hosted a Tea Afternoon for the elderly at the Charles Dickens Centre, which was – for some – the first social activity since the start of the pandemic.

Overall, the breadth of activities URBOND has embarked upon this year has succeeded in fulfilling the URBOND mission statement and in enhancing the vital work it carries out in the community: for the young, elderly, middle-aged, and all in between – both here and abroad.

Volunteer Contribution

Volunteers are vital to the work of URBOND. Without dedicated volunteers, URBOND's great achievements would have never been possible. The trustees, project managers and volunteers work tirelessly to make sure day to day running of the charity is a success here in the UK and in the Republic of Guinea.

Fundraising activities

URBOND had seen incredible success with its fundraising activities. The charity secured lottery funding to develop and expend its Portsmouth-based Community Integration Programme. Revenue came in from Portsmouth City Council to deliver holiday activities and food to children on free school meals. Grants from HIWCF, Sponsorship from Richmond and Gaglani & Co. Volunteers also raised a substantial amount which all contributed to the building a library and the computer room.

Future Developments

Throughout 2022 URBOND will be working to expand reach, with a goal to engage with a larger audience both nationally and internationally. In Portsmouth (UK) the charity is looking to increase participation again by 20%, increase the number of nationalities attending activities to 80, expand the youth development programme, which is helping tackle youth crime by providing workshops, mentorship, and engagement activities.

URBOND is planning to take twelve dedicated volunteers to the Republic of Guinea to build toilet facilities with clean running water. This would provide privacy to both girls and boys and proper sanitary facilities to keep them in school.

More workshops are also planned to identify and eliminate barriers around education. URBOND has formed a working relationship with the British Embassy to the Republic of Guinea to help improve girls' education.

Additionally, URBOND is looking to build a designated sports facilities on the grounds of the school. This would massively benefit the children and the locals as there is nothing in existence in the region. Also, the safety of the children would increase as many are hit by vehicles as result of playing in open door spaces.

Ongoing revision of URBOND's strategic plan for the charity will also take place, exploring longer term sustainability with community/volunteer projects, corporate partnerships with businesses, grants applications, marketing and awareness campaigns to strengthen the working relationship with the authority in the UK and in the Republic of Guinea.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to report an increase in income to £199,927 Vs prior full year to 30th April 2021 of £32,247. This increase can be attributed to grants received, projects income, sponsorship, donations and more dedicated volunteers helping with fundraising.

The Charity has moved to employ permanent members of personnel, following the successful application for grant funding, and the Trustees work closely with them to further the charitable aims within the United Kingdom and the Republic of Guinea.

With the gradual relaxation of COVID restrictions, URBOND has increased its activities and has also undertaken a successful visit to the Republic of Guinea; naturally this has incurred costs, which have been fully budgeted for and funding secured. The Cash Reserves for the Charity at the close of the period amounted to £134,889, with Liabilities in the sum of £7,584. The Trustees have approved the purchase of certain items of office equipment, as assets, amounting to £3,448 within the period, reflecting the expansion of operations.

At the close of the Period Under Review, the Trustees report a Retained Surplus of £96,719 and Total Assets for the Charity of £127,305.

Reserves Policy

It is the intention of the Trustees to review the reserves to ensure they are maintained at a level to ensure the charity can meet its objectives. These include providing ongoing support with salaries and expenses associated with the charity. The charity will also provide necessary funds and support to our partner schools in Guinea.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name and position

KWAME KYERG - TRUSTEE

Signed



Date 31 AUGUST 2022

URBOND Charity Registration Number: 1184273

Statement of Financial Activities

	Dec-21	Apr-21
Donations Received	24,118	3,259
Grants Received	146,347	15,479
Fundraising Revenue	7,325	
Other Income	4,316	125
Project Income		
Community Fitness Income	5,053	
Social Events Income		
Guinea Project Income	10,268	13,384
Sponsorship Income	2,500	
Total Receipts	199,927	32,247
Less Expenditure		
Wages and Salaries		
Gross Pay	44,083	
Employers NI	4,354	
Pension Contributions	1,057	
Rent and Rates	4,223	
Marketing	5,428	2,182
Bank Charges	6	
Equipment Expenses		1,448
Fundraising Event	4,763	
Insurance		534
Legal and Professional Fees	50	550
Printing, Postage and Stationery	1,189	
Telephone and Internet	1,046	
Repairs and Renewals	204	
Training and Development	350	
Project Expenses		
Community Fitness	4,402	
Guinea Project Expenses	27,024	6,725
Social Events	570	500
Women Empowerment	1,246	320
Travel Expenses	2,553	3,959
Website Maintenance		
Other Expenses	390	109
Total Payments	102,938	16,327
Net Income/ (Expenditure)	96,989	15,920

Statement of Assets and Liability

	Dec-21	Apr-21
Current Assets		
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment and IT	2,603	500
Fixtures and Fittings	845	
Total Fixed Assets	3,448	500
Cash Funds		
Cash at Bank		
Current - URBOND A/C	108,049	29,816
Current - URBOND Guinea A/C	23,392	
Total Bank	131,442	29,816
Total Assets	134,889	30,316
Liabilities		
Amounts falling due within one year	7584.43	
Net Current Assets	127,305	30,316
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	127,305	30,316
Restricted Funds		
Total Funds	127,305	30,316


The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an independent examination is required for the year in review. The Trustees have adhered to the General Directions and Advice provided by the Charity Commission to the best of their ability and knowledge.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name and position

KWAME KYERE - TRUSTEE

Signed



Date 31 AUGUST 2022

URBOND Charity Registration Number: 1184273

Reconcillation of Funds

	Dec-21	Apr-21
Funds		
Total Funds Brought Forwards	30,316	14,396
Net Income	96,989	15,920
Total Funds Carried Forwards	127,305	30,316

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on the accrual basis in accordance with the SORP FRS 102 Charity Act 2011

2. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds can only be used in accordance with the Charity objectives at the direction of the Trustees.

Restricted Funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or, when funds are raised for a particular restricted purpose.

3. Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

4. Trustee Expenses

The Trustees settled "out of pocket" expenses personally. No Trustees were in receipt of remuneration or other benefits arising from employment with URBOND.

5. Charitable Expenditure

	Dec-21	Apr-21
Guinea Project costs	1,246	320
Child Education Programme	27,024	6,725
Travelling Costs	2,553	3,959
Office Running Costs	7,402	2,532
Other Costs	24,748	2,291
	62,972	15,827

6. Cost of Raising Funds

	Dec-21	Apr-21
Community Integration Events	570	500
Marketing/ Fundraising and Equipment	5,428	2,182
	5,998	2,682

7. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the reporting period.

8. Accounting, Independent Examination and Other Financial Service Fees

No fees have been paid within the period under review.



29th July 2022

Independent Examination

URBOND – Registered Charity 1184273

Dear Sir

We have undertaken a review of the books and records of URBOND, a registered charity, for the Period Ending 31st December 2021; this review has been performed in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and is made to the Trustees of the Charity.

During this review we assessed and reviewed approximately 80% of the transactions and reconciled such to the data within the financial system and records.

The year in review showed donations from external and unrelated charitable organisations; URBOND has confirmed that the source of these funds had been verified, formal receipts issued and, that the funds were recorded as either Reserved or Unreserved funds, subject to the terms of the original donation. It is noted that within the period under review, no Reserved Funds were received and, that the Trustees did not make any funds received or held as "Designated".

We can confirm that no material matters have been identified in connection with the examination of such records. Further, it is our opinion that URBOND has demonstrated diligent and transparent financial management process and practices, with internal oversight, together with clear and demonstrable involvement of the Trustees, not only the Chairman. Further, the Board of Trustees continues to improve internal processes in line with Charity Commission guidelines and regulations.

It is our view that the financial statements represent a true and fair representation of the Charity. There are no recommendations arising.

No liability or legal responsibility is accepted for the state of the financial statements as our assessment relates to an examination of best practice only and is not an audit. Therefore, we make no comment on the content of the statements.

Yours faithfully

J R Kemp BA(Hons) MBCS MICB

