



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

Charity name: Sponsor A Gambian Teacher (SAGT)

Charity registration number: 1191072

Objectives

In its constitution, the object of SAGT as a charity is:

"The advancement of education for the public benefit in the Gambia, by providing grant funding to support the training of adults to become teachers, and to support teachers."

Our main activities to achieve this are:

1. To work with Headteachers in the Early Childhood Development Association (ECDA), West Coast Region of The Gambia, to identify adults who are suitable to train as teachers, and who would not otherwise be able to finance their own training.
2. To pay the teachers' fees for teacher training courses provided by the University of The Gambia School of Education, also known as the Gambia college.
3. To give teachers a monthly living allowance during their training.
4. To monitor the progress of teachers via the ECDA.
5. To receive donations from sponsors to enable us to carry out these activities.

The trustees believe that the public benefits of SAGT, in line with Charity Commission Guidance, are:

1. To enable adults to train as teachers, who would not otherwise be able to finance their own training.
2. To enable schools to increase the number of qualified teachers working there.
3. To improve the quality of education available, which then benefits children, families and communities more widely.

Partnership with the ECDA

SAGT works in close partnership with the ECDA.

The charity could not operate in the way that it does, without this partnership.

Leading Headteachers in the ECDA take on key tasks which must take place in The Gambia, for SAGT to be effective. This also includes meeting with the college staff to discuss developments affecting teachers sponsored by SAGT.

The partnership between SAGT trustees and the ECDA ensures that decision making about the best way to support schools and teachers is taken in The Gambia, by local people with the right knowledge and experience.

SAGT aims to empower school leaders in The Gambia to take decisions and support schools and student teachers in the best way possible.

Activities

All sponsored teachers must meet the entrance qualifications of the University, and also go through a selection process undertaken by the ECDA, to ensure that they meet the objectives of SAGT.

In all cases, teachers work within a school during their training, and attend University part time or in the school holidays. The children, the school and the wider community therefore benefits from the work of the teacher throughout their training.

The ECDA maintains contact with the schools and teachers throughout their training. One important contact is the monthly meeting when teachers are given their allowance (also called a stipend) and sign for it.

ECDA leaders and SAGT trustees keep in contact and information is shared about the progress of teachers, the available funding, and planning for the next cohort of teachers.

SAGT trustees monitor the budget and transfer money to the ECDA account three times a year.

All payments to teachers and the college are administered by the ECDA and records are given to SAGT trustees.

Achievements and Performance

During the financial year 2020-2021, a total of 24 teachers completed their teaching qualifications, which were either the Early Childhood Development Teacher's Certificate (ECDT), or the Primary Teachers Certificate (PTC).

These 24 newly-qualified teachers are spread across different schools, with each school taking children from one or more villages, so the impact of our small charity can be quite significant.

Of these 24 teachers, 7 were sponsored for their final year only; 11 teachers had been sponsored for two years; and 6 had been sponsored for three years.

There are a range of reasons why teachers might need only one or two years of sponsorship. They may have started the course by funding it themselves or being financed by a relative. The death of a parent or other family member, or a change in family circumstances might mean that they would be unable to complete their qualification without our support.

SAGT also ensures that at least 50% of its sponsored teachers are women, and the figure is often higher. This contributes to "Educating the Girl Child" – a campaign in The Gambia to promote sending girls to school. Training women teachers, and providing education for girl children, is seen as one of the best ways to reduce child marriage in The Gambia.

2020-2021 saw our biggest number of teachers successfully qualifying in a single year so far, and brings our grand total of teachers qualifying with SAGT since the charity began in 2012, to 73.

During this financial year, the trustees also agreed a Covid-19 support fund, which helped to provide much-needed basic food supplies, such as rice and cooking oil for teachers and their families, whilst schools were closed during lockdown.

The trustees thank all sponsors for their very generous support, some over many years, to enable SAGT to make a massive difference to the lives of teachers, children, schools and the communities they serve. We know that the chance for young people to train and qualify as teachers is truly life-changing. The children they teach are often the first generation in their family to go to school. Every person and every school has a story to tell.

Financial Review

During the financial year 2020-2021, SAGT received donations amounting to £9,822.

We brought forward £6,367 from the previous financial year, 2019-2020

We spent £9,223 on charitable activities in The Gambia during the year.

We carried forward £6,966 to the next financial year, 2021-22.

A Statement of Financial Activities is available summarising this.

The trustees' intention is to maintain a balance that would enable SAGT to complete its existing commitments to teachers, in the event that there is a drop in donations.

SAGT's donations come mainly from individuals who know about the charity and are committed to supporting teachers in The Gambia. General fund-raising activities are rarely undertaken.

Structure, Governance and Management

SAGT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) whose only voting members are its charity trustees. It has a constitution based on the Foundation model constitution provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

There is a Partnership Agreement between the ECDA and SAGT setting out key tasks undertaken by each.

Reference and Administrative details

Sponsor A Gambian Teacher (SAGT) operates from:

Fron Grove

Bodfari

Denbighshire

Wales

LL16 4DE Tel: 07944 075569

info@sponsoragambianteacher.org

www.sponsoragambianteacher.org

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date appointed	Term of appointment
1	Nigel Hamshire	Chair	August 2020	2 years
2	Susan Lewis	Secretary	August 2020	3 years
3	Stephen Lewis	Founder	August 2020	4 years
4	Peter Lewis		October 2021	4 years
5	David Lewis		October 2021	4 years

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Nigel Hamshire

Susan Lewis

Position

Chair

Date

23rd November 2021