

## VILLAGE FORCE AFRICA – CEO'S REPORT:- TAX YEAR April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

### OVERVIEW

VFA continued to pursue its objectives in its work with village BH29 Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe, managing the Zim team and trustees, engaging both in decision-making and leading the direction of developmental work in the village, in agreement with the Village Head man and village council and in accordance with the VFA constitution.

The board has met regularly during the year, at a total of 7 board meetings held roughly monthly – six weeks apart depending on Trustee availability and an AGM was held.

We engaged a registered chartered accountant to scrutinise and agree our yearly accounts which were submitted within the required period.

We retained our current trustees and recruited one more trustee whose trusteeship was quickly terminated. A report was sent to the Charity Commission, who agreed with the action taken by the Board.

This year also saw our registration in Zimbabwe as Village Force Africa Trust MA3286/2024 after having started the application over a year ago.

### OUR WORK

Following our first Food Aid in March 2024 we subsequently sent a total of 12 more food aid payments which were distributed by our Zim trustees to the most vulnerable in the village and the village orphans, after consultation with the village Head and the village Council. This process was carefully documented and all food aid packages were signed for by recipients and photographs taken to prove receipt of food aid. This allowed the village to survive a period of extreme hardship when all crops had been lost in a devastating drought and the village had turned to VFA to ask for help.

The funding of these monthly food aid payments resulted from staging a number of local events, cake baking, an Autumn Harvest Fayre and donations from our local community and trustees. We were able to send a total of £3352.47 for Food Aid, retaining all invoices and receipts as



proof or purchase. Thabani Mnkandla (Happiness), our main Trustee in Zim, organised and distributed the Food Aid with the support of one of our Zim Team, Gilbert Ncube, who also arranged a discount on the supplies we purchased. Through our association with registered charity Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust we were supported with a vehicle and assistance when Thabani's van failed. We have maintained a close association with this charity and we are planning future projects with their Community Development Officer who frequently advises on our work in the village.

The distribution was assisted by village teams and by Queen Silibaziso Mlotshwa (a ZIM trustee). The village survived the drought with our help although in one instance emergency protein powder had to be purchased to support a baby and mother suffering from malnutrition. Their hospital visit was arranged by Thabani and funded by two trustees. Alongside this project we continued to fundraise for our main initial project to construct a solar-powered borehole in the village and were able to drill the borehole in February 2025 following a visit by the CEO and another trustee.

Project plans and quotations for the borehole phase two installation were collected from 5 different companies for a borehole installation. These were then checked with the aid of a local (UK) water engineer with significant experience of working on boreholes and water projects in Africa. From these and with the knowledge of the expert, we chose the best installer, Chombe Drilling, based in Kwekwe, who have proved outstanding in their work, support and advice.

The visit to BH29 in January/February 2025 proved invaluable in learning more about the village and its needs, forge links with the main leaders in the village, enable trust to be nurtured on both sides and to learn what the village wanted for their future. We also created new links with the Lions Clubs International in Victoria Falls, meeting its Director Rumbi Hinda and discussing ways in which we could collaborate on future projects.

Two new team members were interviewed and accepted onto the team. Both have received further education and hold good positions in the community.



We met with Pathways charity in Vic Falls and organised for an initial group of women from BH29 to engage in paid work with the charity once VFA has organised the provision of 5 sewing machines (hand driven) which were subsequently supplied by Tools With A Mission and will be delivered in the Autumn free of charge. This will also allow the ladies to expand their own private sewing projects, providing an income to support their families during times of need and to pay for daily needs and school fees.

A rabbit farming project has been established in the village. This will be a small seeding and passing-on enterprise to provide a dependable income for the young men in the village. The Board has agreed to the funding of this project and its subsequent expansion when funding allows.

The borehole siting proved to be excellent, traditionally sited, with a flow rate of 14,500 litres per hour. A quotation for a full installation, using solar panels and feeding into 5000 litre Jojo containers, to service the whole village, was received and fundraising continued.

The website was regularly updated to encourage donations and we also received significant individual donations.

Our social media sites were also incorporated into our fundraising campaigns and regularly updated by one of the Trustees.

We expanded the reach of our support in the local community and have achieved a good reputation. We intend to continue this expansion into more affluent communities to help fund our future projects.

A link has been established with the British Ambassador in Harare who has agreed to join Baroness Fookes, the CEO and one other trustee in the House of Lords in July 2025.

Further current research is being undertaken to determine the best diversification projects which will be carefully planned and costed with the help of VFWT and local experts.

LESLEY ANN DAWES June 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Ann Dawes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

# **Village Force Africa**

## **Annual Accounts**

**for the period**

**1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025**

### **Contents:**

Organisational information  
Trustee's Annual Report  
Receipts & Payments account  
Statement of Assets & Liabilities  
Notes to the Accounts  
Independent Examiner's report

Hastings Voluntary Action  
Jackson Hall  
Portland Place  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1QN

**Organisational information for  
Village Force Africa  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Name of charity:** Village Force Africa

**Charity Number:** 1204440

**Legal form:** CIO

**Governing document:** Constitution

**Objects:** the relief of financial hardship and relief of need (water/sanitation, solar power) in socially and economically deprived rural communities initially but not exclusively operating in Zimbabwe.

Providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare and support necessary to generate income and be self-sufficient in rural Zimbabwe.

**Address:** 14 Knoll Road  
St Leonards on Sea  
East Sussex  
TN38 0NT

**Committee Members**

L A Dawes  
A F Privett  
Baroness J E Fookes  
A M Dawes  
P N Blankson  
Rev M P Turnbull  
J M Cannings  
T H Mnkandla  
S Mlotshwa

Chair  
Treasurer

**Bankers:** The Co-operative Bank

**Independent Examiner:** Laura Dawson, Independent Examiner  
HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN



**Village Force Africa - CEO's Report**  
**April 1st 2024 - March 31st 2025**

**Overview**

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**Our Work**

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The funding of these monthly food aid payments resulted from staging a number of local events, cake baking, an Autumn Harvest Fayre and donations from our local community and trustees. We were able to send a total of £3,352.47 for Food Aid, retaining all invoices and receipts as proof of purchase. Thabani Mnkandia (Happiness), our main Trustee in Zim, organised and distributed the Food Aid with the support of one of our Zim Team, Gilbert Ncube who also arranged a discount on the supplies we purchased. Through our association with registered charity Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust we were supported with a vehicle and assistance when Thabani's van failed. We have maintained a close association with this charity and we are planning future projects with their Community Development Officer who frequently advises on our work in the village.

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Lesley Ann Dawes

Jun-25

# Village Force Africa

## Receipts & Payment accounts

for the period  
**01 April 2024** to **31 March 2025**

All funds are unrestricted

	2024	2023
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Cash Collections	1,458	231
Donations	11,037	1,598
Fund Raising	793	1,592
Gift Aid	2,053	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>15,360</b>	<b>3,421</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Food Aid/Capital Projects	7,315	423
Admin	82	76
Website	300	300
Fundraising	75	
Printing	87	
Accountancy	150	240
Insurance	-	
Misc.	754	14
0	-	
0	-	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>8,764</b>	<b>1,053</b>
<b>Net surplus/-deficit</b>	<b>6,596</b>	<b>2,368</b>
<b>Movement in funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund balances b/f</b>	<b>2,368</b>	
<b>Fund Balances C/F</b>	<b>8,965</b>	<b>2,368</b>



**Village Force Africa**  
**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**  
as at  
**31 March 2025**

		2025	2024
<b>Current assets</b>			
Current Account	@ 31/03/25	9,115	2,608
Receipts awaiting banking			-
		<u>9,115</u>	<u>2,608</u>
<b>less Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		150	240
		<u>8,965</u>	<u>2,368</u>
Represented by:			
ACCUMULATED FUND b/f		2,368	
Surplus/deficit of receipts over payments		6,596	2,368
		<u>8,965</u>	<u>2,368</u>

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 and signed on their behalf by



LESLEY ANN DAWES  
CEO/Chair/Trustee



A.M. DAWES TRUSTEE

# Village Force Africa

## Notes to the Accounts

01.04.2024 - 31.03.2025

### **1. General Information**

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales. The Address of the principal office is 14 Knoll Rise, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN38 0NT

### **2. Statement of Compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'the financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (charities SORP (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

### **3. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the organisation.

### **4. Going Concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

### **5. Staff costs**

The average head count of employees during the period was Nil

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year. (2024 :Nil).

### **6. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses**

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees in the current period.



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Village Force Africa**

I report on the accounts of Village Force Africa  
for the twelve month period ended

31 March 2025

which are set out on the previous pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of committee & examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the supporting documentation presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
Laura Dawson  
Finance Manager  
Hastings Voluntary Action  
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Dated: