

**BUILDING
HOPE**



2021 TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Registered Charity No. 1187525

Trustees' annual report



For the period: **23-01-2020** to: **05-04-2021**

Charity name: **I AM**

Charity No: **1187525**

Address: **14 Gardeners Green, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4QY**

Trustees: **Mr Christian Denson (Chairperson)**
Mr Paul Keith Baker (Secretary)
Mrs Emma Loiose Denson (Treasurer)

Objectives

We believe that quality of life begins at home. I AM was founded to assist and partner with families and individuals in desperate housing need, with the following objectives:

1. The relief of poverty in Uganda through the provision or facilitation of accomodation for the benefit of people in desperate housing need.
2. The preservation and protection of health in Uganda through the provision or facilitation of clean drinking water and sanitation and hygiene infrastructure to people in desperate housing need.

Activities

Our charitable status was registered on 23-01-2020. As such this report covers our first fourteen months of operation as an officially registered charity during which time we have undertaken significant administration and marketing activities to set a solid foundation upon which to build and accomplish our objectives.

The following foundational tasks were accomplished during this period:

- Successful application for banking facilities with Natwest
- Registration with HMRC for tax relief
- Development of trustee recruitment and induction policy
- Registration with donation & giving portals
- Establishment and development of social media profiles
- Development of early relationships with other charitable organisations
- Development of print literature

Also in this period we continued to work on the following practical activities:

- Assesment of housing need in the communities where we operate
- Consultation on new housing designs
- Future project framework & budgetting
- Identification of available building plots

The trustee board acknowledge that they have planned activities with due consideration of the Charity Commission's published guidance on public benefit, with particular reference to guidance on the prevention or relief of poverty for public benefit.

Covid-19 response

Following the global spread of the Covid-19 virus, in March 2020 we focussed some attention on providing emergency relief to local families and individuals in the villages where we work. These would be the same families and individuals, in housing need, that would be potential beneficiaries of our primary objective. Planning for this relief effort was undertaken in the later part of March and the relief effort was implemented in April and the proceeding months. Our strategy in brief, was to provide essential food and household items to families and individuals whose ability to provide for themselves had been severely curtailed by government imposed lockdowns, where no government support was available or forthcoming. The trustees agreed to undertake this support on the consideration that it fulfilled our secondary objective of the preservation and protection of health.

Build partner assessments

In February & March 2020 our in-country operations manager was able to begin assessment of potential beneficiaries for housing assistance in partnering on a home build project. The need in our area of operation is significant and as a fledgling organisation we are only able to consider undertaking one project at any one time. This makes the task of assessment rather more difficult and there is a great deal of sensitivity and cultural awareness required in order to gather necessary information while managing expectations. As a member of the community for forty years our Operations Manager is keenly aware of the circumstances of potential benefactors and following his low-key assessments, the trustee board have been able to make some initial decisions and prioritise cases.

Building Projects

In June 2020 we had the opportunity to assist in an ongoing build project spearheaded by the organisation *You Can Africa* who share many mutual goals with us in regard to relief of poverty. At a juncture where our next home build project was still in the very early stages of planning, the opportunity to continue to fulfil our objectives through support of an existing home build project was a decision that the trustees were in complete agreement on. The home build, in western Uganda, was completed in December 2020 for a grandparent headed family who were previously raising grandchildren in woefully inadequate accomodation which had been severely storm damaged due to poor construction.

Vocational Training

In pursuit of fulfilling our goals we were able to work with the head of our inaugural home build family to provide a vocational training opportunity, with a view to increasing household income. By providing seamstress training and basic essential equipment we have been able to equip Justine to improve the prospect for her whole family. By facilitating increased household income we are able to help in the relief of poverty and accomodate improved access to health care and education for Justine and her family.

Financial Review

Our total receipts on unrestricted funds were £3,739.23 of which £0 was investment income. Having successfully obtained a banking facility in mid February 2020 our efforts for the early part of the period of this report were largely focussed on fulfilment of administrative tasks; this in combination with the restriction of the ongoing pandemic has meant we saw little in the way of fundraising activity and as a result minimal financial activity in this period. The net result for the year was an excess on receipts over payments of £1,472.70 on unrestricted funds. Our balance carried forward at 5th April 2021 on unrestricted funds totalled £1,472.70, with £0 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

As a small organisation our overheads in the UK are minimal, with 100% voluntary staffing of our UK operation. Presently, our primary activity of home building is undertaken one project at a time, only commencing once the full funds have been raised to complete an entire build project. As such we do not specify any reserve amount of restricted funds for this purpose as we would not consider those funds being raised for a specific identified build project to be 'in reserve'. We do however aim to hold £1,000 of unrestricted funds in reserve primarily for our secondary objective of the preservation and protection of health.

It is the view of the trustee board that this reserve policy will enable us to adequately meet our charitable objectives for the foreseeable future and realistically represents several months of operational expenditure, excluding specific home build project expenditure.

The trustees will review the reserve amounts required to fulfil the charity's continuing obligations on a quarterly basis.

Structure, Governance, and Management

I AM operates under the Charity Commission's Foundation model constitution for charitable incorporated organisations which was adopted on the 17-01-2020. Our Trustee recruitment and induction policy, adopted 01-02-2020, was developed with reference to Charity Commission report RS1 for guidance.

Future plans

While the corona virus pandemic has significantly impacted our fundraising plans, with many people understandably limiting their household expenditure, we hope in the coming months to identify a funding partner for our next home build project.

We also continue to develop our home plans/designs to accomodate options for improved household income, through self contained accomodation attached to the main house which gives the home owner the option to let a room without disruption to their family life. This is being undertaken in consultation with our local builder who has invaluable insight into how local families utilise the spaces within their homes.

We will be pursuing ties with construction companies and building contractors in country who are at the fore of sustainable building practices, adopting methods which drastically reduce the consumption of local resources and reduce CO2 production through the use of air cured building blocks.

We continue to develop relationships with various other non-profit organisations operating locally. These collaborations will enable us to fulfil aspects of our build projects that we are unable to directly facilitate, such as rainwater storage and drinking water filtration systems.

We also anticipate continuing some form of emergency support during the Covid-19 outbreak as the Ugandan government maintains strict lockdown protocols.

Financial Statement

for period: 23/01/2020 - 05/04/2021



Income	2021
Donations	£2,447.39
Fundraising	£561.48
Gift Aid Payments	£379.35
Other	£351.01
Total	£3,739.23

Expenditure	2021
Build Project Costs	£803.02
Training & Education	£149.01
Emergency Support	£466.46
Medical Care & Treatment	£74.01
Repairs & Maintenance	£183.02
Media & Promo	£369.01
UK Office & Admin	£209.13
Bank Charges	£12.87
Total Expenditure	£2,266.53

Balance	2021
Surplus/ Deficit	£1,472.70
Year Opening Balance	£00.00
Year Closing Balance	£1,472.70

Notes

As a newly registered charity, registered on 23-01-2020, we successfully attained banking facilities with Natwest Bank in mi February 2020. This financial statement covers the approximate 14 month period from our initial registration to the end of the tax year 2021.

During the period immediately following our reistration our fundraising activities were minimal while we focussed on essential administrative tasks to establish a foundation from where we could begin, in earnest, to work towards fundraising and the fulfilment of our charitable objectives.

The ongoing pandemic has also significantly impacted on our fundraising plans for the financial year 2021, though we have endeavoured to support and fulfil our objectives in what has been a testing first year of operation.

Outstanding Guarantee & Debt

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.