Able Child Africa

England & Wales · Charity number 326859

Details

Other names	ABLECHILDAFRICA, UGANDA SOCIETY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN LIMITED, ABLE CHILD, U S D C
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01861434
Registered	1985-05-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	34 Ponton Road Nine Elms London SW11 7BA
Phone	02077336006
Email	info@ablechildafrica.org.uk
Website	www.ablechildafrica.org

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE CHARITABLE NEED, PROMOTE HEALTH, ADVANCE EDUCATION AND PROMOTE THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, WITH A FOCUS ON (BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION) PROMOTING SUCH DISABLED CHILDREN ACHIEVING THEIR HUMAN, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS (AS SET OUT IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN ("UNCRC"), UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ("UDHR") AND SUBSEQUENT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATION AND IN REGIONAL CODES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH INCORPORATE THE RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE UNCRC, THE UDHR AND THOSE SUBSEQUENT CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS) BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION CHOOSE AND IN PARTICULAR BY RAISING AWARENESS AS TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND ADVOCACY AS TO HOW THOSE NEEDS CAN BEST BE MET.

Activities: Able Child Africa works toward a world in which no child with a disability is left behind, bringing together a network of organisations that protect, educate and amplify the voices of children and young people with disabilities. We work across Africa, breaking down barriers to inclusion so that children with disabilities

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are able to thrive.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£938,833	£1,005,852	£491,029	11
2024-03-31	£947,412	£960,282	£558,048	10
2023-03-31	£1,035,086	£909,023	£570,918	9
2022-03-31	£688,771	£737,645	£444,855	8
2021-03-31	£957,430	£909,713	£493,729	9

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Abigail Viljoen		2023-07-15
Dhiran Tanna		2024-09-19
Hannah Loryman		2024-02-03
James William Henry Sellars		2018-01-29
Jonathan Dune		2025-11-11
Martin Hill		2019-03-23
Miiro Michael		2021-09-18
Mitul Shah		2020-09-19
Thomas George Edwards		2024-10-15

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Able Child Africa

England & Wales - Charity number 326859

Accounts

able child

Able Child Africa
(trading as Able Child)
Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Year end 31 March 2025

2025
Annual Report and Audited Accounts




Educate.
Amplify.

We are Able Child

We work towards a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.

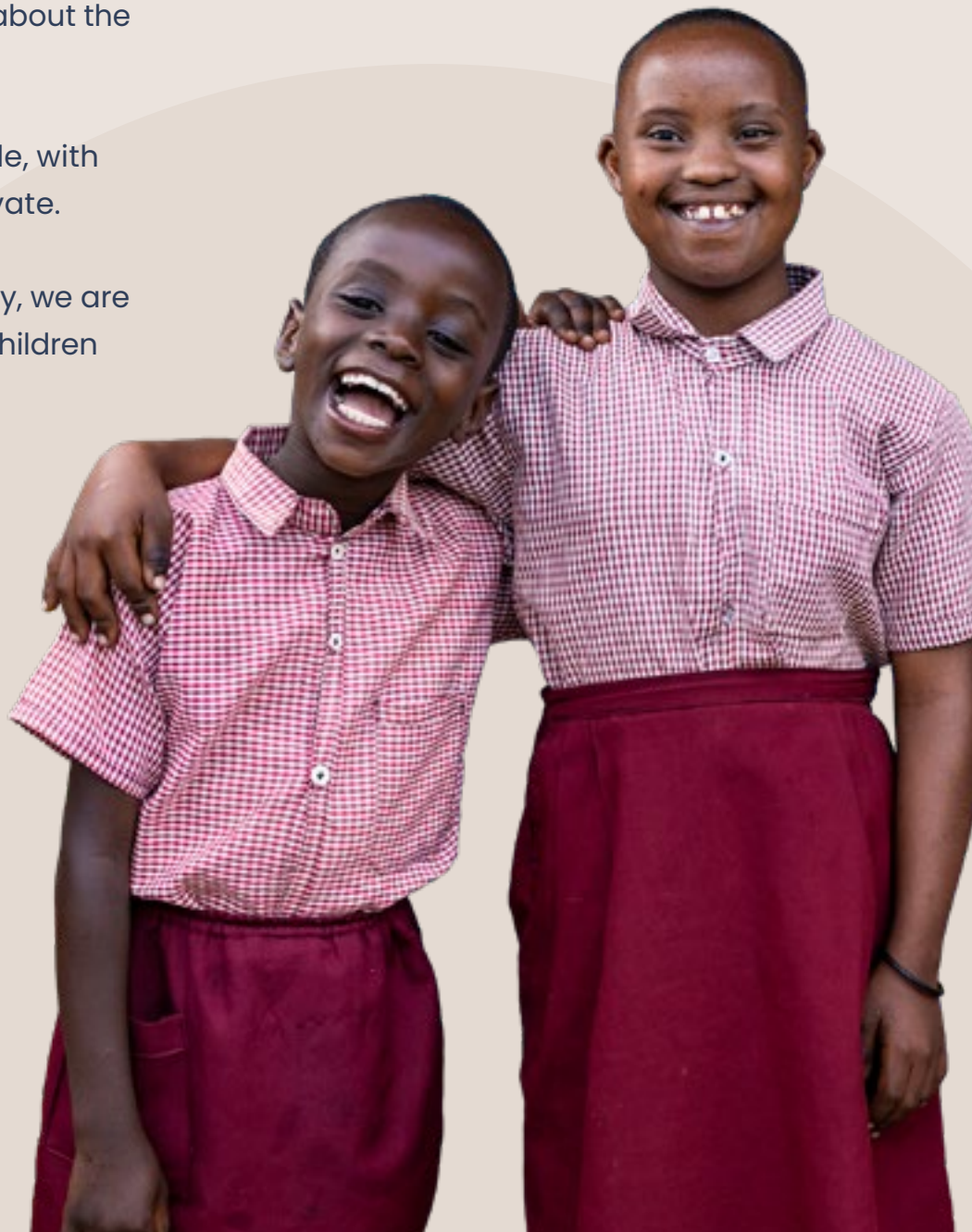
We do this by supporting a network of organisations to **protect,** **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities.

Together, we work across Africa, breaking down barriers to inclusion so that children and young people with disabilities are able to thrive.

- We are **experts** in what we do and are **passionate** about the approach we take.

  We are bold and agile, with the courage to innovate.

  And, most importantly, we are accountable to the children we work with.



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Welcome from our Chair



Mitul Shah
Chair

Over the past year we have seen a seismic shift in funding going to the international development and aid sectors, which has had a profound impact on some of the poorest people in the world.

To many, it has been and continues to be one of the most difficult periods for international charities in memory. Widespread cuts to aid in the UK, US and across Europe has decimated the already limited funding available. And we are already seeing the impact on organisations we work with and the children with disabilities we support.

Like many organisations, we have seen a drop off in project-based funding, which has reduced our impact in terms of numbers, but there have still been some notable successes this year. From our projects in northern Uganda supporting children living in refugee camps, to our work in Zambia supporting early childhood education. From our work facilitating entrepreneurship and vocational skills for young people with disabilities in Kenya, to training teachers in disability inclusive practices in Malawi - we have worked alongside some amazing organisations over the last year to deliver lasting change for children with disabilities.

And our reach has multiplied in other ways as we have continued our work to support for the creation of the new Able Child Africa Network.

Following the launch of our new **2030 Strategy: Safe, Thriving, and Heard** last year, the Network continues to make significant progress. From presenting at the Global Disability Summit, to launching our ground-breaking report 'Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities', with the insights from over 1,000 children with disabilities in East and Southern Africa - the Network is now receiving global recognition and building a greater influence across international arena.

This only reinforces the foundation of our strategy - a commitment to locally led development, as we believe organisations founded and registered in Africa, with their understanding of the unique challenges faced by children with disabilities, are best equipped to drive change.

This work and these successes through such unstable times is down to the work and support of some amazing people, who make this organisation what it is. From our fantastic staff team to our dedicated Board of Trustees. From our Patrons and Ambassadors to the unwavering support from our broad range of donors. I want to thank each and every one of you for the commitment and support you have shown over the last year.

But it doesn't stop there.

While the future landscape holds no assurances, we remain resilient and steadfast to our cause.

But we need your help to do it. In such unstable times, your support is more important than it has ever been. And with that support behind us, we will continue to drive the change to ensure no child with a disability is left behind.

Best wishes,
Mitul Shah

Why we exist

Nearly 29 million children in East and Southern Africa are living with a disability.

A significant proportion of these children live in poverty without access to basic services including education and health care. They are disproportionately vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse, and many children continue to spend much or all of their lives in institutions, away from their families.

Children with disabilities are:

1. Twice as likely to **never attend school**.





2. Four times more likely to experience **physical violence**.

3. Three times more likely to be **sexually assaulted**.



4. 17 times more likely to be **institutionalised**.



For girls with disabilities, the situation is even worse. They are 10 times more likely to experience gender-based violence than those without disabilities, and an estimated 70% of girls with intellectual disabilities will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. **They are being forgotten, hidden and left behind**.

Despite the decades of work since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Right of Persons with Disabilities, many of the 29 million children living with disabilities in East and Southern Africa continue to be excluded, discounted and discriminated against.



This continued exclusion is increasingly problematic in the face of the intensifying climate crisis. Children with disabilities in Africa face severe climate risks, including reduced mobility, worsening poverty, and heightened health vulnerabilities. Despite being disproportionately at risk of climate change, they are often excluded from climate action, leaving their unique challenges unaddressed.

Organisations working for children with disabilities in Africa often lack the resources and visibility needed to influence change. These organisations are not always considered as 'representative' organisations and as such are excluded from key decision-making spaces, leading to the systematic exclusion of the voices of children with disabilities.

African organisations working for children with disabilities also struggle to compete for funding in the already under-funded disability sector, especially compared to adult-focused Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), meaning they lack the resources, networks, and partnerships needed to ensure their expertise is recognised and no child with a disability is left behind.



What we do

For **40 years** we have been working with African-registered organisations to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities.

Our mission is to support a network of organisations in Africa to **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.



We work across **six key thematic areas** of support:

Protecting

children with disabilities so they are safe.

1. Building inclusive child protection systems.
2. Demanding inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and young women.

Educating

children with disabilities so they can thrive.

3. Strengthening inclusive Early Childhood Development.
4. Advancing inclusive education.

Amplifying

the voices of children and young people with disabilities so they are heard.

5. Promoting inclusive mental health and wellbeing.
6. Raising the voices of children and young people with disabilities.



Safe.



We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are protected and included in their communities.

In the places we work, child protection systems often fail children with disabilities. Child protection and safeguarding services and workforces are poorly equipped and lack the expertise to deal with the specific risks that children with disabilities face, and these children are also less likely to seek justice for the abuse.

We work with our network members to improve safeguarding practices and ensure the protection of children in the areas where we work. By helping to break down stigma and discrimination around disability, we ensure the safety and inclusion of children with disabilities within their communities.

We have been working to do this in Rwanda...

Improving child safeguarding in Rwanda:

We are working with **Uwezo Youth Empowerment (UWEZO)** to create more inclusive child protection and safeguarding systems in Rwanda. As part of our project funded by Euromoney Institutional Investors, we have worked closely with existing child protection services in Kigali to identify and address areas for improvement, to make them more disability inclusive.

Young people with disabilities have led this work as child protection champions and mentors. They provide mentoring to children with disabilities to inform them of their right to be kept safe. They have been delivering 'positive parenting' workshops to parents of children with disabilities to reduce the risk of abuse occurring and equipping them with the knowledge of how to report concerns when they do. This project has drawn on UWEZO's expertise to enable more disability-sensitive responses to child protection cases.

Thriving.

We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to an education and the services they need to succeed.

In low-income countries, over 90% of children with disabilities do not attend formal education. Early detection of children with disabilities' is low, and children face significant barriers in accessing the services they need. Children with disabilities' systematic exclusion in education hinders their participation and ability to transition to further education and into employment.

We work with our network members to improve the early identification of children with disabilities, upskill service providers, support children with disabilities to transition to further education and equip young people with disabilities with the tools they need to enter employment.

We have been working in Zambia to improve children with disabilities' access to education through play…

Supporting children with disabilities' access to education through an inclusive play programme:

Alongside **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)**, we adapted an inclusive play programme that we initially developed with Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) for rollout in Kenya. The project brought together teachers and education officials to develop the play programme and guide, aligning it with the Zambian Early Childhood Education (ECE) curriculum.

The government's District Education Board have been instrumental in both the development and delivery of teacher trainings. This has fostered maximum government support in championing the power of inclusive play. To date, almost 300 children with disabilities have benefited from the inclusive play programme. The children's teachers continue to monitor its impact, but it is clear that play has had a transformative effect, where all children play and learn in a fun and interactive way side-by-side.



Heard.

We work with children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, amplifying their voice to demand their own inclusion.

For too long, children with disabilities have been forgotten, hidden and systematically excluded. One of the key reasons for this is that children and their parents have been unaware of their rights and are therefore disempowered. By championing mental health resilience, inspiring children with disabilities to become powerful self-advocates and equipping children and young people with disabilities with knowledge of their rights, they are able to break down the barriers to their inclusion for themselves and their peers.

We have been working in Uganda to amplify the voices of young people with disabilities…



Amplifying the voices of young people with disabilities in Uganda refugee settlements:

Together with **Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)**, we finalised the implementation of a project designed to support both children and young people with disabilities living in refugee settlements in northern Uganda. The young people with disabilities reached through this project, funded by Educational Opportunity Foundation, were provided with mentorship training which has supported them to become inclusive education champions for children with disabilities in the settlements.

The mentors have helped establish Child Rights Clubs, bringing children with and without disabilities together to understand their rights and find their voices. With so little support available for children and young people with disabilities in refugee settlements, the project's activities have given them the information and confidence to demand more support, standing together to advocate for change.

Blessing — a 5-year-old with **Big Dreams**

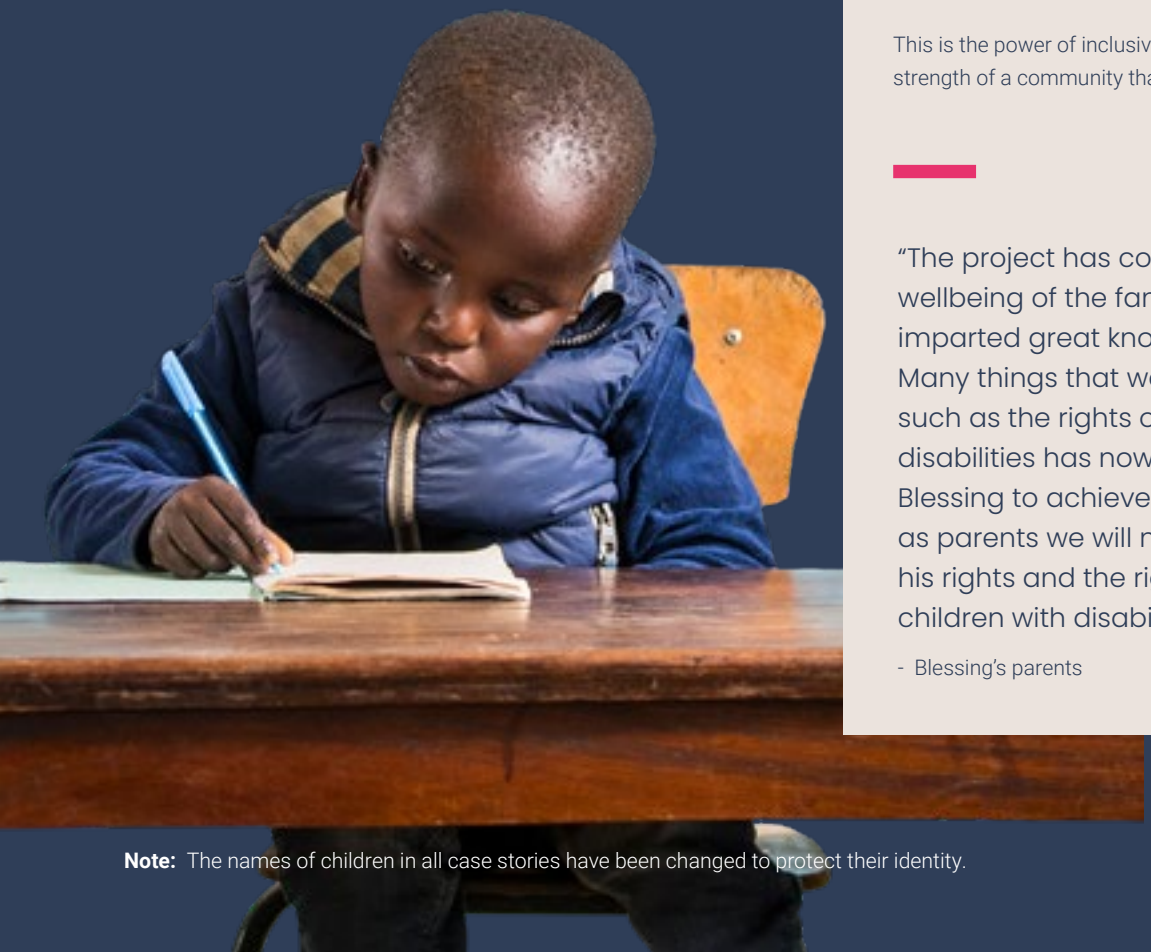


Blessing's story

At just five years old, **Blessing is the youngest** of four siblings.

He was diagnosed with left hemiparalysis and hydrocephalus — conditions that limit his movement and make everyday activities like walking, eating, and dressing a daily struggle. Added to this, Blessing also experiences low blood sugar, making regular and nutritious meals essential for his wellbeing.

Caring for Blessing was overwhelming for his mother, who didn't know where to turn to for help. Like many parents in similar situations, she was unaware of the rights her son was entitled to — or of the opportunities that could support his development.



That all changed when Able Child, together with ZAPCD, stepped in.

Through our Inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) project, Blessing's parents discovered not just a programme — but a lifeline. **They learned how IECE could help Blessing develop critical life skills through play, connection, and support.** The project didn't just help Blessing — **it also supported his family.** With new income-generating opportunities, they could afford the essentials Blessing needs for proper care.

And the difference has been remarkable.

Blessing is now attending school, making friends, and thriving in an environment designed to support his needs. Thanks to transport reimbursements and other forms of assistance, his family is feeling the support they once thought was out of reach.

"So far, so good!" his mother shares.

This is the power of inclusive education — and the strength of a community that cares.

"The project has contributed to the wellbeing of the family, and it has imparted great knowledge on us. Many things that we used to not know, such as the rights of children with disabilities has now changed. We want Blessing to achieve his education and as parents we will now advocate for his rights and the rights of other children with disabilities."

- Blessing's parents

Note: The names of children in all case stories have been changed to protect their identity.

The Able Child Africa Network

Working together to support **children with disabilities** across Africa.

The Able Child Africa Network is a coalition of African-founded and African-registered organisations dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities across the continent. Established in 2023, the network operates under the shared vision of creating a world where no child with a disability is left behind. It brings together nine organisations of persons with disability across seven countries in East and Southern Africa, to collaborate, share expertise, and advocate collectively for the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities.

The Network members

The Network member organisations are fully founded and run by local leaders. This grassroots structure ensures that interventions are deeply rooted in and responsive to the specific cultural, social, and economic contexts of their communities. These organisations possess an intimate understanding of the nuances of disability within their societies, enabling them to tailor solutions that are both relevant and effective. This localization also fosters sustainability and empowers local communities to drive change from within.

The nine member organisations are:

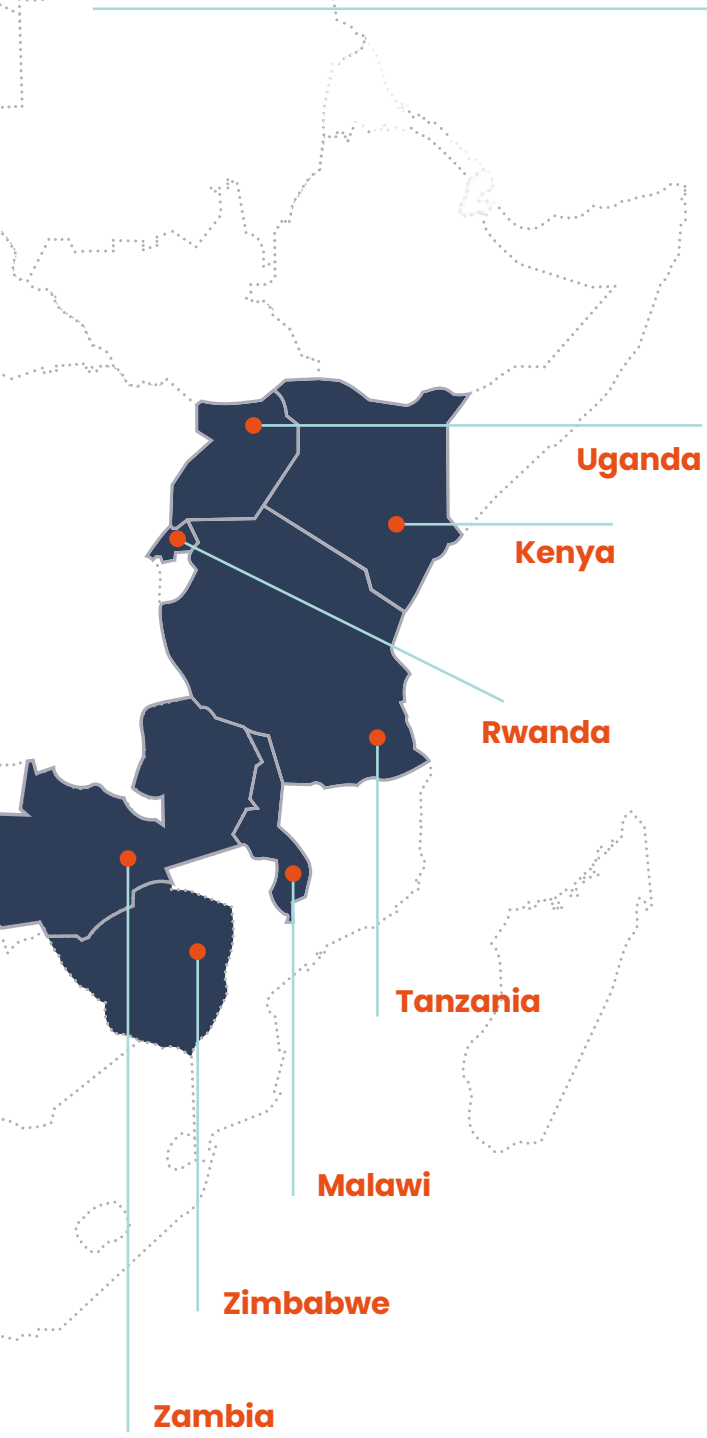
Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY), Child Support Tanzania (CST), Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC) UWEZO Youth Empowerment, Zambia Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD), Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM), Federation of Disabled Organisations of Malawi (FEDOMA) Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association (ZPHCA) and The Action Foundation (TAF).

The power of the Network

The Able Child Africa Network stands as an essential force on the continent. It is the only network in East and Southern Africa solely dedicated to advocating for children with disabilities and so is uniquely positioned to champion their rights. It has a crucial role in a region where the needs of this vulnerable population often go unaddressed and unheard.

The network operates in three main ways:

1. By combining resources, network members have greater capacity to **implement high-quality programmes and initiatives for children with disabilities**. This collaborative approach facilitates the sharing of technical and operational knowledge, while fostering innovation and best practices in inclusive programming. And by speaking with one voice, the network's influence is amplified, enabling it to engage more effectively with governments, donors, and international allies.



2 The network actively **amplifies the voices of children with disabilities**, a perspective that is often marginalised or absent in policy discussions. By creating platforms for these children to share their experiences, the network fosters a more inclusive and rights-based approach to disability advocacy. This direct engagement ensures that interventions and policies are informed by the lived realities of those they intend to serve.

3 The Able Child Africa Network is pioneering in its commitment to **generating data** that is specific to children with disabilities within the region. This data is crucial for understanding the prevalence, challenges, and successes related to disability, informing evidence-based advocacy, and holding stakeholders accountable. The network's commitment to this data-driven approach distinguishes it as a unique resource, providing insights that have historically been unavailable.

Delivering high-quality programmes,
and building best practice for children with disabilities.

Generating data and evidence
of what works for children with disabilities in Africa.

Standing up for the rights
of children with disabilities, amplifying their voices to create change.

'We share a common vision of a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.'

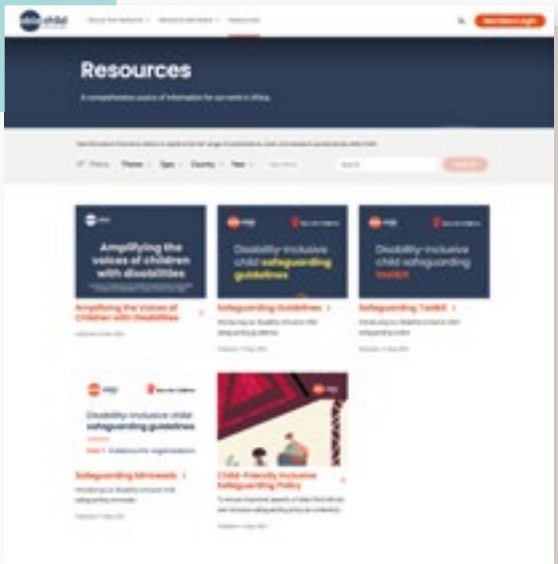
Delivering high quality programmes

At the heart of the network's mission is the concept of "delivering together."

This strategic objective focuses on high-quality, inclusive programming for children with disabilities, across the countries the Network operates in. It moves beyond delivering programmes in isolation, with multiple organisations collaborating to develop, innovate, and then scale impactful programmes. It involves creating evidence-based models that demonstrate success and then building best practices for inclusive education that can be replicated globally.

By participating in joint-funded projects and consortium-based initiatives, the Network Members can amplify their collective impact. Through these collaborations, the Network not only strengthens its expertise but position itself as a leader for inclusive programming for children with disabilities. These coordinated efforts will further allow the Network to engage with powerful global allies, such as donors, governments, and international organisations, advocating for systemic changes in disability inclusion policies and practices.





One of the Network's key successes in delivering together has been its first consortium project funded by Comic Relief. This project has facilitated the development of a resource hub providing programmatic tools, guides, and advocacy materials to network members and the wider sector. Alongside this, the Network is co-creating an Inclusive Education Toolkit. This toolkit, which is currently being reviewed and finalised, will be shared with the wider sector in 2025. It is set to become a comprehensive resource, consolidating the Network's collective technical expertise and methodologies into a practical open-access resource, available to all within the sector.

In addition to creating these resources, the Network has been working on consortium-level proposals, with a recent example being the development of a cross-country exchange program between Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This collaborative effort aims to share learning and enhance early years education and inclusive education approaches. Such initiatives demonstrate the power of joint delivery and learning, and moving forward, this focus on collaborative programming and fundraising will continue to drive the Network's strategy.

Generating data and evidence

The lack of available data on children with disabilities is a major contributor to their omission from historical aid and humanitarian programmes, and there is a clear and significant need for improved data collection to inform policies and support for this marginalised group.

Because of this, building data on children with disabilities is a core objective of the Network. This year, we delivered our first large scale data report on the insights of children with disabilities in East and Southern Africa.



Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities

The Able Child Africa Network conducted a survey to gather insights from over 1,000 children with disabilities in East and Southern Africa, in order to amplify their experiences and priorities regarding human rights. The survey was collaboratively developed by Network members to ensure cultural relevance and child-friendliness. It aimed to collect responses from over 1,000 children across seven countries. Data was collected through guided interviews, ensuring a child-friendly approach tailored to individual needs. The survey included both quantitative and qualitative data, with a focus on ethical considerations and safeguarding.

The ground-breaking report 'Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities', was published earlier in 2025 and has received global recognition. Some key findings from the survey were:

A significant majority of children with disabilities enjoy attending school, with 92% expressing positive sentiments. However, their reasons for enjoyment and the challenges they face vary by disability type, age, and location.
The survey assessed children's understanding of their rights, revealing a strong belief in equality, yet a significant gap exists between this belief and their lived experiences. Many children report feeling unequal treatment, particularly in rural areas.

The majority of children with disabilities report feeling happy at home, largely due to love and care from family, but some experience feelings of neglect or unsafety. Variations exist based on disability type and region.
The survey highlights how adverse weather conditions affect children with disabilities, creating barriers to mobility, access to necessities, and social interactions. Children call for improved infrastructure and support during extreme weather.

A significant majority of children with disabilities remain optimistic about their future, although this optimism declines with age. While 71% believe they share the same dreams as their peers, 29% feel limited by their disabilities, with notable differences across countries and disability types.

Children with disabilities express a strong desire for social inclusion, safety, and equal access to education as key changes they wish to see in the world. Their responses highlight the importance of emotional wellbeing and support in their lives.

Children's responses reflect their aspirations for a more inclusive and supportive environment, emphasizing education, societal attitudes, and basic needs. Their voices highlight the barriers they face and the changes they envision. The findings suggest targeted interventions and further research to address the unique needs of children with disabilities. Recommendations include enhancing safeguarding measures, improving educational access, and fostering community support.

The full survey is available at **https://ablechildnetwork.org/resources/amplifying-the-voices-of-children-with-disabilities/**

What's next

A new survey will be conducted in 2025/26 on climate change and disability so as to delve deeper into the effects of climate change especially among children with disabilities. This report is expected to be published later in 2025.

Standing up for the rights of children with disabilities



We believe that the Network's united advocacy is crucial for lasting change.

There's a significant need for a strong, collective voice to amplify the voices of children with disabilities in global conversations, and the Network's strength lies in its many voices, proving that a united front is far stronger than individual efforts in delivering tangible benefits for children with disabilities.

Raising the profile of the Network

A major advocacy milestone was the official online launch of the Able Child Africa Network in 2025. This high-profile event drew signalled strong international interest in our vision. The launch introduced the Network to stakeholders promoting the Network as dedicated platform to champion the rights of children with disabilities across the region.

Network members have further boosted our profile through various platforms. Notably, the Network Manager representative from Zimbabwe Feminisms spoke at the Africa Philanthropy Network General Assembly 2024 exploring the collective power of pan-African and feminist philanthropies in crisis response, incorporating a crucial child-led and disability perspective across East and Southern Africa.

Data underpins all our advocacy work, ensuring that **our efforts are evidence-based and effective**.

This year, the Able Child Africa Network has significantly advanced its advocacy efforts, establishing itself in global forums, attending two key events to ensure the voices of our network members are heard at an international level.

International Development & Disability Consortium (IDDC) General Assembly 2025

Able Child Africa Network participation at the IDDC provided opportunities to promote further involvement of children and young people with disabilities, while strengthening relationships with organisations in the disability sector. Able Child joined the IDDC Board last year and still co-chairs the IDDC's Child Rights Task Group, strengthening our capacity to integrate the Able Child Africa Network's priorities, and the priorities of its members into international conversations.

Global Disability Summit (Berlin, Germany)

The Network Manager, alongside Able Child's Co-CEO and Programmes Manager, attended the Global Disability Summit in April 2025. Network Members from The Action Foundation, Child Support Tanzania, and FEDOMA were also present. The group were able to use the event to build new connections and champion global disability-inclusive development for children with disabilities. The event was used to launch our groundbreaking report, 'Amplifying the Voices of Children with Disabilities', published earlier in 2025.

Able Child Africa's UK advocacy team champions the Network's voice internationally, ensuring members and children with disabilities themselves lead advocacy efforts. We prioritise creating space for Network representatives, never speaking on their behalf unless essential. Our support empowers the Network to leverage its collective knowledge and drive impactful, locally-led change, fostering a strong African civil society.

By harnessing the collective expertise and experience of the Network, we have worked to drive meaningful change for children with disabilities at national global levels, challenging barriers to their participation, and equipping them to become global leaders.
We have achieved this through three key strategies:

- Publishing and sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise to strengthen the wider sector's capacity to include children with disabilities (as outlined on pages 16 and 17).
- Securing a platform for the Network's voice to be heard internationally through participation in global forums and partnerships.
- Supporting members to advocate locally by providing resources and data.





The Network has also been actively participating in other global campaigns and joint publications:

UK Foreign Secretary's Global Charter for Family-Based Care

Child Support Tanzania's CEO represented the Network at the Charter's launch during the Global Disability Summit. The Network ensures children with disabilities are central to this campaign, with their voices heard in consultations and the Charter's development, advocating for an end to institutionalisation.

Fairer Funding campaign

The Able Child Africa Network's visibility has been elevated through our participation in the Fairer Funding campaign. Our Network Manager played a pivotal role, advocating for more inclusive and equitable funding models. The Network now serves as a benchmark for other funders committed to supporting locally led, disability-focused initiatives.

Contributing to climate evidence

Network members ANDY and ZPHCA contributed to the "Unequal Climate Justice for People with Disabilities" report, a joint initiative by BOND and IDDC. This publication draws on global data, highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on people with disabilities. Network members provided crucial evidence on how climate change specifically affects children with disabilities.

Able Child Africa Network members have been instrumental in driving meaningful change at the local level. Through projects delivered together, network members have secured significant commitments from governments and other stakeholders to support the inclusion and wellbeing of children with disabilities. This impact is detailed with the other main activities on the following country pages.

Uganda

We have been working in Uganda **since 1984** alongside **Uganda Society for Disabled Children** (USDC). Our work supports children with disabilities and their families to break down the barriers to inclusion.



Many people living with disabilities in Uganda lack resources and access to services. Where we work in northern Uganda, 80% of people with disabilities have been identified as **living in chronic poverty**. Despite significant progress at a policy level in Uganda, there is an implementation gap. With a policy of Universal Primary Education, school enrolment has reached 90%. However, this is not the case for children with disabilities, where **only 2% are graduating to secondary level**.

What we achieved this year

Through funding from the Mercers Company, we undertook a transformative project in northern Uganda, to significantly improve access to inclusive education for children with disabilities. Using a range of interventions, this initiative empowered local communities and schools to create more accessible and supportive learning environments for their children. The result has been increased enrolment and better educational outcomes for children who previously had faced significant barriers, fostering a more inclusive educational landscape in the region.

We are also proud to be pioneering the creation of an innovative digital toolkit for Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Uganda through funding from the Lewin Trust. This initiative is empowering educators and caregivers with accessible, technology-driven resources, significantly enhancing early learning experiences. The successful implementation of this digital solution marks a crucial step towards improving ECD outcomes across Uganda, demonstrating the power of digital innovations in education.

Sarah's return to education in a refugee settlement

This year, we concluded implementation of our two-year grant with Educational Opportunity Foundation, which supported children and young people with disabilities in refugee settlements to access inclusive education and gain vocational skills.

Sarah was one of the recipients of support from the project. She is a 21-year-old with a physical disability currently living a refugee settlement in northern Uganda, who had lost hope of returning to school after a three-year break. Yet becoming a community champion proved to be transformative. Through the project, Sarah's mind was opened to the benefits of education for someone with a disability, which led to her securing sponsorship and re-enrolling in Secondary School. She is currently working to complete Senior Four, with the aim to progress to University and has become an important role model for other children and young people with disabilities in the settlement, inspiring other youth champions to return to school.



Examples of our success

60 children with disabilities

living in refugee camps were supported, as part of a groundbreaking project in northern Uganda.

400 community members

were engaged on disability inclusion, early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities.





Achol's journey to the front of the class

Achol, a bright 10-year-old with a hearing impairment, initially struggled profoundly in her refugee settlement school. Despite her love for learning, the absence of teachers able to use basic sign language left her feeling isolated and unable to understand lessons. This led to Achol frequently missing school. Even after transferring to one of the project primary schools, communication barriers caused her peers to distance themselves, further deepening her withdrawal.

The turning point arrived when her mother connected with a teacher who had been trained by our programme at the school, funded by Educational Opportunity Foundation. This teacher was able to provide crucial support, placing Achol at the front of the class to aid visual learning. Slowly, her participation and confidence grew, particularly in her favourite subject, science.

The other introduction of child play days proved transformative, fostering connections and leading to a strong bond with a new friend. This buddy not only helped with classwork but also ensured consistent school attendance, with Achol now eagerly arriving first each morning. While challenges with peer understanding persist, teacher mentors continue to provide counselling, fostering a truly inclusive and supportive environment where Achol is no longer alone.

This teacher was able to provide crucial support, placing Achol at the front of the class to aid visual learning. Slowly, **her participation and confidence grew**, particularly in her favourite subject, science.

Kenya

We have worked in Kenya **since 2009** alongside **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY) and **The Action Foundation** (TAF) **since 2023,** where we support children and young people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of their lives.



Very few children with disabilities have access to early childhood education in Kenya, and their systematic exclusion often means that young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed and are more likely to be living in poverty. With limited access to education, healthcare and other services, these young people continue to face injustices, stigma and are at higher risk of abuse and violence.

What we achieved this year

We are in the first year of implementing a two-year programme, funded by the EA Foundation with ANDY, which has already yielded remarkable success. Through this project, parents and caregivers receive vital entrepreneurship training, empowering them to generate income to better support their families. This training was complemented by crucial mental health support, increasing caregiver confidence in fostering the development of their children with disabilities.

Importantly, the project also facilitated comprehensive training for practitioners across other health and educational sectors, enhancing their capacity to effectively collaborate with parents of children with disabilities. These holistic interventions have demonstrably strengthened families, improved child development outcomes, and fostered a more inclusive support system.

Uplifting families and children with disabilities

Many parents and caregivers of children with disabilities lack the resources to adequately support their families. They have limited economic opportunities and inadequate access to crucial support, leaving them ill-equipped to manage their child's unique needs, creating a cycle of vulnerability, which impacts family wellbeing and limits the child's potential.

Addressing these critical gaps together with ANDY, a total of 344 parents and caregivers underwent comprehensive entrepreneurship training, to build the skills needed to generate income for their families. They received mental health training to increase their confidence in fostering their children's development, and practitioners from various sectors were given specialised training so they are able to better support parents. This strategic investment has yielded remarkable success. The project has equipped families with economic resilience and bolstered their emotional capacity to support their children.
And it has enhanced collaboration, creating a more supportive and inclusive environment to support the needs of children with disabilities.



Examples of our success

344 parents and caregivers

were equipped to support the early childhood development of their children with disabilities.

218 young people with disabilities

were given entrepreneurship and vocational skills training.



Dunstan – A father's journey of caregiving

In a society where caregiving is predominantly viewed as a woman's responsibility, **Dunstan**, a person with a disability, stands as a powerful testament to breaking gender norms. Raising three children, including one who has cerebral palsy, Dunstan has courageously embraced his role as a primary caregiver, at the same time managing a small barbershop to provide for his family. His journey highlights the immense societal pressure and stigma male caregivers often face. **Yet with unwavering dedication, he has taken full responsibility for his children's wellbeing.**

Dunstan was identified and enrolled onto ANDY's entrepreneurship training programme, which proved to be a pivotal intervention in his life. Through the project, Dunstan was able to enhance his understanding of business management, which was crucial for expanding his small business. But beyond that, the programme connected him with other caregivers, where he was able to develop a sense of community. The training environment empowered Dunstan to gain confidence in challenging the entrenched gender norms in his community, allowing him to fully embrace his caregiving role with pride.

Looking ahead, Dunstan's aspirations are clear. He aims to expand his barbershop, securing a more stable financial future for his family, while continuing to provide dedicated care for his children. He hopes to inspire other men to actively participate in caregiving, demonstrating that with the right support and encouragement, men can confidently balance family responsibilities with building sustainable livelihoods.

The training environment empowered Dunstan to gain confidence in challenging the entrenched gender norms in his community, allowing him to fully embrace his caregiving role with pride.

Tanzania

We have been working in Tanzania **since 2007** alongside our partners **Child Support Tanzania** (CST) to change the lives of children and young people with disabilities through inclusive education.

85% of children with disabilities in Tanzania are outside the education system, with increasing numbers of children dropping out of school due to a lack of support, which is severely lacking and poorly resourced. Although primary education is free in Tanzania, children with disabilities are continually left behind when it comes to accessing the school system and fail to develop the basic early learning skills needed to succeed.

What we achieved this year

Together with our CST, we have achieved remarkable success in enhancing access to inclusive education for children with disabilities in CST's own inclusive Early Childhood Education centre. With funding from Rangoonwala Foundation, CST have adopted a comprehensive programme that integrates vital occupational therapy and physiotherapy services. Through strategic partnerships with Educational Support Resource Assessment Centre experts and medical professionals, CST conducted medical assessments for children with disabilities, determining their rehabilitative and health needs.

While some received medical services such as speech, occupational, and physical therapy, others underwent functional assessments for appropriate educational placement and support. This holistic approach ensured tailored intervention to each child, significantly improving the health outcomes and educational integration for these vulnerable children.



Improving children's access to education through physiotherapy

Previously, many children at CST's school relied heavily on walking frames or direct assistance from teachers and parents to move around. Recognising this, a collaborative approach was developed, bringing together therapists, teachers, and parents to develop tailored intervention plans for the children at the school.

The result was the introduction of a physiotherapy programme, where activities have significantly improved the mobility and independence of children who experience physical challenges. A key strategy was fostering independent walking, encouraging children to build self-reliance, gradually transitioning from full support to using minimal aids like a single stick. Weekly physiotherapy sessions were run both at school and at home, where parents received training and guidance on how to facilitate their child's progress through daily exercises. Regular home visits also ensured consistent support and allowed therapists to train other relatives in the household.



Examples of our success

191 children with disabilities

were supported through access to quality physiotherapy and other rehabilitative services.

105 parents of children with disabilities

were supported through Parent Support Groups and physiotherapy training.

Jessica – A mother's unwavering dedication

Solomon navigates life with multiple disabilities, including physical and intellectual challenges, and low vision. Yet, despite the stigma surrounding her son's disability and immense financial pressures of her mobile hairdressing work and, his mother **Jessica's** commitment to her children remains steadfast, displaying remarkable resilience in raising her son.

Solomon arrived at CST's inclusive school three years ago and has thrived. This is testament to the dedicated support from teachers and the entire CST team.

Driven by her gratitude and a deep desire for Solomon to continue receiving his education and support services, **Jessica volunteers her time at CST's Inclusive School.** Since August 2024, she has embraced her role with the seriousness of a paid job, assisting with cleaning, kitchen support, and ensuring the children's wellbeing and feeding during school hours. This self-initiated contribution **allows her to offset school expenses, a common challenge for many parents from low-income families, and ensures Solomon's consistent access to vital physiotherapy and education.**

Jessica's unwavering dedication is a shining example of the project's profound impact, transforming parental perception and fostering community engagement. **Her commitment not only directly benefits Solomon but also inspires other parents to volunteer, creating a collaborative environment where every child can flourish.** Jessica's story is a powerful reflection of how parents, with the right support, can challenge norms and significantly enhance the quality of life and access to rehabilitative services for children with disabilities.

Jessica's unwavering dedication is a shining example of the project's profound impact, transforming parental perception and fostering community engagement.

Rwanda

We have been working in Rwanda **since 2016** alongside **Uwezo Youth Empowerment** (UWEZO), empowering children and young people with disabilities to access inclusive services.



Children and young people account for half of all people with disabilities in Rwanda. Two thirds of these are not in education or employment, and over 90% fall below the national poverty line. While Rwanda has a good track record of inclusive policies, many children with disabilities are still unable to access basic services and face damaging stigma and discrimination.

What we achieved this year

This year we are proud to be delivering a project with UWEZO funded by Sir Halley Stewart Trust to enhance children with disabilities' access to vital mental health support. Addressing the critical lack of provision for children with disabilities, who are highly vulnerable to mental health issues, the project has established crucial support systems for the children supported by this project. This vital intervention is now improving the psychosocial and wellbeing outcomes for the children, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment where their mental health needs are being addressed for the first time.

UWEZO are also implementing a project funded by Euromoney, which is successfully enhancing access to crucial child rights and protection services for children with disabilities. Addressing a critical gap, the initiative has empowered these vulnerable children to understand and claim their rights, while also strengthening child protection mechanisms. This targeted support is creating safer environments and ensuring that children with disabilities can access the essential services needed to protect their wellbeing and secure their fundamental rights.

The power of positive parenting

Parents of children with disabilities often face significant stigma, which undermines their efforts to adopt positive parenting practices and effectively address their child's unique needs.

Recognising these barriers, UWEZO began implementing targeted sessions on positive parenting through a series of workshops. Through these interactive meetings, parents collaboratively identified the common challenges that hinder effective parenting, validating their experiences and building a shared understanding.

The project empowered parents to navigate these complexities, equipping them with specialised knowledge and fostering a supportive community. Parents are now better able to overcome the societal pressures they face and implement positive parenting strategies.



Examples of our success

85 children with disabilities

were provided with one-to-one mentoring from a young person with a disability.

68 parents of children with disabilities

were trained on positive parenting and child protection.





Mwiza – a story of resilience and inclusion

Mwiza, a 15-year-old girl with a physical impairment, faced considerable adversity in her early life. Frequent health issues kept her in and out of the hospital, delaying her recovery and causing her to regularly miss school. Starting primary school at age 11 meant that she was significantly older than her peers, most of whom were six years old. By her third year, this age gap led to feelings of inadequacy and isolation, causing her to withdraw from her classmates.

A pivotal moment arrived when **she joined one of UWEZO's wellbeing clubs as part of a funded project**. Mwiza quickly became an enthusiastic participant, often the first to arrive and actively recruiting other students to join. This engagement provided a **much-needed sense of belonging and significantly boosted her self-esteem, motivating her to interact more openly with her classmates**. Her newfound confidence translated into academic success. She continued to excel in her studies, earning recognition from teachers as one of the school's best students.

Mwiza's involvement in the wellbeing club ignited a clear vision for her future.

"I want to become a health worker when I grow up so that I get to teach people about inclusion... I know my mother will be proud of me,"

Mwiza's journey is a powerful example of the project's ability to transform the lives of children with disabilities, fostering not only academic achievement but also social integration, self-confidence, and the development of future aspirations where she can have a positive impact on her community.

Malawi

We have worked in Malawi **since 2020** with **Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi** (FEDOMA) and **since 2023** with **Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi** (PODCAM) to improve children with disabilities' access to Early Childhood Education.



Children under 18 account for more than 50% of the total population in Malawi. Malawi has one of the highest pre-term birth rates globally, resulting in many children being born with a disability. 70% of children with disabilities are not in any form of education and their needs have not been prioritised.

What we achieved this year

This year we are excited to have commenced our second project with PODCAM, funded by the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust. The project is promoting Early Childhood Development services for children with disabilities by upskilling teachers in learning centres and making the learning centres themselves more inclusive through specific modifications.

We are also in the final phase of implementation of our very first project with PODCAM, funded by the Vitol Foundation. The project has been instrumental in supporting more children to access inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD). Fostering shared learning among Network members, FEDOMA has worked closely with PODCAM to build their capacity to implement the project, sharing their expertise of of an inclusive play programme for younger children. Through this collaborative approach, we are fostering knowledge exchange between Network members and promoting best practices.

Enhanced inclusion and community support in Malawi

Both projects delivered with PODCAM have delivered significant impact in promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning centres across Malawi. There has been the marked increase in both the enrolment and retention rates of children with disabilities in these centres, pointing to the effectiveness of the projects to create more accessible and welcoming environments; thus ensuring children receive the support and education they need at a crucial stage in their development.

There was also a strong correlation between the centres where parent support groups engaged in savings and loans schemes and the ongoing financial success of the centres. The savings schemes, formed through the project's empowerment initiatives, are not only fostering economic self-reliance among parents but are also directly contributing to the improved welfare of the children. In a remarkable display of community ownership and collective responsibility, many of the parents involved in the schemes have contributed a portion of their profits to purchase essential materials for the children attending the centres. This self-sustaining model ensures that basic needs are met, further improving the children's learning environment and overall wellbeing.



Examples of our success

254 parents of children with disabilities were enrolled into inclusive Parent Support Groups.

48 teachers were trained on disability inclusive practices.





Empowering parents of children with disabilities

For **Maria**, a mother of two children, one of whom has severe disabilities, life often felt isolating and financially strained. Like many parents of children with disabilities, she grappled with limited resources and the immense demands of caregiving, often feeling overlooked by community support systems. The prospect of improving her household income and securing her children's future seemed distant.

Once enrolled in the project run with PODCAM, Maria experienced a profound shift. **She received seed capital, a vital injection of funds to boost her small business, which offered a tangible pathway to improving her family's financial stability.** The implementation of a home-based care approach in the project resonated deeply with her: "We no longer feel side-lined," Maria shared, highlighting how this tailored support has made her feel seen and valued. It has also **ensured her child received the support she needs to reach her educational milestones.**

The project's commitment to inclusive play has not gone unnoticed. When play materials were distributed to centres, Maria's child along with other children with disabilities, were fully included in the inclusive play programme. This reinforced the project's dedication to leaving no child behind, empowering parents like Maria to feel truly supported and integrated within their community.

> "We no longer feel side-lined," Maria shared, highlighting how this tailored support has made her feel seen and valued.

Zambia

We have been working in Zambia **since 2020** alongside **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities** (ZAPCD) to understand and address the barriers that children with disabilities face when accessing education.



Despite primary and secondary education being free in Zambia, only 63% percent of all children transition from primary to secondary school and learning outcomes are generally poor. For children with disabilities, the number completing secondary education is estimated to be as low as 12%. With as few as 22% accessing Early Childhood Education, there is a great need for children with disabilities to be fully considered in government plans, with national data and evidence desperately needed to inform and influence the government.

What we achieved this year

This year ZAPCD is proud to have supported children with disabilities to access Early Childhood Education (ECE) for the first time, tackling the complex barriers they face. The delivered projects have had a significant impact on the lives of the children in the project, increasing access to essential services, including education, healthcare, and rehabilitative support.

Through a variety of projects and funders, ZAPCD has successfully delivered teacher trainings, created Parent Support Groups, and improved community awareness raising. Through these valuable partnerships, they have delivered targeted interventions such as community-based rehabilitation, parent empowerment initiatives, and advocacy campaigns with government officials, ensuring that children with disabilities in the communities where they work receive the appropriate care and opportunities for development. This collaborative approach is proving instrumental in fostering greater inclusion, reducing stigma, and ultimately improving the overall wellbeing and future prospects of these vulnerable children and their families across Zambia.

Fostering inclusive education through inclusive play

One of ZAPCD's initiatives this year, focused on an inclusive play programme has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm from teachers. They expressed satisfaction with the knowledge gained on the inclusive play programme guide, which was developed collaboratively with teachers, government officials and other stakeholders. This comprehensive tool, coupled with practical training, has equipped educators with the skills and resources necessary to create more inclusive and engaging play environment for all children.

Teachers highlighted their appreciation for the project's direct support, recognising the significant impact it will have on their daily practices. Crucially, they committed to becoming champions of inclusive play within their communities. With the newly acquired guide and expertise, teachers pledged to share their knowledge not only within their own schools but also with educators in neighbouring schools around Chadiza, where the project is delivered. This commitment ensures a ripple effect, and fosters a wider adoption of inclusive play practices.



Examples of our success

286 children with disabilities

were enrolled into inclusive Early Childhood Education

6 Early Childhood Education Centres

received accessibility modifications to make them safer and more inclusive for children with disabilities.





David's journey to school

For years, **David's** daily journey to school was an immense challenge for his mother, Maria. Maria recounted the arduous task of physically carrying David to and from the inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) centre each day, a testament to her dedication but also a stark reminder of the mobility barriers David faced. This constant struggle not only impacted David's ability to attend classes regularly but also placed a significant physical and emotional burden on his mother.

The project's intervention brought a profound sense of relief and hope. **Maria expressed heartfelt gratitude for the provision of a wheelchair for David.** "It has been such a challenge to take him to school, always carrying him," she shared. "Now that my child has been given a wheelchair, it will really ease his mobility so he can attend classes regularly." This simple yet life-changing mobility aid has **transformed David's access to education, granting him newfound independence and ensuring consistent participation in his classes**. It clearly illustrates how targeted support can dismantle barriers and unlock a child's potential.



"It has been such a challenge to take him to school, always carrying him," she shared. "Now that my child has been given a wheelchair, it will really ease his mobility so he can attend classes regularly."

Zimbabwe

We have been working with one of our newest founding members of the Able Child Africa Network, **Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association** (ZPHCA), **since 2023** to champion the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities in Zimbabwe.



As with many countries globally, reliable data that captures the prevalence of disability is scarce in Zimbabwe. Despite launching a national disability policy in 2021, there are several issues with its implementation and children with disabilities are among the most marginalised and under-represented. Due to facing several barriers alongside stigma and discrimination, they are routinely excluded from mainstream health, education and other services.

What we achieved this year

This year, staff from Able Child visited ZPHCA's office in Harare, Zimbabwe for the first time, which presented a fantastic opportunity to meet the team, collect imagery and stories of children with disabilities that have been supported by ZPHCA, and develop some exciting new project ideas together.

We collaborated with ZPHCA to develop two innovative projects, which we are actively seeking funding for. The first is a project focused on tackling the acute challenges children with disabilities and their families are experiencing as a result of climate change. The other would see the creation of a community information hub and vocational skills centre, where ZPHCA would also base their offices to enable them to provide vital support and services to enhance the lives of children and young people with disabilities, and their families.





Shining a light on ZPHCA's work

Arthur is nine years old and has a condition that causes him to have brittle bones. Having broken his legs multiple times and without access to good healthcare, Arthur experiences difficulties walking. His mother struggled to get the help she needed for Arthur, and she wasn't aware of any support mechanisms to guide her. Despite this, Arthur's mother was steadfast in her determination for Arthur to get an education. She learnt of a local support group for parents of children with disabilities, which had been established by ZPHCA, and she hasn't looked back.

Through the support of this group, she began to better understand Arthur's rights, including his right to an education. Since Arthur does not have a wheelchair, she committed to carrying Arthur to school each day and waits there until he finishes so that she can take him home. His mother struggled to earn an income as a result, which caused huge strain on the family. **Yet thanks to the support group, which has an established savings and loan scheme, this has provided welcome financial support, providing the family with greater reassurance.**

While ZPHCA, together with other members of the support group, are working hard to secure a wheelchair for Arthur, his mother's dedication alongside his own self-determination **has resulted in a drastic improvement in his happiness and development**. Arthur has a special talent and enjoys making toys on wheels, which are made using thick pieces of wire. He has made lots of new friends this way and even makes a small income from his endeavours. Arthur's parents are extremely proud of him and remain dedicated to securing a bright future for their son.

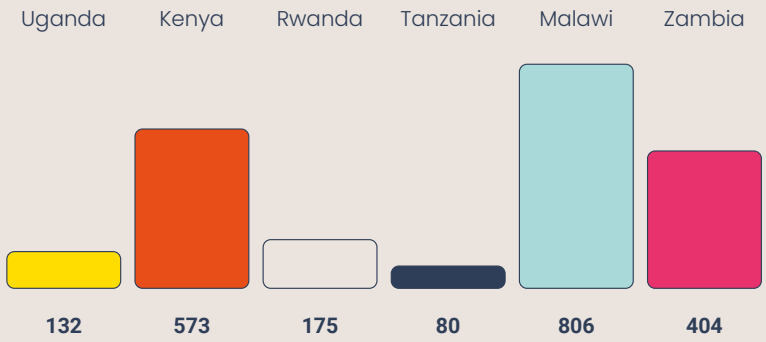
Arthur has a special talent and enjoys making toys on wheels, which are made using thick pieces of wire.

Our impact

In 2024/25, we have been delivering projects with seven network members across **seven countries in Africa** to protect, educate and amplify the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.

Children and young people with disabilities directly supported

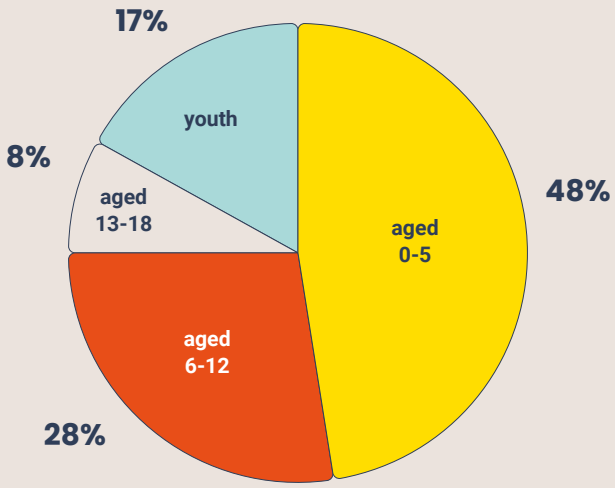
Total **2,260**



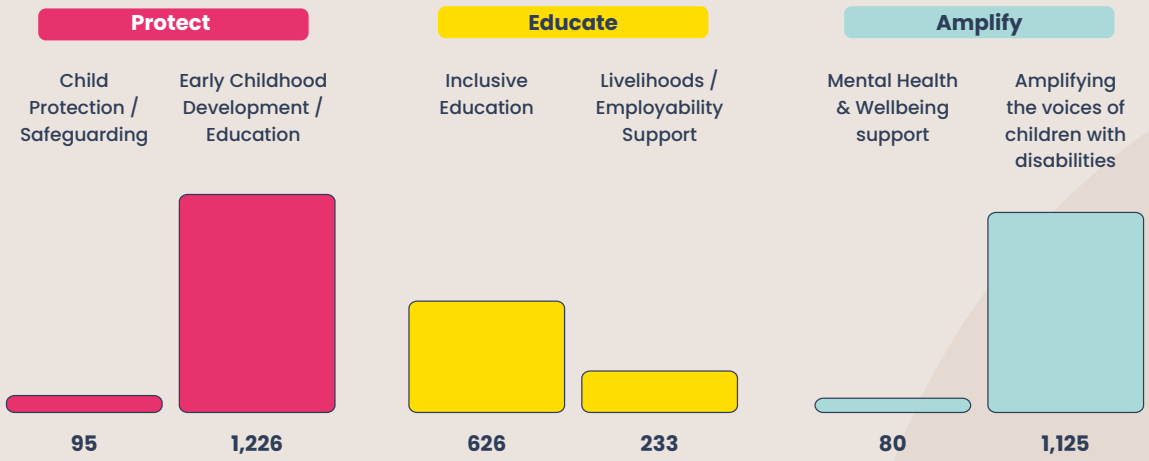
We directly support children and young people with disabilities by implementing early identification tools, enrolling out-of-school children into schools, making school environments more accessible, establishing peer-to-peer mentorship schemes and supporting young people with disabilities to access employment.





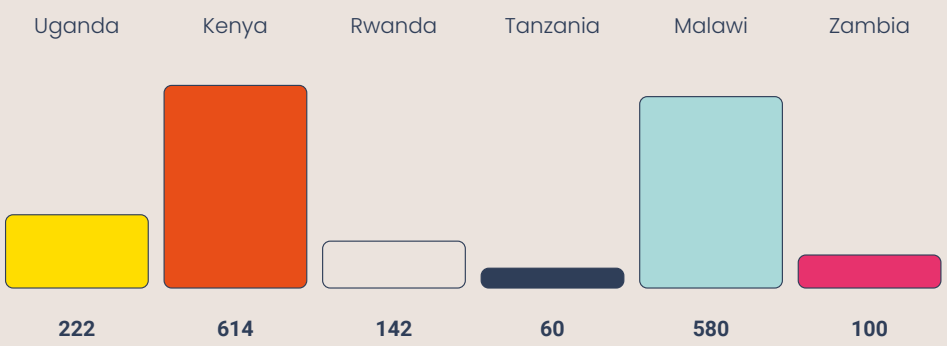


For the first time this year, the **largest number of children we supported were 0-5**, through our funded Early Childhood Development (ECD) or Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes.



This includes the children we engaged through the Network data survey we conducted.

This year, **we enrolled 742 children with disabilities who were not in school**, into the school environment, so they can continue their education.



No. of parents directly supported

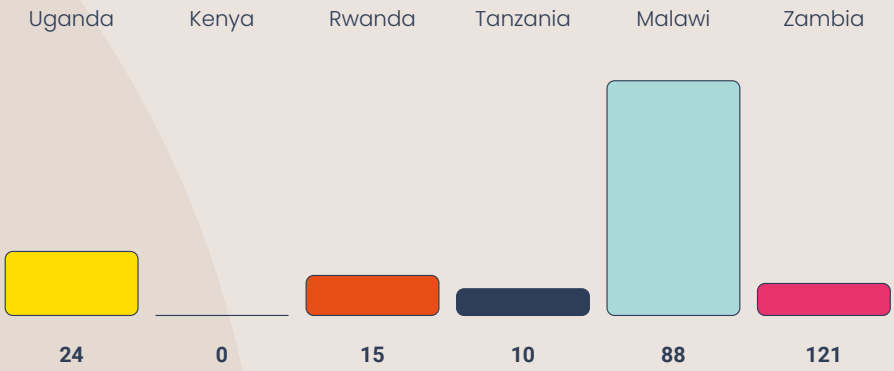
Total **1,718**

We support parents of children with disabilities through the establishment of Parent Support Groups and the facilitation of community events, giving parents the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face, support each other and work together to advocate for their children's inclusion.

Teachers and other stakeholders

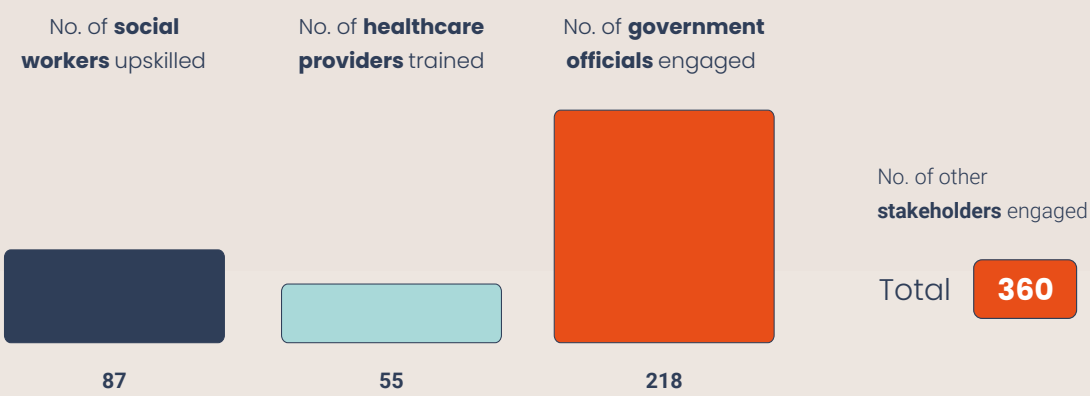
No. of teachers trained

Total **149**



We train teachers in inclusive teaching methods, providing information and tools to help teachers support all children in the classroom, and ensuring children with disabilities can participate effectively in lessons and play activities alongside their peers.

We enrolled 259 youth with disabilities enrolled into vocational training, to support them into a livelihood.



We engaged 218 government officials across seven countries, influencing policy change at a local, regional and national level. We work with government officials to advocate for disability inclusion in the development and implementation of government policies and programmes, while evidencing effective methods to achieve this through our own work.

We were able to directly engage over 5,000 community members through 50 awareness raising events across seven countries to improve the support within communities for children with disabilities.



Meet 15-year-old Naomi – **gaining confidence** everyday



Naomi's story

Naomi is 15 years old and lives in Rwanda. **She has Down Syndrome**, which is a genetic condition that can affect the way the brain and body develop.

When she was younger, Naomi would often face stigma and discrimination due to her disability. She didn't understand why she was treated differently to other children, and this made her dread going to school. Naomi's confidence was low, and she was in danger of becoming isolated, and drifting further away from her peer group.

Children with disabilities, like Naomi are at an elevated risk of mental health issues and psychosocial disabilities due to the high levels of stigma and exclusion they experience. Despite this, there is very little mental health provision for children and young people with disabilities in the countries where we work.





This is where Able Child came in.

Through a project with **Uwezo Youth Empowerment**, we began supporting child protection and mental health systems to be more sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities, particularly girls.

We started working with parents of children with disabilities through 'positive parenting' workshops to ensure they are better supported to prevent abuse. And we began training young people with disabilities to mentor children with disabilities to inform them of their rights and to better support their mental health.

Through the mentorship programme, **Naomi was given support and companionship from a young person with a disability who she could relate to**, someone who empathised with her in a more meaningful way. Her mentor had not only been in her position before but had also received support as a mentee when they were younger.

This relationship provided a platform for Naomi to share her experiences and receive advice from someone who had walked the same steps before. Now several years into the programme, **Naomi has grown in confidence, is better equipped to understand her potential and now, is beginning to thrive**.

Note: The names of children in all case stories have been changed to protect their identity.

Our Strategy: Safe, Thriving, Heard – Looking Forward

2025 marks the second year of our **Safe, Thriving, Heard Strategy**, which runs until 2030.



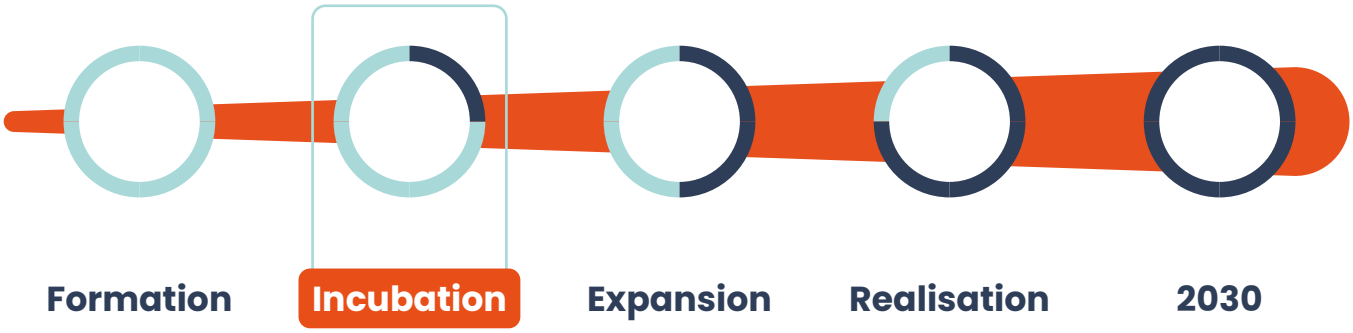
Since its launch, the Able Child Africa Network has achieved significant milestones. It has launched a comprehensive website, provided tailored support and training to members, and facilitated new collaborative projects. Able Child has offered flexible unrestricted funding to members, supported the Network's first consortium bid and helped to organise the second Able Child Africa Network General Assembly in Rwanda at the end of last year.

The Network has already published a series of reports, position papers, and tools on its website for others to access and learn from. Additionally, the Network has begun developing a data collection system to generate stronger evidence and identify gaps in service delivery for children with disabilities. Through a self-funded innovation project, we have also begun developing a report that captures the survey results of over 1,100 children's voices, which is due to be published in late 2024.



The role of Able Child

Able Child has long served as a platform for organisations working with children with disabilities in Africa to build expertise, access funding, and advocate for meaningful change. Our new strategy is a natural evolution of this role—placing our partners firmly at the heart of our mission through the formation of a Network. Most importantly, it recognises the development and realisation of a network of African-registered organisations as an ongoing journey until 2023.



A well-respected network delivering change for children with disabilities across Africa.

We have successfully moved from the **formation phase** into the incubation stage of our strategy. During formation, we established strong foundations including the Executive Council, elected by Network members, which ensures that all decisions remain truly member-driven.

The current **incubation phase**, expected to continue over the next couple of years, focuses on delivering the Network's first activities with support from Able Child. A key milestone ahead is the registration of the Network, marking an important step toward greater independence. This transition is being carefully phased, with a focus on practical implementation and a shared vision.

Looking forward, we are keen to deliver on some of the Network's key objectives this coming year.

Next year will see a significant focus on **climate change**, including a new 2025/26 survey to delve into its effects on children with disabilities. This data will ensure their voices are integrated into global climate crisis conversations, alongside funding a child-led campaigns on inclusive climate justice.

We will continue to position ourselves as a repository for data, and evidence of "what works," understanding that the Network's strength comes from combined knowledge. The publication of data and sharing best practices will continue to elevate the Network's profile so our members are heard.

As opportunities for traditional restricted funding decline across the sector, we recognise the need to adapt to a changing landscape. We will take a bold approach to securing new and untapped funding streams, exploring creative avenues and rethinking what restricted funding can look like. At the same time, we will continue to strengthen and diversify our unrestricted fundraising efforts, ensuring greater flexibility to deliver work that truly reflects the needs and priorities of our Network members.

We remain committed to providing flexible, unrestricted funding to our Network members, recognising its critical role in their sustainability in turbulent times and continue to advocate for increased direct funding to local civil society across Africa. Finally, we will continue to prioritise the development and well-being of our staff, recognising our people as our greatest asset—especially during challenging times.

Our strategy is built for adaptability in a changing environment. With an approach grounded in the credibility of localisation and a focused ambition to fill knowledge gaps rather than pursue exponential growth, we will ensure there remains a clear role for Able Child in the years ahead.



Financial report

Overview

Able Child's total income this year was £938,833 which represents a decrease of 1% from the previous financial year.
This is comprised of £422,501 in restricted funding (including grants) and £516,332 in unrestricted flexible funding.

Total expenditure this year was £1,005,852 which is a 5% increase from the previous financial year.

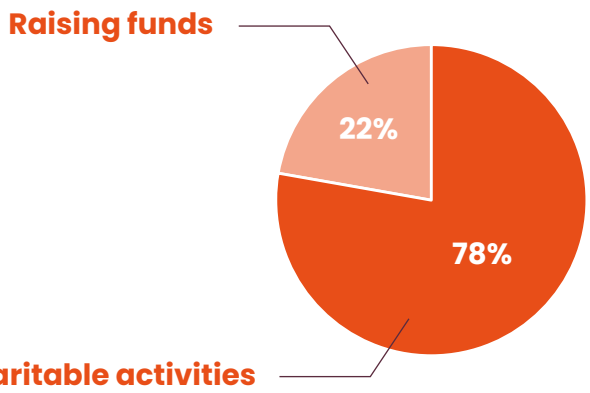
Income and expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	**Total Funds**
Income	£422,501	£516,332	£938,833
Expenditure	£493,229	£512,623	£1,005,852
Net Income / Expenditure	-£70,728	£3,709	-£67,019

Spending on charitable activities

Expenditure Split	Charitable Activities	Raising Funds	**Total Expenditure**
Total	£787,321	£218,531	£1,005,852

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to **78p for every pound** raised and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs.



Our fundraising costs, (**22p in every pound raised**), raised, are kept as low as possible while still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year the cost of raising funds is slightly higher than previous years as the costs of goods and services have risen due to inflation, and we have faced increased staff costs to retain our talented team.

The complete Audited Accounts and Financial Statements can be found in this document from page 54.

Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Patrons

We are lucky to have some fantastic patrons who continue to support our work and raise the profile of what we do. We want to thank Anne Wafula-Strike, Ellie Robinson, Keith Nethercot, Emeli Sandé and our newest patron, Marsha De Cordova MP, for all their support and we look forward to working together during an exciting year ahead.

Our Ambassadors

There are a small group of people who go above and beyond in their support of our work. Our Ambassadors are incredibly dedicated individuals who understand the importance of our work and are willing to back us on a personal basis and over a long period of time. We want to say a huge thank you to Azad Ayub, Clare Persey, Paul Harrison, Vijay Parikh, and to Stephen Trowell for your amazing support and personal connection to what we do. Your support is not taken for granted and we are proud to call you part of the Able Child family.



Our corporate supporters

We are very fortunate to have some amazing corporate partners, whose continued support through a challenging environment over the last few years has been vital. To Exile - to Dan Sheriff, Dom Kloiber, Katy Rose and Hesham Zakai and all the team, a huge thank you not only for your continued generosity of support, but your willingness to make us part of your family. Exile currently provides us with an office space free of charge, which means a significant saving to the charity and means more money can get to where it is needed most.

To Findlay Park, thank you for investing in our mission and continuing your journey with us. A particular thanks goes to Sello Lekalakala for his ongoing support, and to Jacqui Shilling and the rest of the SRC.

To Cargill and Juwon Sofola for your significant and continued annual donation towards our work.

To Hassell Inclusion, to Rosnah and Jonathan Hassell for quietly providing an incredibly generous and long-term commitment to the charity and buying in to what we do. Your support is invaluable, and it is great to have you with us on this journey.

To two new supporters the BGC Group and The Reed Foundation, we are excited to build a partnership with you that will hopefully go from strength to strength.

We would also like to thank everyone that donates their services free of charge or at reduced rates to help us keep our costs down and ensure as much money as possible goes to where it is needed most.

A finally, a big thank to Raihan Islam and Iirth for the brand and website support over the year, and to Michèle Renée Creative for your fabulous design support.



Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our challenge takers

Every year we are lucky to have an amazing group of fundraisers who take on the challenge of the London Marathon and raise funds for our work. This year, we had an incredible team of 29 runners who raised crucial funds for our work. We want to thank each and every one of you. As always, your commitment to fundraise for our cause throughout your journeys is hugely appreciated.

We also want to say a special thank you to a few of you who went even further this year. Firstly, to Joe Muller who raised a remarkable sum of over £11,000. To Christian Hofman who raised over £4,500 in part by selling a lovely woolly hat in aid of Able Child; and Ben Gogarty who raised a wonderful amount of nearly £3k. And to Georgie Grobler, Benjamin Giliomee, Conrad Paxton and Isaac Oliver who all ran for Able Child for the first time and exceeded targets. Thank you, one and all.



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Our individual supporters

There are so many of you that support our work from regular monthly donations to spreading news of our work. You are all an inspiration, and we thank you for the role you play in changing the lives of children with disabilities. A special thank you goes out to our Champion donors Cath Ford and Tony Shubrook, Heather Barr, Jim Sellars and John Ingram for your unwavering support to help us achieve our mission. And to all our long-term individual supporters, who for over a decade and in some cases more, have supported Able Child through regular donations - thank you for your commitment to our cause. As we move into the next phase for the organisation, we thank all those who over many years have enabled us to support children with disabilities in Africa.

Our Trustees

None of what we do would be possible without the support of an incredibly passionate Board of Trustees, who all give up their time to make us a better organisation. They have remained compassionate, strategic and committed to the staff team, which helps create a positive atmosphere throughout the organisation. So, to Mitul Shah for a successful first year as Chair, and Abigail Viljoen as Vice Chair - both have been an invaluable support this past year. To Martin Hill, Jim Sellars, Baz Mehta, Maria Omar, Miiro Michael, and to our newest Trustees, Dhiran Tanna, Hannah Loryman and Thomas Edwards, we want to say a massive thank you for everything that you do, we couldn't do it without you.

Our staff

And finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible staff team for their unwavering dedication to Able Child. Together this year, we've embarked on an ambitious journey and one we can be proud of. We implemented our new strategy that has pushed the boundaries of what we can achieve, and your passion, patience, and innovative spirit have been instrumental in making this possible. We celebrate your courage in challenging the status quo and holding ourselves to such high standards. You have created a positive, inclusive, and welcoming workplace culture that is the fundamental to our success. Thank you for making Able Child a place where new ideas thrive, and everyone feels valued.

Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

We would like to thank the following donors for their support in the last year

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust
American Century Investments
Ashla Charitable Trust
Azad Ayub Ltd
Bartlett Foundation
BGC Group
Cargill
Chalk Cliff Trust
Cheruby Trust
Coles-Medlock Foundation
Comic Relief
EA Foundation
Educational Opportunity Foundation
Euromoney Institutional Investors
Exile Group
Findlay Park
Golden Bottle Trust
Government of Faroe Islands
Hassell Inclusion
James Tudor Foundation
Leggatt Trust
Lewin Trust
Marr-Munning Trust
Mercers Company
Network for Social Change
Rangoonwala Foundation
Reed Foundation
Rest-Harrow Trust
Sir Halley Stewart Trust
Sisters of Mercy
Souter Charitable Trust
States of Guernsey
Tula Trust
Vitol Foundation



Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with Able Child Africa's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



1. Structure, governance and management

1.1 Legal status

Able Child is the trading name of Able Child Africa, a company limited by guarantee registered in England, not having a share capital, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (company number 01861434). The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). Able Child Africa was previously known as the Uganda Society for Children with Disabilities.

Able Child became the official trading name of Able Child Africa in 2024, and Able Child and Able Child Africa may be used interchangeably through this report.

1.2 Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors for the purposes of Company law) who held office during the financial year are set out in this document. They represent a diverse skill set with experience in finance, law and the third sector, including programme delivery, safeguarding and advocacy. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair, Mitul Shah and Vice Chair Abigail Viljoen. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by the co-CEOs, Karl Hankinson and Lauren Watters. The co-CEOs act as the Company Secretary. During the year two new Trustees were appointed in September and October 2024, while two Trustees also left the Board.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in the Articles of Association, which allow for appointment at any time. New trustees are nominated by current members of the Board of Trustees, following an open and competitive recruitment process, and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, Trustees undergo a thorough induction process. Trustees do not receive any remuneration but may claim for incidental expenses, such as travel to board meetings.

The full Board meets on a quarterly basis. We also have one sub-committee, the Resources Sub-Committee that meets quarterly to oversee finance, unrestricted fundraising and give recommendations to the Board. The Resources Sub-Committee has its own identified terms of reference, nominated chair and reports to the full board. The chair of the Resources Sub-committee is currently Martin Hill, appointed in March 2020.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for setting and maintaining the strategic direction of the organisation, setting policies and managing resources, risk and staffing. Trustees ensure appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed, and they review the Articles of Association, which was revised in July 2023, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. They carefully monitor finances to ensure viability and sustainability of existing commitments and future plans; they oversee decisions relating to non-budgeted commitments in excess of £1,000; and budgeted commitments in excess of £5,000. Trustees also oversee and ensure compliance of statutory and legal requirements, both internally within the organisation as well as to our beneficiaries and donors.

The Board oversees staff remuneration and sets the pay scales and any benefits package, currently limited only to pension payments, for the organisation. Salary scales are benchmarked using the Croner Charity Rewards Report, which provides the most comprehensive set of data on salary and benefit packages for the Charity Sector in the UK. The last pay scale review was completed in 2017 and amended in 2020.

1.3 Staffing

Able Child maintains a small staff team in the UK. For most of the financial year we had eleven staff members, which included two co-CEOs, a Head of Fundraising & Communications, a Programmes Manager, a Senior Programme Officer, a Programme Officer, a Finance & Operations Manager, a Finance & Operations Executive, a Programmes Funding Officer, a Senior Fundraising & Communications Officer and a Fundraising & Communications Executive. We also had one part-time Advocacy & Communications Executive for the full year.

Able Child is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equality of opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are also proud to be a registered 'disability confident' committed employer. In our recruitment processes we particularly encourage applications from people with disabilities and people with direct experience of living or working with children with disabilities; those meeting essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

1.4 Fundraising performance

We have delivered our best unrestricted fundraising total for the second year in a row, seeing our income increase from £471k in 2023/24, to £516k this year. This was achieved by doubling our unrestricted Trusts and Foundations income (to £95k) and growing our individual giving portfolio by 73% (to £85k). Our individual giving totals were boosted by the Radio 4 Appeal in December 2024, alongside the Big Give campaign and a growth in HNW donors. Our corporate (£123k) and event-based income (£135k) remained strong through the year, with new events delivered and new corporate donors secured. This illustrates our unrestricted income portfolio is diverse, spread across a number of different sources.

Our total income remained just under £1million for the second year in a row, with a decrease in restricted or grant-based income from the year before. In an increasingly challenging external funding environment, we saw our restricted grant income fall from £477k to £423k from 2023/24, with less multi-year funding opportunities available. We go into 2025/26 with just over £100k of grant-funding secured with opportunities in the pipeline to achieve similar income levels to the last two years, well below our highest restricted income totals above £700k.

1.5 Public benefit statement

Able Child works for the public benefit through its international development and advocacy work, in support of children with disabilities in Africa.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for this year and those contained in the next Strategic Plan.

> Our charitable object as outlined in the Articles of Association is:
>
> To relieve charitable need, promote health, advance education and promote the social integration of disabled children for the public benefit, with a focus on (but without limitation) promoting such disabled children achieving their human, social, cultural and economic rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"), Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UNCRC, the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) by any means the Trustees in their absolute discretion choose and in particular by raising awareness as to the needs of disabled children and advocacy as to how those needs can best be met.

2. Financial review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 78% of total expenditure. As a small, bespoke charity, we recognize the value of every penny donated and reaffirm our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs to maximize expenditure on charitable activities.

While this percentage is slightly lower than last year, we are still incredibly proud of how low our support costs are given the challenging external environment. The increase in fundraising costs is primarily due to external factors, including inflation and higher staff costs, which have impacted the price of goods and services essential for our work. We also recognise the need to invest in staff and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and secure our financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain environment.

2.1 Income

Our total income this year was £938,833. This represents only a 0.9% decrease from the previous financial year, indicating that whilst there is a slight decrease in income we are mostly maintaining our income levels. This is comprised of £422,501 in restricted funding (including grants) and £516,332 in unrestricted flexible funding. A slightly lower proportion of income for the financial year was restricted through grants (45%) then last year (50%). Our institutional and corporate donors include Comic Relief, States of Guernsey and Vitol Foundation – see note 4 for more details. Unrestricted income was raised from individual donors, through unrestricted corporate support from Exile Group, PenCarrie, The Bartlett Foundation, Cargill Financial Services Europe Ltd, Findlay Park and Hassell Inclusion; and through our fundraising events including our Gala Dinner, Children's Walk, the London Marathon and the Charity Golf Day.

2.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure this year was £1,005,852 which is a 5% increase from the previous financial year. Restricted expenditure totalled £493,229, which was spent delivering projects to benefit children with disabilities in Africa; these are detailed in note 6. Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to 78p for every pound raised, and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs. Our fundraising costs, 22p for every pound raised, are kept as low as possible while still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year the cost of raising funds is slightly higher than previous years as the costs of goods and services have risen due to inflation, and we have faced increased staff costs to retain our talented team.

Support costs, which cannot be solely attributed to either charitable or fundraising expenditure, are allocated in proportion to estimated staff time spent on each activity.

2.3 Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts.

The reserves policy states that the organisation should hold a minimum of 3-months of unrestricted expenditure at all times, with the aim to maintain reserves at a level above 6-months unrestricted expenditure. This decision is overseen by the Resources Sub-Committee.

Based on the 2024/25 budget this indicated a target reserves of £243k. Having carried forward unrestricted reserves £225,537 at the start of the year, we ended March 2025 with £229,246 of unrestricted reserves, a gain of £3.7k. With lower expenditure levels budgeted in 2025/26, our 6-months reserves target was lowered to £216k, meaning we start the year above our reserves target.

2.4 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Despite a challenging international development funding environment, the organisation has demonstrated financial resilience. Income remains consistent with the five-year average, slightly below £1million, and unrestricted income had its best year ever, growing to over £500k due to successful fundraising strategies and greater returns on events, corporate support and individual donations. We have been able to maintain free reserves above our six-months target and are in a strong position to manage any future shocks.

Recognising the decline in traditional restricted funding however, we are adopting a bold new strategy focused on localisation and filling knowledge gaps, where we are working to secure new and untapped funding streams and redefine restricted funding targets that will secure Able Child's role for the future. Alongside this, the Board has implemented robust measures to manage costs and ensure financial sustainability through this period. The Board maintains strong financial oversight through quarterly Resource Sub-Committee meetings and monthly reviews of Management Accounts, ensuring proactive financial management and close monitoring of projections and funding pipelines.

While acknowledging the inherent risks associated with grant-funding and the challenging external environment, the Board are confident in the organisation's ability to navigate these challenges through the strategic measures and diligent oversight described above. The Trustees are therefore confident in the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements, as is evidenced by the financial performance presented here and the robust forecast for the next 12-months.

2.5 Voluntary help and gifts in kind

We would like to thank all our generous volunteers and supporters for their work this year. We would like to thank the Exile Group for their continued in-kind support, most notably providing us with a long-term office space. We would also like to thank Corney & Barrow for their donation of wine for our Golf Day, Kunle Fagbenro for his continued support at our Annual Gala and every other person and company that donated a prize or service for our events throughout the year.

2.6 Investment policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. At the present time we do not have any funds invested but may review this position in future should resources allow.

3. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring we have the appropriate systems of control in place, financial and otherwise. Through the implementation of the Strategic Risk Register, the Trustees interrogate and proactively seek to reduce, eliminate or mitigate risks. The major risks to which we are exposed to are identified by the senior management team and nominated board members and reviewed by all Trustees at each quarterly board meeting.

The Trustees remain satisfied that current internal systems provide reasonable assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. At present the Trustees consider the two most significant risks are around financial sustainability and preventing child safeguarding incidents. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are summarised below.

Risk of insufficient funding and economic instability preventing us from delivering against our mission

In the current climate, risk to income, particularly restricted grant-income is high. At present we have a strong unrestricted reserves position, with 6-months reserves at March 2025 and a stable unrestricted income portfolio. This has helped us manage navigate the turbulent period over the last three years. However, the decline of multi-year grant-funding in the sector is accelerating, with most national governments significantly reducing expenditure on aid. While this would not affect our ability to operate, it would affect our ability to make impact on scale. Changes in grant donor arrangements or preferences, particularly regarding our largest and most regular donors, could have a significant impact on our output. At present we have over £100k of grant-funding already secured for 2025/26 but are working to identify new donors and diversify our funding streams as we implement our new strategy. All financial planning is done collaboratively and transparently with the Board of Trustees to ensure proper oversight and a strategic response to a changing situation. This oversight is provided by the Treasurer (monthly) and Resources Sub-Committee (quarterly) who review rolling cash flow projections and annual budgets. This regular monitoring ensures we regularly monitor performance against targets, as well as implement strategic shifts early when required.

Risk of compliance in the implementation of projects by our partners

Our new strategy and theory of change both clearly lay out why we have chosen to work as a network of African-led organisations. Principally, we believe we are a vehicle for African organisations to achieve higher impact; we also believe this offers greater value for money to our donors. However, taking responsibility for the implementation of projects by our African partners, particularly where we are the primary grant holder, carries financial and reputational risk. We seek to mitigate this risk by developing collaborative, working relationships and transparent lines of communication; and having in place overarching Network and Grant Agreements. Our Programmes Team also conduct multiple in-person visits each year to check compliance of grants and improve systems. During these visits, the team regularly review activity delivery and project expenditure for specific grants, interrogating the quality of delivery and spend against outcomes. Project specific risk registers are developed collaboratively for each project; these inform our overall Operational Risk Register and are reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis. We have also developed a bespoke Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, as well as a summary for the organisations we represent, which is in compliance with the UK Bribery Act 2010.

Risk of safeguarding incident causing harm to one or more of the vulnerable people we work with

As an organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, we understand the importance of our role in their safeguarding. We also understand the threat of an incident involving one of our or our partner's staff, volunteers, or Trustees. While we do everything in our power to minimise the risk involving a staff member, volunteer or

Trustee, we accept that due to the nature of our work, there is an increased likelihood of the witnessing or reporting of abuse. We aim to deal with this risk in an honest and transparent way that puts the child or vulnerable adult at the centre of any action. We updated all our safeguarding policies and procedures in 2023, to ensure they are not only fit for purpose, but best practice. These procedures outline the measures in place to reduce a safeguarding incident that affects a child or vulnerable adult; and to appropriately act on any reported incident or suspicion of abuse. We have robust recruitment processes, with DBS checks on all staff, Trustees and volunteers upon appointment. All our staff are trained in safeguarding with regular team workshops where staff can discuss thoughts and facilitate learning and we have recruited a safeguarding professional onto the board as the nominated lead.

Risk of loss of business continuity through unexpected sudden departure of key members of the team

The success of our results and impact lies with its small and dedicated staff team. The unplanned and sudden loss or departure of staff therefore places a risk to our ability to operate efficiently, particularly given the size of the team. To mitigate this, we have taken a number of steps both to improve staff retention and to ensure the loss of institutional knowledge is reduced. Over the course of the last three years, we have placed an emphasis on staff wellbeing and organisational culture to improve staff retention and provide an attractive and supportive environment for staff. To protect institutional knowledge, we have built processes into our CRM system and have started to implement a change in culture to document the organisational knowledge away from individual staff members. We have a comprehensive Business Continuity Policy which works to ensure we are well-equipped to manage this risk, particularly in the current unstable external environment.

Risk to Able Child staff or volunteer safety during travel

Although we do not currently work in conflict areas, political instability, violence and kidnapping risks associated with travel to our chosen countries cannot be completely eliminated. We take our duty of care to our staff, Trustees and volunteers very seriously through robust travel policies and procedures to identify security risks and provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against any occurrence. Ahead of each trip the Programmes Manager undertakes an internal risk assessment, documents travel plans and movements, and provides a travel briefing. Staff, Trustees and volunteers who travel have access to a security and emergency travel app on the smartphone they are provided for travel and this is available to download on personal devices. Our latest security procedure review and staff training was undertaken in 2023/24, with a new Travel Safety and Security Policy developed following an internal review. This is refreshed annually.

Risk of ineffective management of staff, volunteers, supporters' and/or beneficiaries' personal data

As a small organisation with limited resource to cover IT infrastructure, we understand the potential risks of ineffective IT systems or a cyber security attack that leads to a potential data breach. As part of the GDPR regulations, we have improved our IT policies, systems and infrastructure to better ensure that individual's data we hold is consensual, relevant for its purpose and secure. We have revised Data Protection Policies to bring them up to date with GDPR legislation and ensured their effective implementation across the organisation. We have developed new IT Usage and Security Policies and Procedures to provide effective guidelines to staff on using IT and people's data within the organisation. We have developed a data register outlining the data we collect, the purpose for collecting it and where it is stored. Staff receive annual Data Protection training and we review our data retention policies annually. We have developed Privacy Notices for all stakeholders to the organisation, including staff and Trustees. We conducted an organisational-wide data cleanse and updated our Data Protection Policy in 2025, with all our Privacy Notices and practices undergoing an external review to ensure we are fully compliant and identify any areas of potential risk.

4. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2025 was ten. The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd were appointed as the charitable company's auditors in 2017 and have acted in that capacity for the last seven years. They have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 11 October 2025:

Mitul Shah

Mitul Shah – Chair

Able Child Africa
(trading as Able Child)
Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Able Child
Report and Audited Financial Statements
31 March 2025

Able Child Africa

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Company number	01861434
Charity number	326859
Trading name	Able Child
Registered office and operational address	Unit 6 Madeira Tower 34 Ponton Road London SW11 7BA
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Emily Bueno — resigned 30 January 2025 Catherine Carter — resigned 15 October 2024 Thomas Edwards — appointed 15 October 2024 Martin Hill Hannah Loryman Bharat Mehta — resigned 23 July 2025 Miiro Michael Maria Omare James Sellars Mitul Shah — Chair Dhiran Tanna — appointed 19 September 2024 Abigail Viljoen — Vice-Chair
Company secretary and Co-CEOs	Karl Hankinson Lauren Watters
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Solicitors	Bates Wells & Braithwaite 2-6 Cannon Street London EC4M 6YH
Auditors	Godfrey Wilson Limited 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Able Child Africa (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 8 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of the trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the trustees' report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

(1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.

(2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:
- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:
- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

William Guy Blake

Date: 11 October 2025

William Guy Blake ACA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
GODFREY WILSON LIMITED
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Able Child Africa

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2025 Total £**	2024 Total £
Income from:					
Donations	3	-	393,285	**393,285**	390,448
Charitable activities	4	422,501	94,977	**517,478**	518,001
Other trading income	5	-	17,611	**17,611**	28,695
Investments		-	10,459	**10,459**	10,268
Total income		422,501	516,332	**938,833**	947,412
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	218,531	**218,531**	184,968
Charitable activities		493,229	294,092	**787,321**	775,314
Total expenditure	6	493,229	512,623	**1,005,852**	960,282
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	8	(70,728)	3,709	**(67,019)**	(12,870)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		332,511	225,537	**558,048**	570,918
Total funds carried forward		261,783	229,246	**491,029**	558,048

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Able Child Africa

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		**5,312**	3,299
Current assets				
Debtors	12	**100,556**		49,274
Cash at bank and in hand		**404,979**		538,935
		505,535		588,209
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	13	**(19,818)**		(33,460)
Net current assets			**485,717**	554,749
Net assets	14		**491,029**	558,048
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			**261,783**	332,511
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			**229,246**	225,537
Total charity funds			**491,029**	558,048

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 11 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Mitul Shah

Mitul Shah - Chair

Able Child Africa

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	**(67,019)**	(12,870)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**2,655**	1,649
Dividends and interest from investments	**(10,459)**	(10,268)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**(51,282)**	73,878
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**(13,642)**	17,531
Net cash used in operating activities	**(139,747)**	69,920
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(4,668)**	(974)
Dividends and interest from investments	**10,459**	10,268
Net cash provided by investing activities	**5,791**	9,294
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(133,956)**	79,214
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**538,935**	459,721
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**404,979**	538,935

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

Able Child Africa is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Unit 6 Madeira Tower, 34 Ponton Road, London, SW11 7BA.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Able Child Africa meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of earned income, sales, and consultancy is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Redundancy and termination benefits

Where an employee receives a termination benefit the full cost is recognised at the date the employee is notified.

i) Grants payable

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure on the earlier of a) when the charity has a present obligation to transfer resources; and b) when the charity ceases to control the resource (e.g. via transferring funds to the grant recipient).

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of staff numbers, as follows:

	2025	2024
Raising funds	**26%**	22%
Charitable activities	**74%**	78%

k) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computers, database and website	33% reducing balance
Furniture and fittings	33% reducing balance

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

m) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

n) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

o) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

p) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

q) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

r) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1(k).

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:			
Donations	-	390,448	390,448
Charitable activities	476,584	41,417	518,001
Other trading income	-	28,695	28,695
Investments	-	10,268	10,268
Total income	476,584	470,828	947,412
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	184,968	184,968
Charitable activities	489,398	285,916	775,314
Total expenditure	489,398	470,884	960,282
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	(12,814)	(56)	(12,870)

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Income from donations

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Sponsored challenge events	**99,086**	81,634
Fundraising events and community	**36,007**	48,391
Individual donors	**84,555**	48,941
Corporate donors	**122,867**	158,882
Gifts in kind*	**49,770**	42,600
Legacy income	**1,000**	10,000
Total	**393,285**	390,448

All donation income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

*Gifts in kind relate to the following goods and services provided free of charge:

	2025 £	2024 £
Rent	**41,040**	39,600
Auction and event prizes	**8,730**	3,000
Gifts in kind	**49,770**	42,600

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2025 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Vitol Foundation	129,355	-	**129,355**
States of Guernsey	49,492	-	**49,492**
Marr-Munning Trust	-	40,000	**40,000**
Comic Relief	38,000	-	**38,000**
Euromoney	35,000	-	**35,000**
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	**30,000**
The Allen & Nesta Ferguson Trust	30,000	-	**30,000**
Sir Halley Stewart	29,994	-	**29,994**
Educational Opportunity Foundation	29,968	-	**29,968**
EA Foundation	24,542	-	**24,542**
Leggatt Trust	15,000	-	**15,000**
The Lewin Trust	15,000	-	**15,000**
The Coles-Medlock Foundation	10,000	-	**10,000**
Sisters of Mercy	-	10,000	**10,000**
Smaller grants < £10,000	16,150	14,977	**31,127**
Total	422,501	94,977	**517,478**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

Prior period comparative

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Grants > £10,000:			
Vitol Foundation	171,999	-	171,999
Comic Relief	134,966	-	134,966
Faroe Islands	68,825	-	68,825
The British & Foreign School Society	59,892	-	59,892
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	30,000
Rangoonwala	25,000	-	25,000
The Marr Munning Trust	15,902	-	15,902
Smaller grants < £10,000	-	11,417	11,417
Total	476,584	41,417	518,001

Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from the Faroe Islands Ministry of Justice to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2025 was £nil (2024: £68,825). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the prior year.

5. Other trading income

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Auction sales	**16,882**	15,160
Sales income	**729**	13,535
	17,611	28,695

All other trading income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2025 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	246,958	-	**246,958**
Staff costs (note 9)	112,983	321,683	50,501	**485,167**
Non-salaried personnel	-	10,014	32,394	**42,408**
Running costs	-	-	67,169	**67,169**
Fundraising and events	61,684	-	-	**61,684**
Governance	-	-	18,689	**18,689**
Programmes and operations	-	83,777	-	**83,777**
Sub-total	174,667	662,432	168,753	**1,005,852**
Allocation of support and governance costs	43,864	124,889	(168,753)	**-**
Total	218,531	787,321	-	**1,005,852**

Prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Grants payable (note 7)	-	264,034	-	264,034
Staff costs (note 9)	90,589	315,899	45,171	451,659
Non-salaried personnel	-	14,556	16,024	30,580
Running costs	-	-	68,334	68,334
Fundraising and events	63,535	-	-	63,535
Governance	-	-	8,875	8,875
Programmes and operations	-	73,265	-	73,265
Sub-total	154,124	667,754	138,404	960,282
Allocation of support and governance costs	30,844	107,560	(138,404)	-
Total	184,968	775,314	-	960,282

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Grants payable to institutions

Grants were paid to the following overseas partner organisations in pursuit of the charity's objects:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)	**35,441**	50,357
Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)	**108,756**	82,694
Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)	**31,782**	58,709
Child Support Tanzania (CST)	**4,445**	12,240
UWEZO Youth Empowerment	**33,620**	17,029
Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)	**-**	42,507
Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM)	**32,914**	498
Total	**246,958**	264,034

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	**2,655**	1,649
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**523**	Nil
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Statutory audit	**5,900**	5,550
▪ Other services	**-**	350

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**427,642**	398,686
Social security costs	**37,843**	34,261
Pension costs	**16,503**	15,737
Other staff costs	**3,179**	2,975
Total	**485,167**	451,659

Included in salaries and wages are redundancy and termination costs totalling £7,500, comprising settlement payments. Redundancy and termination costs have been funded from unrestricted general funds.

One employee earned between £60,001 and £70,000 during the year, and one employee earned between £70,001 and £80,000 (2024: one employee earned between £70,001 and £80,000).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the co-CEOs. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel, including gross salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions were £155,501 (2024: £94,503).

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Average head count	**11.00**	10.40

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Total £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	**20,896**
Additions	**4,668**
At 31 March 2025	**25,564**
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	**17,597**
Charge for the year	**2,655**
At 31 March 2025	**20,252**
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	**5,312**
At 31 March 2024	3,299

12. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	**10,174**	-
Accrued income	**65,038**	16,593
Prepayments	**25,344**	32,681
Total	**100,556**	49,274

Included with prepayments are £nil (2023: £4,933) of prepayments relating to more than one year in the future.

13. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	**-**	11,791
Accruals	**9,351**	7,700
Other taxation and social security	**9,879**	10,975
Other creditors	**588**	2,994
Total	**19,818**	33,460

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	5,312	**5,312**
Current assets	261,783	243,752	**505,535**
Current liabilities	-	(19,818)	**(19,818)**
Net assets at 31 March 2025	**261,783**	**229,246**	**491,029**

Prior period comparative

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,299	3,299
Current assets	332,511	255,698	588,209
Current liabilities	-	(33,460)	(33,460)
Net assets at 31 March 2024	332,511	225,537	558,048

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	**At 31 March 2025 £**
Restricted funds				
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	12,789	14,984	(27,773)	**-**
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	14,763	14,984	(29,747)	**-**
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	81,387	38,000	(72,975)	**46,412**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	1,000	-	(1,000)	**-**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	(60)	**-**
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO	7,124	35,000	(39,274)	**2,850**
Faroe Islands - ZAPCD	44,089	-	(44,089)	**-**
Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission	-	49,492	(34,797)	**14,695**
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	6,523	-	(6,523)	**-**
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	3,819	-	(3,819)	**-**
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	4,016	2,500	(6,516)	**-**
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	77,716	90,676	(99,189)	**69,203**
Vitol Foundation - PODCAM	79,225	38,679	(50,418)	**67,486**
Leggatt - ZAPCD	-	15,000	(15,000)	**-**
James Tudor Foundation - ZAPCD	-	8,650	(8,650)	**-**
The Coles-Medlock Trust - ZAPCD	-	10,000	(10,000)	**-**
EA Foundation - ANDY	-	24,542	(19,134)	**5,408**
Mercers - USDC	-	5,000	(4,995)	**5**
Sir Halley Foundation - UWEZO	-	29,994	(7,232)	**22,762**
The Allen & Nesta Foundation - PODCAM	-	30,000	(11,413)	**18,587**
Lewin Trust - USDC	-	15,000	(625)	**14,375**
Total restricted funds	332,511	422,501	(493,229)	**261,783**
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	225,537	516,332	(512,623)	**229,246**
Total unrestricted funds	225,537	516,332	(512,623)	**229,246**
Total funds	558,048	938,833	(1,005,852)	**491,029**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)
Prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds				
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	9,160	29,907	(26,278)	12,789
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	3,134	29,985	(18,356)	14,763
Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	47,500	95,000	(61,113)	81,387
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	31,218	32,386	(62,604)	1,000
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST	4,773	-	(4,773)	-
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC	37,210	7,580	(44,790)	-
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	60
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO	29,872	-	(22,748)	7,124
Faroe Islands - ZAPCD	-	68,825	(24,736)	44,089
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	1,908	-	(1,908)	-
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	11,992	15,902	(21,371)	6,523
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	15,775	-	(11,956)	3,819
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	(3,665)	25,000	(17,319)	4,016
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	67,147	-	(67,147)	-
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	74,241	92,774	(89,299)	77,716
Vitol Foundation - PODCAM	-	79,225	-	79,225
Total restricted funds	345,325	476,584	(489,398)	332,511
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	225,593	470,828	(470,884)	225,537
Total unrestricted funds	225,593	470,828	(470,884)	225,537
Total funds	570,918	947,412	(960,282)	558,048

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY

This two-year project seeks to improve disability-inclusion of female youth with disabilities in vocational training and employment. It aims to do so by addressing the triple discrimination that many young women with disabilities in Kenya face in trying to access employment due to their gender, disability, and state of being youth. Female youth with disabilities will gain from training opportunities in employability skills, entrepreneurial business development and business leadership. The project will utilise a mentorship model, with female youth with disabilities also being supported to establish tested enterprises through seed funding or being matched with employment opportunities.

The British and Foreign School Society - USDC

This two-year project seeks to improve access to inclusive education for children and youth with disabilities in northern Ugandan refugee settlements. The children of refugees and displaced people living with disabilities face many challenges in accessing basic human rights including access to quality education. Using a multifaceted approach, working with children and youth with disabilities, teachers, and duty-bearers (government officials, community members, parents), activities include the identification and enrolment of out-of-schools children with disabilities, mentoring of children to keep them in education, training of teachers on inclusive methodologies and advocacy with local and national government officials.

Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling

The deepening and strengthening project consists of three overarching phases of activities to review and consolidate, adapt and deepen and strengthen and scale the inclusive education programmes delivered by Able Child Africa Network members. The project seeks to produce an inclusive education toolbox while supporting Able Child's role in building the capacity of Network members.

Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY

This three-year grant supported seeks to improve access to quality inclusive ECE for children with disabilities aged four to six in Nairobi, Kenya. This project will develop effective early identification systems, build the capacity of key ECD duty-bearers, and design an innovative Inclusive Play Programme to sustainably and holistically address barriers to their inclusion.

Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the The Leggatt Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our inclusive education programme in Tanzania and ensured children with disabilities received medical assessments during the project lifecycle.

Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO

This three-year project seeks to make Rwandan child protection systems more disability-inclusive for children with disabilities. The project adopts a community-based inclusive development approach to target child protection systems in Gasabo, Rwanda and looks to ensure that children with disabilities can equitably access child protection systems.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

The Government of the Faroe Islands – ZAPCD

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face, such as through the development of an early year's child functioning assessment tool.

Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission

This project will support unemployed parents of children with disabilities and youth with disabilities to access a new Inclusive Livelihoods Hub. This project will provide youth with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities with space and resources so they can sustainably lift themselves out of poverty. The newly constructed Hub will be accessible, community-owned and fully equipped to cater for different businesses, with bespoke livelihoods training, and access to rotating loan schemes and business management support.

The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC

This three-year project expands on our previous programme funded by The Marr-Munning Trust to directly support the education of 60 children with disabilities across six schools in Lira, Northern Uganda. It will support the scale-up and merge of two previously developed tools; an Individualised Learning Plan (ILP) and a disability screening tool, supporting teachers to identify areas for improvement that aids children with disabilities' learning and development.

Network for Social Change - UWEZO

This innovative one-year pilot project directly responds to a significant gap identified in Rwanda's mental health service provision for children with disabilities. This project seeks to make mental health provision more inclusive through the creation and testing of an innovative mental health guide, as well as a 'toolbox' of inclusive mental health tools for children and youth with disabilities.

Rangoonwala Foundation – CST

This three-year project seeks to improve the health and education of children with disabilities in Mbeya, Tanzania. Utilising the brand-new physiotherapy room at Child Support Tanzania's Early Childhood Education Centre, the project will ensure children with disabilities are supported both at school and in their homes, where their parents will also receive guidance to better support their children's rehabilitative needs.

Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD

The 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project seeks to ensure children with disabilities aged three to six equitably access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. The project's innovative inclusive ECE methodology will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face in accessing IECE through targeted interventions with different stakeholders.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Vitol Foundation – PODCAM

This three-year project seeks to scale up the FEDOMA Vitol Foundation project by supporting more children with disabilities to equitably access Early Childhood Development in Malawi. FEDOMA will support PODCAM to adopt the approaches used previously, working in both the same and in new ECE centres to create greater impact for children with disabilities.

The Leggatt Trust – ZAPCD

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face, such as through the development of an inclusive play programme guide.

The James Tudor Foundation – ZAPCD

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will specifically focus on the provision of medical assessments and assistive devices to support children's access.

The Coles-Medlock Foundation – ZAPCD

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will specifically support girls with disabilities by addressing the specific barriers they face.

EA Foundation – ANDY

This project will draw on our collective experience to understand how best to effectively and sustainably address the poverty and exclusion experienced by parents of children with disabilities in Nairobi. Activities will address barriers associated with having children with disabilities, generate concrete evidence of what works and inform the production of a specialist guide for organisations across the sector to replicate success.

The Mercers Company – USDC

This project will support the inclusive education of displaced children and youth with disabilities in Northern Uganda. Key activities will include the identification and enrolment of out-of-schools children with disabilities, mentoring of children to keep them in education, training for teachers on inclusive methodologies and advocacy with local and national government officials.

Sir Halley Stewart Trust – UWEZO

This project will strengthen mental health provision for children and youth with disabilities in Rwanda by building the capacity of youth with disabilities to advocate for more gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive mental health services. Youth with disabilities will be empowered to become inclusive mental health champions, conducting research and mapping exercises, assessing existing mental health services, suggesting ways to improve their accessibility, and engaging with government to ensure long-term changes to mental health provision and policy.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust – PODCAM

This one-year project provides top-up funding for the PODCAM Vitol Foundation project. This project will further improve children with disabilities' access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes and the capacity building of actors responsible for early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents, and children with disabilities themselves.

The Lewin Trust – USDC

This project will contribute towards a more inclusive and equitable Early Childhood Education system in Uganda, with a primary aim of creating a stronger foundation for children with disabilities' lifelong learning. This will be achieved through a participatory approach to developing and training 18 teachers on a digitalised tool, which improves children with disabilities' access to quality inclusive education. The tool builds on the paper-based version developed as part of the Marr-Munning Trust- funded project.

16. Related party transactions

During the year, 6 Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £9,850 (2024: £9,500 from 4 Trustees).

able child

info@ablechild.org.uk
ablechild.org.uk

Able Child is a registered charity (no. 326859) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 1861434) in England and Wales under the name Able Child Africa.

Able Child Africa

England & Wales - Charity number 326859

Accounts

able child

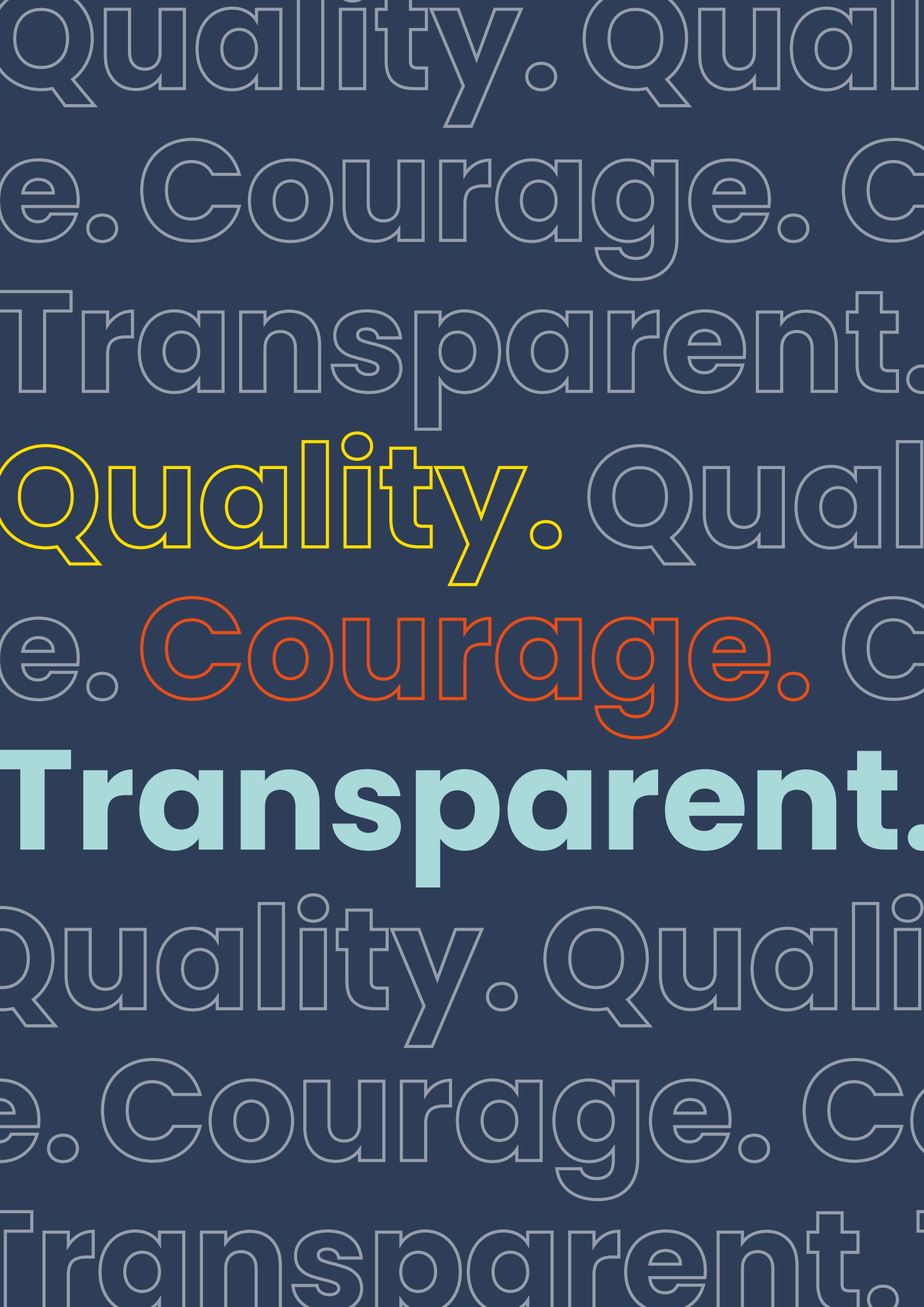
Able Child Africa
(trading as Able Child)
Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Year end 31 March 2024

2024
Annual Report and Audited Accounts

Celebrating **40 years** of changing lives




Quality. Qual
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Quality. Qual
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Transparent.
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Transparent.

We are Able Child

We work towards a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.

We do this by supporting a network of organisations to **protect,** **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities.

Together, we work across Africa, breaking down barriers to inclusion so that children and young people with disabilities are able to thrive.

This year we are **celebrating 40 years of making lasting change for children with disabilities in Africa**.

We are experts in what we do and are passionate about the approach we take.

We are bold and agile, with the courage to innovate.

And, most importantly, we are accountable to the children we work with.

CELEBRATING 40 able child YEARS



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Welcome from our Chair



Mitul Shah
Chair

As we celebrate Able Child's 40th anniversary, I'm honoured to assume the role of Chair.

This year holds special significance as we celebrate our 40th anniversary — a milestone that underscores the incredible journey we've embarked on over the past four decades. In the last 40 years, we have witnessed the transformative power of our work, directly supporting over 55,000 children and young people with disabilities, equipping over 20,000 parents to become disability rights advocates and training more than 7,500 teachers on inclusive education.

The past year has been significant for our organisation. We adopted a new name, **Able Child**, expanded our reach to seven countries across East and Southern Africa, strengthened our team with new hires in Africa and the US, and, most excitingly, launched our 2030 Strategy: Safe, Thriving, and Heard, along with the new **Able Child Africa Network**.

The **Able Child Africa Network** comprises of leading African organisations united by a shared vision of a world where **no child with a disability is left behind**. This network will determine its own priorities and objectives, but Able Child will provide support in the form of unrestricted funding, technical assistance, and a shared platform for advocacy.

At the heart of our new strategy is a commitment to locally led development. We believe that organisations founded and registered in Africa, with their understanding of the unique challenges faced by children with disabilities, are best equipped to drive change. By collaborating with this new network on their terms, we aim to challenge outdated approaches to development, amplify local voices and ultimately make space for this network to shape the future of disability-inclusive policy and programming for children with disabilities across Africa. We're thrilled to welcome three new organisations to the Network: The Action Foundation in Kenya, Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association, and Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi. We are particularly excited to begin working in Zimbabwe, a country where our efforts can have a real impact on improving the lives of children with disabilities and their families.

Able Child has continued to demonstrate resilience and exceed expectations, even in a funding environment of prolonged challenges. The organisation has maintained its income levels and kept unrestricted reserves at a healthy level. This stability is a testament to our fantastic team, dedicated Board of Trustees, and the unwavering support from our broad range of donors.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jim Sellars, who stepped down as Chair of the Board this year after providing exceptional leadership during a crucial period. Jim's passion and commitment have consistently gone above and beyond. I am honoured to succeed Jim in this role and look forward to working closely with my fellow Trustees to advance Able Child's objectives and drive meaningful impact.

As we embark on an exciting new chapter, our priority is on strengthening our global advocacy work, building unrestricted income to deliver our strategy, and ensuring we remain adaptable to the needs of the **Able Child Africa Network**. By investing in our people and fostering an inclusive workplace, we will remain well-positioned to overcome the fast-changing global context and create lasting impact for children with disabilities across Africa.

Our journey is far from over, and with your continued support, we will drive the change needed to ensure no child with a disability is left behind.

Best wishes,
Mitul Shah

Why we exist

Nearly 29 million children in East and Southern Africa are living with a disability.

A significant proportion of these children live in poverty without access to basic services including education and health care. They are disproportionately vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse, and many children continue to spend much or all of their lives in institutions, away from their families.

Children with disabilities are:

1. Twice as likely to **never attend school**.





2. Four times more likely to experience **physical violence**.

3. Three times more likely to be **sexually assaulted**.



4. 17 times more likely to be **institutionalised**.



For girls with disabilities, the situation is even worse. They are 10 times more likely to experience gender-based violence than those without disabilities, and an estimated 70% of girls with intellectual disabilities will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. **They are being forgotten, hidden and left behind**.

Despite the decades of work since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Right of Persons with Disabilities, many of the 29 million children living with disabilities in East and Southern Africa continue to be excluded, discounted and discriminated against.



This continued exclusion is increasingly problematic in the face of the intensifying climate crisis. Children with disabilities in Africa face severe climate risks, including reduced mobility, worsening poverty, and heightened health vulnerabilities. Despite being disproportionately at risk of climate change, they are often excluded from climate action, leaving their unique challenges unaddressed.

Organisations working for children with disabilities in Africa often lack the resources and visibility needed to influence change. These organisations are not always considered as 'representative' organisations and as such are excluded from key decision-making spaces, leading to the systematic exclusion of the voices of children with disabilities.

African organisations working for children with disabilities also struggle to compete for funding in the already under-funded disability sector, especially compared to adult-focused Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), meaning they lack the resources, networks, and partnerships needed to ensure their expertise is recognised and no child with a disability is left behind.



What we do

For **40 years** we have been working with African-registered organisations to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities.

Our mission is to support a network of organisations in Africa to **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.



We work across **six key thematic areas** of support:

Protecting
children with disabilities so they are safe.

1. Building inclusive child protection systems.
2. Demanding inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and young women.

Educating
children with disabilities so they can thrive.

3. Strengthening inclusive Early Childhood Development.
4. Advancing inclusive education.

Amplifying
the voices of children and young people with disabilities so they are heard.

5. Promoting inclusive mental health and wellbeing.
6. Raising the voices of children and young people with disabilities.



Delivering on our 2030 Strategy

> With a changing landscape comes a changing role for Able Child in how to **support children with disabilities** in Africa.

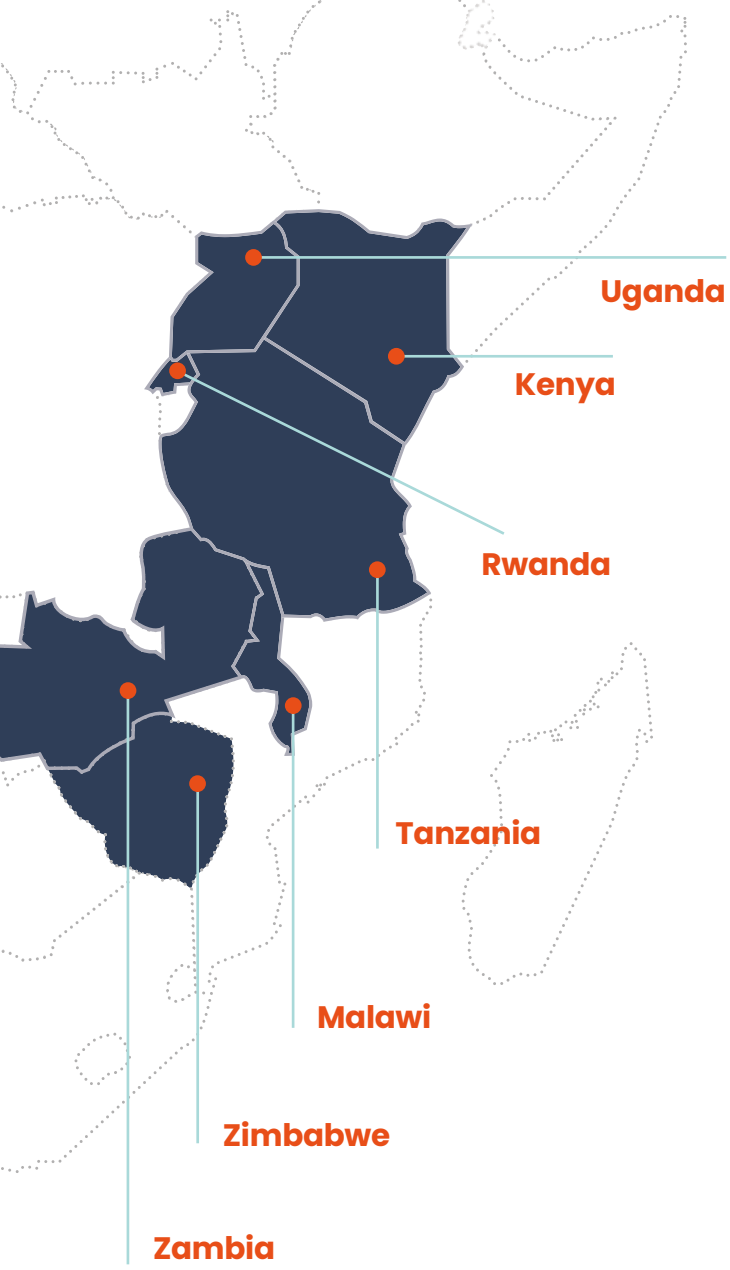
For the last 40 years Able Child has been part of a progressive change to support African organisations working to improve the lives of children with disabilities. As our reach has grown and we have partnered with more local organisations, we've taken the time to assess our role and the value we bring. Our new 2030 Strategy, launched in April 2024 sees the formation of a new network of the leading African organisations dedicated to support children with disabilities on the continent. This move ensures alignment with the interests of the orgnanisations we work with, and positions us to achieve our vision of leaving no child with a disability behind.

Our new strategy comes on the back of an 18-month consultation with our partners, where we gained valuable insights into the needs of African civil society working for children with disabilities. We've learned that:

- Supporting civil society in Africa is the most effective way to improve the lives of children with disabilities.
- Local organisations working for children with disabilities need support beyond traditional funding models.
- There is a gap in the sector for an alliance of African-led organisations focused on disability and child rights.
- We can and should do more to put decision-making power in the hands of these organisations.

These insights have shaped our bold new 2030 Strategy, which includes launching a network of leading African organisations dedicated to children with disabilities. This approach ensures alignment with our partners' interests, and positions us to achieve our vision of leaving no child with a disability behind.

The Able Child Africa Network



Over the past year, we have undergone an **operational shift**. We have always been committed to supporting locally led development through long-term, collaborative partnerships with African civil society. Our new approach takes this commitment to the next level by moving towards an organisation that is dedicated to support the new Able Child Africa Network, providing the resources, funding and knowledge that members themselves decide they need. We believe this model is the best way to ensure long-lasting impact for children with disabilities.

What the network does

The Able Child Africa Network brings together the leading African-founded and African-registered organisations working with and for children with disabilities across the continent. Currently formed of eight core members and one affiliate member across seven countries in East and Southern Africa, they bring together the combined expertise of its membership to shape the landscape of what works for children with disabilities in policy and practice.

Delivering high-quality programmes,

generating evidence of what works and building best practice in inclusive programming for children with disabilities.

Standing up for the rights of children with disabilities,

amplifying their voices and creating change by influencing governments and other international allies.

'We share a common vision of a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.'

The core pillars of our **2030 Strategy: Safe, Thriving and Heard**, underscore our commitment to ensuring that every child receives the support, opportunities, and recognition they deserve.

Safe.



We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are protected and included in their communities.

In the places we work, child protection systems often fail children with disabilities. Child protection and safeguarding services and workforces are poorly equipped and lack the expertise to deal with the specific risks that children with disabilities face, and these children are also less likely to seek justice for the abuse.

We work with our network members to improve safeguarding practices and ensure the protection of children in the areas where we work. By helping to break down stigma and discrimination around disability, we ensure the safety and inclusion of children with disabilities within their communities.

We have been working to do this in Rwanda...

Improving child safeguarding in Rwanda:

We are working with Uwezo Youth Empowerment (UWEZO) to create more inclusive child protection and safeguarding systems in Rwanda. As part of our project funded by Euromoney Institutional Investors, we have mapped out existing child protection services in Kigali, with the view to making these services more disability inclusive.

Young people with disabilities take the lead – they undertake advocacy with key child protection and safeguarding actors. They provide mentoring to children with disabilities to inform them of their right to be kept safe. And they have been delivering 'positive parenting' workshops to parents of children with disabilities to reduce the risk of abuse occurring and how to report concerns when they do. UWEZO and local government officials are working to create a system that can rapidly share information about safeguarding and child protection issues relating to children with disabilities, with officials drawing on UWEZO's expertise to enable more disability-sensitive responses to children.

Thriving.

We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to an education and the services they need to succeed.

In low-income countries, over 90% of children with disabilities do not attend formal education. Early detection of children with disabilities is low, and children face significant barriers in accessing the services they need. Children with disabilities' systematic exclusion in education hinders their participation and ability to transition to further education and into employment.

We work with our network members to improve the early identification of children with disabilities, upskill service providers, support children with disabilities to transition to further education and equip young people with disabilities with the tools they need to enter employment.

We have been working in Uganda to change the lives of children with disabilities through education...

Supporting inclusive education through learner needs identification and individualised learning plan tool in Uganda:

Alongside Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC), we have combined two of our educational tools to ensure more children are assessed and supported in school. This project, funded by The Marr-Munning Trust, conducts formal health assessments to identify additional medical support required, and provides children with disabilities with assistive devices to facilitate their immediate access to the school environment. Teacher visits to their homes ensure children receive one-to-one individualised support, which helps to improve relations between schools and the families.

The result is that teachers are developing learning plans specific to the needs of 60 children with disabilities across six schools, significantly improving their performance and ensuring they successfully transition to the next school year.



Heard.

We work with children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, amplifying their voice to demand their own inclusion.

For too long, children with disabilities have been forgotten, hidden and systematically excluded. One of the key reasons for this is that children and their parents have been unaware of their rights and are therefore disempowered. By championing mental health resilience, inspiring children with disabilities to become powerful self-advocates and equipping children and young people with disabilities with knowledge of their rights, they are able to break down the barriers to their inclusion for themselves and their peers.

We have been working in Kenya to amplify the voices of young people with disabilities...



Amplifying the voices of young people with disabilities in Kenya:

With funding from Educational Opportunity Foundation, we have been working with Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) to inform and upskill a group of young people with disabilities in Kenya to raise their profile as employable individuals. 20 young people with disabilities have been trained as mentors and are now sharing their knowledge with 180 peers through a peer-mentorship scheme. Supported by the project, these young people have enrolled in vocational centres, gained skills, and pursued employment and internships with the help of project grants.

Working with representatives from government, businesses and other sectors has been key to the project's success, with increasingly more employers recognising the value of the unique experiences that employing young people with disabilities can bring.

The role of Able Child

We believe we are stronger together.

Able Child is committed to coordinating a shared pool of tools and resources from across the Network, increasing access to funding and creating systems for collaboration and a platform for joint action.

We aim to support the Network to collaborate and share learning, innovate and deliver programmes, generate and collate data, and raise awareness through advocacy – creating a strong, resilient and resourced civil society in Africa working together to support children with disabilities.

Together with the Network, we protect, educate and amplify the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.



We do this by:

Leveraging collective knowledge:

The Able Child Africa Network possesses a wealth of untapped evidence and data that can be harnessed to drive positive change. A key objective for the Network is to share this information not only among members themselves but also with the wider sector so we can identify best practices, inform policy decisions, and strengthen our collective impact for children with disabilities.

Member-driven decision-making:

Importantly, the Network is run by its members. Members determine the specific support they require and how it is delivered, with decisions on priorities and activities made by an Executive Council elected by the membership. However, our ultimate goal is for the Network to decide how our resources are allocated to support their work.

This is a gradual process, beginning within our current organisational structure.

Providing a roadmap for shifting power:

By 2030, we aim to transition decision-making over our organisation's governance and operations to network members. Network members will play a crucial role in determining the exact shape of this new governance setup, ensuring that it is both practical and sustainable while avoiding overburdening members and safeguarding the Network's stability.

To facilitate this transition, we have established a Steering Committee, composed of representatives from the Executive Council and the Able Child Board of Trustees. This committee convenes to collaboratively review Able Child's governance, operational plans and spending, with the ultimate aim of shifting power to network members.



What we have achieved so far



Since its launch, the Able Child Africa Network has achieved significant milestones.

Over the last year, the Network has...

Created a new platform and published reports

The Network has launched a new dedicated website platform providing access to resources for members, as well as open-source resources for the wider civil society community. The Network has already published a series of reports, position papers, and tools on the platform to improve the inclusion of children with disabilities across the sector.

Provided tailored support and funding

The Network has provided tailored support to members, and facilitated collaborative training among members. Able Child has also offered the first flexible unrestricted funding to members, and supported the Network's first consortium bid.

Collaborated

The first Able Child Africa Network General Assembly took place in Rwanda at the end of 2023, with all members meeting for the first time in Kigali. Since then, the Network has begun developing a data collection system to generate stronger evidence and identify gaps in service delivery for children with disabilities, and developed its first self-funded data project, which captures the survey results of over 1,000 children's voices. This is due to be published in late 2024.

Our impact

In 2023/24, we have been delivering projects with six network members across **six countries in Africa** to protect, educate and amplify the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.

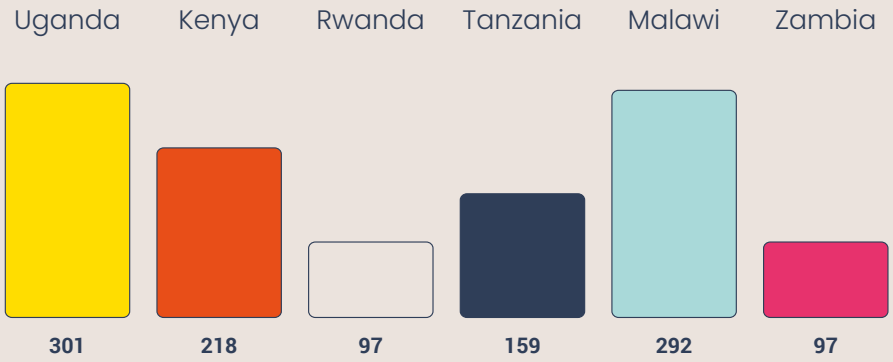
We have also been developing new projects with the three newest founding network members, who only recently joined the Network in late 2023.

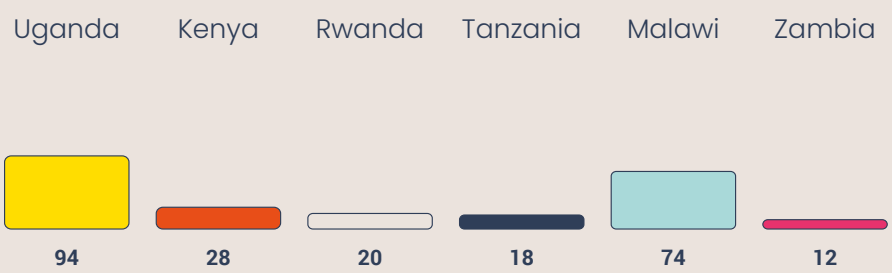
In 2023/24

Children and young people with disabilities directly supported:

Total **1,164**

490 more than last year





Teachers trained:

Total **246**

46 more than last year

Government officials worked with:

Total **254**

10 more than last year

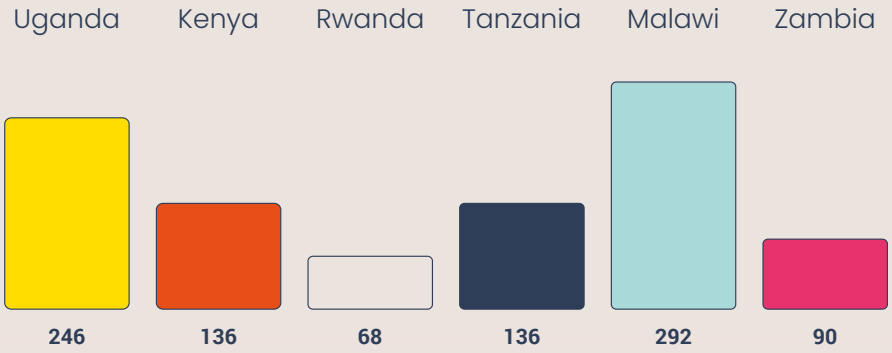


In 2023/24

Parents worked with:

Total **968**

83 less than last year



We supported parents of children with disabilities through the establishment of Parent Support Groups and the facilitation of community events, giving parents the opportuning to discuss the challenges they face, support each other and work together to advocate for their children's inclusion.

We worked with government officials to advocate for disability inclusion in the development and implementation of government policies and programmes, while evidencing effective methods to achieve this through our own work.

We directly supported children and young people with disabilities by implementing early identification tools, enrolling out-of-school children into schools, making school environments more accessible, establishing peer-to-peer mentorship schemes and supporting young people with disabilities to access employment.

We trained teachers in inclusive teaching methods, providing information and tools to help teachers support all children in the classroom, and ensuring children with disabilities can participate effectively in lessons and play activities alongside their peers.



Uganda

We have been working in Uganda **since 1984** alongside **Uganda Society for Disabled Children** (USDC). Our work supports children with disabilities and their families to break down the barriers to inclusion.



Many people living with disabilities in Uganda lack resources and access to services. Where we work in northern Uganda, 80% of people with disabilities have been identified as **living in chronic poverty**. Despite significant progress at a policy level in Uganda, there is an implementation gap. With a policy of Universal Primary Education, school enrolment has reached 90%. However, this is not the case for children with disabilities, where **only 2% are graduating to secondary level**.

What we achieved this year

This year, as part of our project funded by The Marr-Munning Trust, we have successfully delivered a three-year project that supported six schools to adopt and improve access to learning for 60 children with disabilities through the combined use of Individualised Learning Plans and Early Screening tools. Children with disabilities are at increased risk of being left behind in school and in areas for development when their needs are not properly identified. Through this project, children's learning needs are identified and because of this, they are supported with learning plans that are tailored to their needs. This has resulted in increased class progression, which is a significant achievement given the compounding barriers children with disabilities face in accessing and remaining in education. We are proud to see the positive impact that can be achieved through investment in adapting and testing innovative new approaches to best support the learning of children with disabilities.

Improving displaced children with disabilities' access to education

The 'Restoring Hope' project, funded by the Educational Opportunity Foundation, supports children and young people with disabilities in northern Ugandan refugee settlements to access inclusive education and foundational skills. To achieve project outcomes that promote inclusive homes, schools and societies, the project has trained a group of community champions, who now advocate for disability inclusion and develop strategies for including children with disabilities in all aspects of society. Where community members would previously hide their children with disabilities, increasing numbers have now been identified and are accessing education and other services.

Among the community champions are two lead youth champions with disabilities, who were inspired to serve as role models to children with disabilities in their communities and have also gone back to school themselves as a result of the project. The project has inspired families, communities and other actors to ensure all children with disabilities are supported to realise their rights.



Through our current projects

We raised awareness to
1,502 community members
on disability inclusion, early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities

We advocated to
73 government officials
at a district and national level on disability inclusive education policy implementation.

We supported
155 parents
through Parent Support Group meetings



The power of Child Rights Clubs

Brian is an 11-year-old boy with a physical disability that affects the mobility in his left arm and left leg. He is currently enrolled in one of the Restoring Hope project schools in a refugee camp in northern Uganda. Due to his disability, Brian and his family had faced stigma and exclusion, and this negatively impacted his confidence. When Brian first enrolled in his school, he was very reserved and rarely spoke in class or took part in any activities. However, this would soon change after being exposed to inclusive learning methods through the project.

The project introduced Child Rights Club (CRC) activities for children with and without disabilities. These activities are child-led, focus on helping children to understand their rights and encourages them to discuss and debate various issues that are affecting them. Through these clubs, Brian emerged as a lead debater and his confidence increased.

These extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for children with disabilities to express themselves and to gain confidence to be seen and heard among peers and teachers. Teachers have also noted that the CRCs have contributed positively towards debunking negative stereotypes that promote the narrative of children with disabilities as unable to perform like other children. Brian continues to thrive in this environment, which emphasises his abilities rather than any inability.

The CRCs have contributed positively towards **debunking negative stereotypes** that promote the narrative of children with disabilities

Kenya

We have worked in Kenya **since 2009** alongside **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY) and **The Action Foundation** (TAF) **since 2023,** where we support children and young people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of their lives.



Very few children with disabilities have access to early childhood education in Kenya, and their systematic exclusion often means that young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed and are more likely to be living in poverty. With limited access to education, healthcare and other services, these young people continue to face injustices, stigma and are at higher risk of abuse and violence.

What we achieved this year

This year we are proud to have successfully concluded a four-year Comic Relief funded project with ANDY to improve children with disabilities' access to Early Childhood Development (ECD). Initially, the project provided home-based care training to parents and caregivers of children with disabilities during the pandemic, who later benefited from attending meetings and trainings at newly established Parent Support Groups. Teachers were also trained and further supported through the development of a teacher's guide and tools related to education and inclusive play. Through a community-based rehabilitation model, the project brought together multiple stakeholders who are ultimately responsible for ensuring the inclusion of children with disabilities in ECD. This structure has contributed to creating long-lasting partnerships and linkages between different institutions so that the barriers children with disabilities face can continue to be addressed.

Realising employment for young people with disabilities

With ANDY, we have been delivering a youth empowerment and employability project in Nairobi, funded by the Educational Opportunity Foundation. Young people with and without disabilities have been trained in employability, entrepreneurship, and mentorship skills, with many securing internship opportunities or starting their own group enterprises using the project's business grants.

Some have received placements at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), in addition to the local council, with one supervisor stating: "as a person with lived experience of blindness, his personal experience and knowledge has been instrumental in supporting the design of programmes for blind people in the community".

Before the project, many of the young people with disabilities had indicated they had been discouraged in pursuing certain careers due to the barriers they faced and the misinformation among employers surrounding disability. The project has provided them with the opportunity to gain useful skills and knowledge to enter the workforce and have their voices heard.



Through our current projects

We trained **34** teachers on inclusive teaching practices and disability rights

We worked with **255** parents to better equip them to support the early childhood development of their children with disabilities

We advocated for the rights of children with disabilities with **16** government officials

Christina's story of hope and positivity

Christina lives in an informal settlement in Nairobi and is a member of a Parent Support Group, which was set up as part of ANDY's Ready Steady Go project, funded by Comic Relief. She is a mother of four children, including her daughter Vicky, who is a child with cerebral palsy.

As a single mother, Christina regularly left her home to seek casual labour to support her children, leaving Vicky under her neighbour's care. This wasn't always easy as Christina's neighbour was not always available to provide this support.

After Vicky was identified by the project and Christina was introduced to the Parent Support Group, she was relieved to find other parents and caregivers facing similar situations. She gained a platform where she would **learn from others and received helpful information about caring for children with disabilities**, as well as information on other support services available to her. As part of the Parent Support Group's table banking scheme, Christina was also able to secure a loan to start her own business, providing her with additional income to support her family.

Through the project, Vicky was able to access a specialised wheelchair, which has enabled her to access therapy services at a local rehabilitation centre, where her mobility has improved significantly, and she has begun achieving other developmental milestones. **The project has transformed Christina and Vicky's life**.

"I never thought one day I could **see my child this happy**. In a short period of time, with access to better support, Vicky has improved and developed in many ways.

Tanzania

We have been working in Tanzania **since 2007** alongside our partners **Child Support Tanzania** (CST) to change the lives of children and young people with disabilities through inclusive education.



85% of children with disabilities in Tanzania are outside the education system, with increasing numbers of children dropping out of school due to a lack of support, which is severely lacking and poorly resourced. Although primary education is free in Tanzania, children with disabilities are continually left behind when it comes to accessing the school system and fail to develop the basic early learning skills needed to succeed.

What we achieved this year

Improving access to education through physiotherapy

This year we continued to work with CST to implement a physiotherapy and occupational therapy project within CST's new rehabilitation centre, funded by Rangoonwala Foundation. Rehabilitative services can significantly improve children with disabilities access to education by supporting the functional independence of children that enables them to thrive.

In response, CST's rehabilitation centre has been equipped with an extensive range of equipment, with trained physiotherapists working alongside CST's teachers and the families of children with disabilities to provide tailored support for children. A series of trainings, meetings and events targeting parents, teachers and community members have provided crucial support while stressing the vital importance of these service to support children with disabilities' development.

Activities have realised several successes for the children with disabilities supported, with increasing numbers of children helped to access school more regularly, which in turn reduces educational inequalities that exist between children with and without disabilities.

CST's recognition as a trusted provider of rehabilitative support

Through CST's physiotherapy and occupational therapy project based at their inclusive school, CST's partnership with Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH) has resulted in several positive outcomes for the project, which is funded by Rangoonwala Foundation. The hospital has been instrumental in supplying physiotherapists, who have trained CST's teachers to a high standard and delivered direct physiotherapy services, with over 159 children with disabilities benefiting as a result. The hospital has witnessed the success of CST's rehabilitation centre, and this recognition has led to the hospital referring children directly to CST when they live more locally to the school. In turn, this has enabled CST to provide more support for more children with disabilities, many of whom struggle to afford the transport costs that they would usually need to travel to the main hospital. CST plans to continue this partnership beyond the completion of the project, with this success further strengthening CST's status as a model inclusive school in the region.



Through our current projects

We supported **43** parents

of children with disabilities through Parent Support Groups and physiotherapy training

We supported **159** children with disabilities

through access to quality physiotherapy and other rehabilitative services

We trained **10** teachers

physiotherapy and other rehabilitative support for children with disabilities



A dedicated father

Kisa is a nine-year-old girl living in Mbeya, Tanzania and enrolled at CST's Inclusive School in January 2024. Soon after, Kisa was immediately supported by the physiotherapy and rehabilitation project we are delivering together with CST, where she received a formal assessment at a local hospital and was further assessed by a professional physiotherapist who is currently based at the school. With this information, CST's teachers were supported by the physiotherapist to provide tailored support for Kisa, aiming to improve her mobility and in turn support her increased access to education.

Since the beginning, Kisa's father, John has been extremely dedicated to his daughter's progression. John has been active in learning from Kisa's teachers, and in ensuring his daughter completes her exercises both at home and in school. To achieve this, **John has attended Parent Support Group and other school-based meetings to understand Kisa's rehabilitation schedule and what exercises she can do at home so that he is able to best support her**. At times, her father has adjusted his work schedule to ensure he accompanies Kisa to every physiotherapy session or will arrange for a family member to take her when he isn't available.

This level of dedication from a father is extremely encouraging, particularly in Tanzania where caregiving responsibilities are traditionally seen as a woman's role. As a result of receiving so much support, this has had a significant impact on Kisa's progress, and she is already beginning to move much more freely.

In recognition of her father's dedication, **John was nominated as the parent champion** earlier in the year, as part of CST's efforts to promote and encourage the engagement of fathers through various platforms, including Parent Support Groups. John's story exemplifies how fathers can play a pivotal role in the lives of children with disabilities - challenging stereotypes and fostering inclusive caregiving practices.

Rwanda

We have been working in Rwanda **since 2016** alongside **Uwezo Youth Empowerment** (UWEZO), empowering children and young people with disabilities to access inclusive services.



Children and young people account for half of all people with disabilities in Rwanda. Two thirds of these are not in education or employment, and over 90% fall below the national poverty line. While Rwanda has a good track record of inclusive policies, many children with disabilities are still unable to access basic services and face damaging stigma and discrimination.

What we achieved this year

This year we are proud to have delivered an innovative mental health-focused project in Rwanda with UWEZO, funded by Network for Social Change. Due to high levels of abuse, stigma and exclusion, many children with disabilities are at elevated risk of experiencing mental health issues and having psychosocial disabilities. Despite this, there is very little mental health provision for children and young people with disabilities.

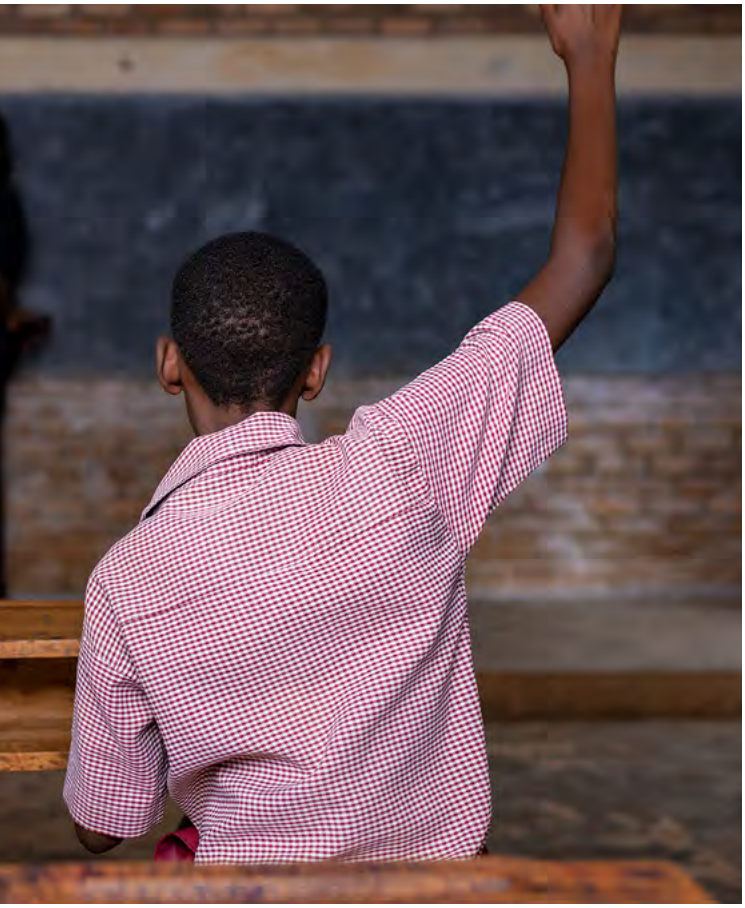
In response, we have created and tested different approaches to supporting children with disabilities' mental health. We held participatory workshops with young people with disabilities to understand their experiences of mental health, psychosocial disabilities and their access to mental health services.

The project then facilitated tailored mentoring sessions, delivered by young people with disabilities to younger children with disabilities. These mentors led the co-creation and testing of disability-inclusive mental health tools, and proved their effectiveness in understanding and supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people with disabilities in Rwanda.

Making Rwandan child protection systems disability-inclusive for children with disabilities

We are addressing gaps in Rwandan child protection systems, funded by Euromoney Institutional Investor. Children and young people with disabilities are at a much higher risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, which is exacerbated by a lack of appropriate mechanisms to prevent, report and respond to child protection cases.

Following training and an extensive mapping exercise, young people with disabilities have been supported by UWEZO to make child protection systems more disability inclusive and accessible so children with disabilities are better supported. The mentors have addressed gaps and raised awareness with parents, communities and government officials to better prevent, recognise, report and respond to abuse, while ensuring the voices of children with disabilities are heard as part of key decision making.



Through our current projects

We have trained **12** young people with disabilities

in mentoring, inclusive child protection and safeguarding

We provided **97** children with disabilities

with one-to-one mentoring from older young people with disabilities

We facilitated **68** parents

of children with disabilities to attend training workshops on positive parenting and learn about child protection



Naomi's Story

Naomi is a 15-year-old girl who has Down Syndrome. When she was younger, Naomi often faced stigma and discrimination due to her disability. She didn't understand why she was treated differently to other children, and this made her dread going to school. Naomi's confidence was low, and she was in danger of becoming isolated, drifting further away from her peer group.

Through our project with UWEZO, we are supporting child protection and mental health services in Rwanda to become more sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities, particularly for girls. We are working to ensure that parents of children with disabilities are better supported to prevent abuse through **'positive parenting' workshops** and are training young people with disabilities to **mentor children with disabilities to inform them of their rights and to better support their mental health**.

Through the mentorship programme, Naomi was given support and vital companionship from a young person with a disability who could relate and empathise with her in a more meaningful way. Her mentor had not only experienced similar challenges but had also received support as a mentee when they were Naomi's age. This provided a platform for Naomi to begin sharing everything she was experiencing with someone who had experienced similar barriers when they were the same age as Naomi. Now, Naomi is a different person. **She has gained more confidence and is thriving**.

Now, Naomi is a different person. She has gained more confidence and **is thriving**.

Malawi

We have worked in Malawi **since 2020** with **Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi** (FEDOMA) and **since 2023** with **Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi** (PODCAM) to improve children with disabilities' access to Early Childhood Education.



Children under 18 account for more than 50% of the total population in Malawi. Malawi has one of the highest pre-term birth rates globally, resulting in many children being born with a disability. 70% of children with disabilities are not in any form of education and their needs have not been prioritised.

What we achieved this year

This year we are proud to have welcomed PODCAM to the Able Child Africa Network. We are excited to have secured funding from the Vitol Foundation to launch our first project with PODCAM, funded by Vitol Foundation, to support more children to access inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD).

FEDOMA will build PODCAM's capacity in implementing the project, including delivery of the bespoke inclusive play scheme and accessibility audits of ECD centres. Drawing on previous learnings and evidence, the project aims to further prove the replicability of the project to encourage the government to adopt the project's approaches nationally.

Through this collaborative approach, we are proud to continue our work in Malawi through the sharing of knowledge and best practice among key organisations.

Provision of medical assessments and assistive devices

Children with disabilities are often excluded from Early Childhood Development (ECD) opportunities, leading to educational and social inequalities that often persist throughout their lifetime. This exclusion is exacerbated by a lack of screening of children at a young age and a lack of available assistive devices that can support their access to education.

As part of our three-year programme with FEDOMA to improve access to ECD, funded by the Vitol Foundation, we facilitated annual medical and functional assessments to identify children who could benefit from access to an assistive device. Children then attended hospital appointments for fittings, where their parents also received information on how best to support their child.

This process has made a significant difference in enabling children with disabilities to access ECD. Previously, most of these children faced difficulties in travelling to the ECD centres or accessing them once they arrived. Moreover, the medical assessments at this crucial early age have ensured that children with disabilities are signposted to other services, enabling them to receive the support they need to enable them to thrive.



Through our current projects

We enrolled **385** children with disabilities

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

We enrolled **395** parents

of children with disabilities into Parent Support Groups

We trained **37** ECE teachers

in disability inclusive teaching methods

The power of play in education

Patuma is a bright six-year-old girl who lives with her mother in Malawi. Patuma's challenges started at a young age and a spinal condition meant that she could not stand or sit unassisted. There was no support available in their community and as other children began to play and learn together, Patuma was unable to join them.

Without the equipment or training to move on her own, Patuma was often left watching from afar, and she relied totally on her mother for assistance for everything from moving to eating. Patuma was in danger of being isolated from her peers and she began to fall behind in her early milestones.

In Malawi, as part of our inclusive Early Childhood Development programme with FEDOMA, **Patuma was identified in her community and was given the opportunity to attend medical screenings and to attend inclusive play scheme sessions at her local ECD centre**, run by community caregivers trained through our project in inclusive education practices.

As a result of the screenings, **Patuma was supported to access a wheelchair and was immediately able to move more independently than before**. Once she was enrolled at the ECD centre, the caregivers began assisting Patuma with her fine and gross motor skills through basic physiotherapy and play activities. Her coordination was soon improved, and she was taught exercises to help her into the future. The project also gave Patuma the opportunity to play alongside her peers through a series of structured and more informal play activities, where she was able to interact more with other children both with and without disabilities. **Her confidence grew and she began to thrive**, demonstrating the power of play in improving the all-round inclusion of children with disabilities.

Her confidence grew and she began to thrive, demonstrating **the power of play in improving the all-round inclusion of children with disabilities**

Zambia

We have been working in Zambia **since 2020** alongside **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities** (ZAPCD) to understand and address the barriers that children with disabilities face when accessing education.



Zambia does not have a national inclusive education policy or statements that outline the need for inclusive education at any level. As few as 22% of children with disabilities in Zambia access Early Childhood Education (ECE), and only 12% go on to complete secondary education. The needs of children with disabilities are not fully considered in government plans, with national data and evidence desperately needed to inform and influence the government.

What we achieved this year

This year, as part of our three-year inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) project with ZAPCD, and with funding by the Vitol Foundation, we are embedding a culture of inclusive education in Chadiza, a district with some of the lowest levels of inclusive ECE provision in Zambia. We are working in six ECE Centres in the area, tackling the complex barriers children with disabilities face in accessing ECE. Through teacher trainings, Parent Support Groups, community awareness raising, and ongoing advocacy, the project has been warmly received, with extensive buy-in from local actors and government stakeholders.

We have made accessibility modifications to the six ECE centres, making them safer and more inclusive for children with disabilities to attend, and we are proud of the community involvement that has accompanied these changes. Members of the community have contributed their feedback, time and materials towards these works, indicating how much of an impression the project has had on them. The project has been regarded as a valuable investment in Chadiza's education system and this has encouraged many community members to consider inclusion as a priority for the first time.

Early Years Child Rights Clubs

As part of our inclusive ECE project in Zambia, we have established Child Rights Clubs at the ECE centres. These clubs educate children with disabilities on their rights and provide a safe space to talk about their experiences while learning and playing with other children with and without disabilities. In conjunction with the project's Parent Support Groups, which offer a similar opportunity for parents of children with disabilities to learn from and support each other, the Child Rights Clubs help children with disabilities and families to demand their rights.

Aimed at younger pre-primary children, these clubs offer age-appropriate and inclusive activities, focusing on the power of play, in addition to drama, poetry, singing and role play. This enables children with disabilities to understand important information in a fun and interactive way. Parents have remarked on how valuable the clubs are, with teachers also expressing the impact on the children's confidence and knowledge of their rights, with their newfound confidence translating to the classroom as well.



Through our current projects

We enrolled
97 children with disabilities
into early Early Childhood Education

We have facilitated trainings and meetings with
52 local government officials

We have made accessibility modifications to
6 Early Childhood Education Centres
to make them safer and more inclusive for children with disabilities

Helping to recognise the importance of safeguarding children with disabilities

Thomas is the chair of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at primary school in Chadiza. Thomas had little understanding or experience of disability previously, especially as few children with disabilities were enrolled at the school. After the school was enrolled in our inclusive ECE programme, Thomas took the opportunity to attend a community training held by ZAPCD. Thomas learned more about disability rights and inclusive safeguarding, including the potential risks that many children with disabilities face when attending school. Above all, Thomas learned that safeguarding children with disabilities is everyone's responsibility, and **he was determined to make the school more inclusive**.

Thomas began **delivering community workshops to share what he had learned** and after assessing the school, he noticed that the lunch area was cramped, on uneven ground, and with few places to sit comfortably. This posed a risk for all children, but especially for children with disabilities to be able to feed themselves safely and with dignity. While ZAPCD were already in the process of undertaking environmental assessments to determine accessibility modifications, Thomas also raised this concern with them, remembering that the responsibility of keeping children with disabilities safe should fall on everyone.

Alongside the accessibility modifications to the school made by the project, Thomas mobilised a team of parents and volunteers to build a new eating area constructed on level flattened ground, including accessible benches with enough room between them to accommodate wheelchairs. Thomas was pleased to have taken on the responsibility of better supporting children with disabilities in addition to the other benefits provided by the project, and he **continues to educate other parents and community members** on the importance of disability-inclusive considerations in the school.

Thomas was pleased to have taken on the responsibility of better supporting children with disabilities

Zimbabwe

We have been working with one of our newest founding members of the Able Child Africa Network, **Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association** (ZPHCA), **since 2023** to champion the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities in Zimbabwe.



After more than two decades of socioeconomic challenges in Zimbabwe, children with disabilities are among the most marginalised and under-represented. Due to facing several barriers alongside stigma and discrimination, they are routinely excluded from mainstream health, education and other services.

Introducing ZPHCA

Since their inception, ZPHCA has been actively involved in advocacy and lobbying for the rights of children with disabilities, and the rights of women. ZPHCA are made up of groups of parents of children with disabilities and bring about considerable change for children with disabilities through a network of parents living across the country. ZPHCA's work focuses on three key strands, with the aim of creating a supportive environment where children with disabilities can thrive. They actively lobby for legislative changes that ensure accessibility and equal opportunities for children with disabilities in education, healthcare, and housing. They provide a platform for parents to connect, share experiences, and access valuable information on various disabilities through parental support networks. And they advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream education, ensuring children receive the support and resources they need to thrive.





Looking ahead

Together, we aim to break down barriers and create a **brighter future for children with disabilities in Zimbabwe**.

Able Child is currently working on a project funded by Comic Relief with ZPHCA and other Able Child Africa Network members to develop a refined inclusive education toolkit. The toolkit will support members to implement robust inclusive education programmes that incorporate different approaches, such as Child-to-Child, inclusive play, Early Childhood Development, WASH and child protection.

Able Child is also working with ZPHCA to develop a project that combines Able Child and ZPHCA's experience of delivering inclusive education projects with ZPHCA's considerable understanding of the impacts of climate change on the lives of children with disabilities and their families.

In April 2024, ZPHCA facilitated consultations with children with disabilities in partnership with UNICEF and the Government of Zimbabwe, with the information shared by children with disabilities informing strategies to reduce climate change impacts on the health of children. By building the resilience of children with disabilities, who are disproportionately impacted by climate change, and using schools as the platform for this, we will ensure the voices of children with disabilities are heard in the fight against climate change.

We will ensure the voices of children with disabilities are heard in the **fight against climate change**



Malaika continues to learn and play well with her peers and is the **top of her class**. Science is her favourite subject, and when she is older, she wants to be a doctor.

Malaika's story

Malaika lives with her mother in Kenya and is the youngest of three siblings. Malaika has **cerebral palsy** which can **affect movement and coordination**.

When Malaika was born, she showed no signs of having cerebral palsy and so identification at this crucial early stage was missed. It wasn't until seven months later that Malaika's mother noticed that some of her developmental milestones were not being reached.

Her mother took her to the nearest hospital, but the doctors were again unable to recognise the disability due to the knowledge gap in early identification and disability awareness among health care providers in the district. Again, Malaika went undiagnosed.

Malaika's mother waited for another six years for Malaika to walk but when it became clear that she could not walk unassisted, her mother sought further intervention.

After analysis of Malaika's bone chemistry, doctors found low calcium levels which explained why Malaika could not walk, and she was finally diagnosed with having cerebral palsy.

However, Malaika's challenges did not end there.

While Kenya has a system of free primary education, very few children with disabilities have access to early education, leading to lifelong educational inequalities. In turn, this means young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed, and more likely to be living in poverty.

With limited access to education or health care, these young people with disabilities continue to face injustice, stigma and sometimes abuse and violence.



This is where Able Child came in.

With our Network Member **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY), Able Child rolled out its Early Childhood Education project where children with and without disabilities learn how to play together in an inclusive way, allowing for positive interactions between all children and equipping children with disabilities with the skills and knowledge to transition into primary education and beyond.

Malaika was given the platform to learn alongside her peers and **develop meaningful relationships around her**, aided by teachers trained in inclusive play sessions who tailor activities to the individual needs of children with disabilities.

Malaika's mother also benefitted from her local Parent Support Group which gave her **emotional support and the tools to face her family's challenges**. Malaika's mother has been able to start her own business which now provides crucial financial relief. This extra income has allowed Malaika to stay enrolled in a school near her home.

Malaika continues to learn and play well with her peers and is the top of her class. Science is her favourite subject, and when she is older, she wants to be a doctor.

Note: The names of children in all case stories have been changed to protect their identity.

Advocating for change

Able Child's advocacy efforts this year have been rooted in a commitment to amplify the voices of children with disabilities.

By harnessing the expertise and experience of the Able Child Africa Network, we have worked to **drive meaningful change for children with disables at both national and global levels**, challenging barriers to their participation, and equipping them to become leaders in their communities. We achieve this through three key strategies:



Supporting members to advocate locally by providing resources and data

Able Child Africa Network members have been instrumental in driving meaningful change at the local level. Through projects delivered together, network members have secured significant commitments from governments and other stakeholders to support the inclusion and well-being of children with disabilities.

In **Uganda**, **Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)** has played a pivotal role in promoting the mainstreaming of a combined assessment and individualised learning plan tool nationally. By engaging with government officials and demonstrating the tool's effectiveness, USDC has successfully secured commitments for training more teachers and integrating the tool into national education policies.

In **Kenya**, **Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY)** has expanded its advocacy efforts beyond national borders, showcasing its community-based rehabilitation model at the African Summit on Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education and influencing disability-inclusive policy development across the region. **The Action Foundation (TAF)** hosted the inaugural caregiver awareness resource and empowerment (CARE) conference, providing a space for caregivers of children with disabilities to advocate for their rights and support.

In **Tanzania**, **Child Support Tanzania (CST)** has collaborated with the government to develop inclusive education guidelines and a new National Strategy for Inclusive Education. CST has also worked with the Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI) to advocate for changes in education policy, ensuring a more inclusive approach to education.

In **Rwanda**, **Uwezo Youth Empowerment (UWEZO)** has empowered youth with disabilities to advocate directly to the government on issues of disability inclusion, inclusive child protection, and mental health services. During Able Child Africa Network's General Assembly, UWEZO showcased its youth mentorship model, inspiring other network members.

In **Malawi**, **Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA)** and **Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM)** have advocated for inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD) services. Their efforts have led to commitments from government departments to the project's approach and to expand the programme into new districts.

In **Zambia**, **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)** has been working to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the government's new Education Policy. ZAPCD has also collaborated with local government to improve the provision of inclusive education in Chadiza district.

In **Zimbabwe**, **Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association (ZPHCA)** has been independently advocating for the inclusion of children with disabilities in Zimbabwe's 'Draft Climate Change Management Bill'. We hope to collaborate with them on future projects to build upon their advocacy efforts.

Securing a platform for the Network's voice to be heard internationally through participation in global forums and partnerships.

Able Child's advocacy team in the UK has been working tirelessly to ensure that the voices of our network members are heard at an international level.

By leveraging the evidence generated by the Network, we have been advocating for the UK government and international development sector to prioritise the inclusion of children with disabilities in their policies and programmes.

Able Child's Network Manager, based in Kenya, played a crucial role in representing the Able Child Africa Network at the International Development & Disability Consortium (IDDC) General Assembly in 2024, providing opportunities for securing further participation of children and youth with disabilities, such as at the 2025 Global Disability Summit.

This year, Able Child took on a Board role within the IDDC, further strengthening our ability to include local organisations' decision-making. We have been instrumental in establishing a new Children with Disabilities Task Group within the consortium, with the aim of ensuring that the voices of children with disabilities are included in global discussions.

We have also been working closely with The Bond Disability and Development Group to advocate for the inclusion of youth voices on the Disability Advisory Board for the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and ensured that engaging disability organisations was included as a commitment in the White Paper conducted by the former Minister for Development, Andrew Mitchell.

Lauren Watters, Co-CEO of Able Child, provided oral evidence to the UK Parliament's International Development Committee, advocating for the inclusion of children with disabilities in international development programmes. Her testimony highlighted the importance of inclusive safeguarding and emphasised the need to include the voices of organisations representing children and youth with disabilities.



Publishing and sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise to strengthen the wider sector's capacity to include children with disabilities.

Able Child has continued to share the knowledge and expertise of the Able Child Africa Network members with the wider sector through publications and events.

Able Child has leveraged the launch of our new strategy to host webinars discussing the redistribution of power to local disability organisations within the sector. Network members have contributed to the Momentum Panel Series, sharing their expertise on topics such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Early Childhood Development. We have continued these series throughout the year. Additionally, we have published comprehensive Project Impact Reports, identifying effective methodologies for driving positive change in areas such as Early Childhood Education in Zambia.

This year, Able Child Africa Network has worked with Accessible Surveys to collect data from over 1,100 children with disabilities across seven African countries on their human rights experiences. The results will inform advocacy activities and campaigns to ensure these voices are heard globally. This report will be published in late 2024.

Data underpins all our advocacy work, ensuring that our efforts are evidence-based and effective.

By leveraging the untapped expertise of network members, we are able to advocate for informed and **impactful initiatives** that **deliver tangible benefits** for children with disabilities.

Financial report

Overview

Able Child's total income this year was £947,412 which represents a decrease of 8% from the previous financial year.
This is comprised of £476,584 in restricted funding (including grants) and £470,828 in unrestricted flexible funding.

Total expenditure this year was £960,282 which is a 6% increase from the previous financial year.

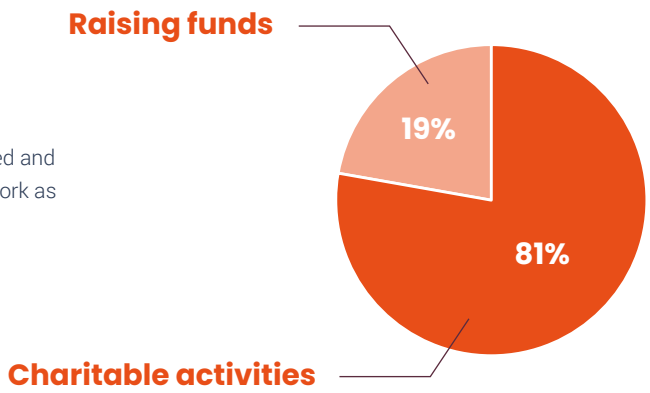
Income and expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds**
Income	£470,828	£476,584	£947,412
Expenditure	£470,884	£489,398	£960,282
Net Income / (Expenditure)	-£56	-£12,814	-£12,870

Spending on charitable activities

Expenditure Split	Charitable Activities	Raising Funds	**Total Expenditure**
Total	£775,314	£184,968	£960,282

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to **81p for every pound** raised and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs.



Our fundraising costs, **(19p in every pound raised)**, raised, are kept as low as possible while still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year the cost of raising funds is slightly higher than previous years as we have invested in our staff team to secure future growth in our income levels.

The complete Audited Accounts and Financial Statements can be found in this document from page 48.

Looking forward



Able Child is embarking on an **exciting new chapter**

A key priority for the upcoming year is to **strengthen and ensure the long-term sustainability of the newly formed Able Child Africa Network**. We are dedicated to listening to network members and while expansion, potentially into West Africa, is a possibility, our immediate focus is on deepening our connections and solidifying the foundation of the Network.

Building on our strong foundation of UK-based advocacy and in-country partnerships, we will seek to position network members on the global stage. By creating opportunities for network members to participate in high-level decision-making processes, we will ensure that the voices of children with disabilities are heard, and their needs are prioritised. Our aim is to establish the Network as a leading authority on children with disabilities in Africa, driving change through their meaningful participation in global advocacy.

The publication of data and sharing best practices will be crucial in the Network's first year. This knowledge exchange will inform our work, challenge the status quo, and elevate the Network's profile, ensuring our members are heard and taken seriously. By generating data on emerging areas like climate change, we will ensure children with disabilities are not omitted from key decisions on financing and design in key development areas.

Investing in our people is essential. We will prioritise recruiting from regions where the most qualified candidates reside, which will likely lead to increased hiring in Africa to support delivery and restricted fundraising. We will invest our advocacy capacity towards the end of the year to strengthen our voice. We will continue to foster a supportive and inclusive workplace where everyone is valued and feels part of our collective mission.

Recognising the need for a robust unrestricted funding base to support a six-year strategy that demands flexibility in spending, we will prioritise growing this portfolio by diversifying income streams, focusing on increasing corporate partnerships and fundraising events. This adaptability will empower us to support the Network in ways they define and require, while building resilience amidst evolving international development funding challenges.

As the last few years have demonstrated, the global context is increasingly uncertain. But we are confident that a strong team coupled with a bold strategy will position us to withstand these challenges and navigate a fast-changing context, to create lasting impact for children with disabilities.



Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Patrons

We are lucky to have some fantastic patrons who continue to support our work and raise the profile of what we do. We want to thank Anne Wafula-Strike, Ellie Robinson, Keith Nethercot and Emeli Sandé for all their support and we look forward to working together during an exciting year ahead.

Our Ambassadors

There are a small group of people who go above and beyond in their support of our work. Our Ambassadors are incredibly dedicated individuals who understand the importance of our work and are willing to back us on a personal basis and over a long period of time. We want to say a huge thank you to Azad Ayub, to Clare Persey, to Vijay Parikh and to Baz Mehta for your unwavering support and personal connection to what we do. Your support is not taken for granted and we are proud to call you part of the Able Child family.

Our corporate supports

We are very fortunate to have some amazing corporate partners, whose continued support through a challenging environment over the last few years has been vital. To Exile - to Dan Sheriff, Dom Kloiber, Katy Rose and Hesham Zakai and all the team, a huge thank you not only for your continued generosity of support, but your willingness to make us part of your family. Exile currently provide us with an office space free of charge, which means a significant saving to the charity and means more money can get to where it is needed most. To PenCarrie and to Clare Persey, thank you once again for not only continuing but for increasing your support and commitment to the work we do. It means a lot.

To Hassell Inclusion, to Rosnah and Jonathan Hassell for quietly providing an incredibly generous and long-term commitment to the charity and buying in to what we do. Your support is invaluable, and it is great to have you with us on this journey.

To American Century and Paul Harrison, who have now provided five years of support through their grant donation and matching scheme, allowing us to build a base on which we hope to be able to grow our support in the US.

To Cargill and Juwon Sofola for your significant and continued annual donation towards our work.

We would also like to thank everyone that donates their services free of charge or at reduced rates to help us keep our costs down and ensure as much money as possible goes to where it is needed most.

A big thank in particular to Raihan Islam, Bakhtiyar Islam and everyone at Iirth for their brand and website support. To Michèle Renée Creative for your design support. And to Peter Weiss at Simon Muirhead Burton for pro-bono legal advice - a huge thank you.

Our challenge takers

Every year we are lucky to have an amazing group of fundraisers who take on the challenge of the London Marathon and raise funds for our work. This year, we had an incredible team of 29 runners who raised crucial funds for our work. We want to thank each and every one of you. As always, your commitment to fundraise for our cause throughout your journeys is hugely appreciated.

We also want to say a special thank you to a few of you who went even further this year. Firstly, to Beatrice and Clara Gogarty who together raised an incredible sum of over £11,000 – thank you. To Peter Slot who raised nearly £5,000 in the UK along with a matching gift in the US. This is Peter's third marathon for Able Child. We could not be more thankful for all your outstanding support.

To Anton Mauve, Gregory Emanuel, Jamie Axford, Shezan Hirjee and Sarah Lingard who all ran for Able Child for the first time and exceeded targets. And to David Howell, Joe Kohut, Jeff Brunstrom and Steve Leighfield who all returned to the Able Child marathon team for the second time and doubled their contributions. Thank you.

Our individual supporters

There are so many of you that support our work from regular monthly donations to spreading news of our work. You are all an inspiration, and we thank you for the role you play in changing the lives of children with disabilities. A special thank you goes out to our Champion donors Cath Ford and Tony Shubrook, Heather Barr, Jim Sellars, John Ingram and Paul Harrison for your ongoing support to help us achieve our mission.

And to all our long-term individual supporters, who for over a decade and in some cases more, have supported Able Child

Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

through regular donations - thank you for your commitment to our cause. As we reach our 40th year, we thank all those who over many years have enabled us to support children with disabilities in Africa.

A final special thank you to the late Joyce Bondziwa Gibson who granted £1,000 to Able Child in her final wishes. Born in Accra, Ghana, Joyce found Able Child and chose to leave a bequest after our programmes in her home continent resonated with her. Thank you.

Our Trustees

The past year has been transformative for Able Child, and our Board of Trustees have played a key role in steering us through this exciting period. They guided us expertly in the launch of our ambitious new strategy, bringing enthusiasm and insightful perspectives to the process and their unwavering commitment to staff wellbeing has made Able Child a secure and supportive place to work.

Jim Sellars recently stepped down as Chair of the charity. We want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for his exceptional leadership during this pivotal time. Jim's dedication and commitment have gone above and beyond, and his support has been invaluable.

We are delighted to announce Mitul Shah, our former Treasurer, as the new Chair of Able Child. His leadership and expertise will be invaluable as we continue to work towards our goals.

We are also incredibly grateful to Martin Hill, Mitul Shah, Maria Omare, Miiro Michael and Jim for making the journey to Rwanda for our inaugural Network General Assembly, which was instrumental in the launch of the new Able Child Africa Network. Their presence and support were invaluable.

We warmly welcome Abigail Viljoen and Hannah Loryman to the Board and look forward to their contributions.

Our US Board, led by Paul Harrison, Liz Macfadyen, Rachelle Gregory, and Neil Hankinson, continues to be an invaluable asset as we expand our reach. Their support and guidance have been instrumental in building our presence in the US.

Our staff

And finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible team for their dedication to Able Child. Together this year, we've embarked on an ambitious journey and one we can be proud of. We have launched a new strategy that has pushed the boundaries of what we can achieve, and your passion, patience, and innovative spirit have been instrumental in making this possible.

We celebrate your courage in challenging the status quo and holding ourselves to account to high standards. You have created a positive, inclusive, and welcoming workplace culture that is the fundamental to our success. Thank you for making Able Child a place where new ideas thrive, and everyone feels valued.

We would like to thank the following donors for their support in the last year

American Century Investments
Azad Ayub Ltd.
The Bartlett Foundation
Catholic Relief Services
Cargill
The Cheruby Trust
Comic Relief
Educational Opportunity Foundation (formerly BFSS)
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
Euromoney Institutional Investors
Exile Group
Government of Faroe Islands
Hassell Inclusion
James Tudor Foundation
Leggatt Trust
Network for Social Change
PenCarrie
Rangoonwala Foundation
The Rest-Harrow Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
The Marr-Munning Trust
Tula Trust
Vitol Foundation

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with Able Child Africa's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



1. Structure, governance and management

1.1 Legal status

Able Child is the trading name of Able Child Africa, a company limited by guarantee registered in England, not having a share capital, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (company number 01861434). The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). Able Child Africa was previously known as the Uganda Society for Children with Disabilities.

Able Child became the official trading name of Able Child Africa in 2024, and Able Child and Able Child Africa may be used interchangeably through this report.

1.2 Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors for the purposes of Company law) who held office during the financial year are set out in this document. They represent a diverse skill set with experience in finance, law and the third sector, including programme delivery, safeguarding and advocacy. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair, Mitul Shah, who took over from Jim Sellars on 20 April 2024, with Abigail Viljoen appointed Vice-Chair. Dhiran Tanna joined the Board on the 19 September 2024, to take over the role as Treasurer. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by the co-CEOs, Karl Hankinson and Lauren Watters. The co-CEOs act as the Company Secretary. During the year two new Trustees were appointed in July 2023 and February 2024 respectively, while no Trustees left the Board.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in the Articles of Association, which allow for appointment at any time. New trustees are nominated by current members of the Board of Trustees, following an open and competitive recruitment process, and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, Trustees undergo a thorough induction process. Trustees do not receive any remuneration but may claim for incidental expenses, such as travel to board meetings.

The full Board meets on a quarterly basis. We also have one sub-committee, the Resources Sub-Committee that meets quarterly to oversee finance, unrestricted fundraising and give recommendations to the Board. The Resources Sub-Committee has its own identified terms of reference, nominated chair and reports to the full board. The chair of the Resources Sub-committee is currently Martin Hill, appointed in March 2020.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for setting and maintaining the strategic direction of the organisation, setting policies and managing resources, risk and staffing. Trustees ensure appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed, and they review the Articles of Association, which was revised in July 2023, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. They carefully monitor finances to ensure viability and sustainability of existing commitments and future plans; they oversee decisions relating to non-budgeted commitments in excess of £1,000; and budgeted commitments in excess of £5,000. Trustees also oversee and ensure compliance of statutory and legal requirements, both internally within the organisation as well as to our beneficiaries and donors.

The Board oversees staff remuneration and sets the pay scales and any benefits package, currently limited only to pension payments, for the organisation. Salary scales are benchmarked using the Croner Charity Rewards Report, which provides the most comprehensive set of data on salary and benefit packages for the Charity Sector in the UK. The last pay scale review was completed in 2017 and amended in 2020.

1.3 Staffing

Able Child maintains a small staff team in the UK. For most of the financial year we had eleven staff members, which included the Chief Executive, a Director of Impact & Advocacy, a Head of Fundraising & Communications, a Programmes Manager, a Senior Programme Officer, a Programme Officer, a Finance & Operations Manager, a Finance & Operations Executive, a Programmes Funding Officer, an Individual Giving & Events Officer and a Trusts & Foundations Executive. We also had one part-time Advocacy & Communications Executive for the full year. Lauren Watters was promoted to the position of co-CEO alongside Karl Hankinson on 1 March 2024, with all key management responsibilities now shared between the two CEOs.

Able Child is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equality of opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are also proud to be a registered 'disability confident' committed employer. In our recruitment processes we particularly encourage applications from people with disabilities and people with direct experience of living or working with children with disabilities; those meeting essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

1.4 Fundraising performance

Following our performance in 2022/23, which saw us achieve our highest annual total income to date, with over £1million secured, we fell just short of that target this year. This was largely due to a downturn in grant-based funding, which limited our ability to secure new multi-year grants. Our unrestricted performance however was our best yet, securing over £470,000 in unrestricted funds, with significant growth in our event and corporate income portfolios. This was significantly higher than the year before but is a level we expect to maintain or surpass going into 2024/25, ensuring stability for the organisation.

We currently have over £325,000 of multi-year grants secured for 2024/25 and are in a strong position to grow this portfolio to over £500,000 to allow us deliver against our strategic objectives set out in our 2030 Strategy, which was launched in April 2024.

1.5 Public benefit statement

Able Child works for the public benefit through its international development and advocacy work, in support of children with disabilities in Africa.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for this year and those contained in the next Strategic Plan.

Our charitable object as outlined in the Articles of Association is:

> To relieve charitable need, promote health, advance education and promote the social integration of disabled children for the public benefit, with a focus on (but without limitation) promoting such disabled children achieving their human, social, cultural and economic rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"), Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UNCRC, the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) by any means the Trustees in their absolute discretion choose and in particular by raising awareness as to the needs of disabled children and advocacy as to how those needs can best be met.

2. Financial review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 81% of total expenditure. As a small bespoke charity, we recognise the value of every penny donated and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs in order to ensure that we maximise expenditure on charitable activities. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments in order to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and securing our own financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain external environment.

2.1 Income

Our total income this year was £947,412 which represents a decrease of 8% from the previous financial year. This is comprised of £476,584 in restricted funding (including grants) and £470,828 in unrestricted flexible funding. A slightly higher proportion of income for the financial year was restricted through grants, although the split works out as 50%. Our institutional and corporate donors include Comic Relief, and Vitol Foundation - see note 4 for more details. Unrestricted income was raised from individual donors, through unrestricted corporate support from Exile Group, PenCarrie, The Bartlett Foundation, Cargill Financial Services Europe Ltd, Findlay Park, Hassell Inclusion and American Century Investments; and through our fundraising events including our Gala Dinner, the London Marathon and the Charity Golf Day.

2.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure this year was £960,282 which is a 6% increase from the previous financial year. Restricted expenditure totalled £489,398, which was spent delivering projects to benefit children with disabilities in Africa; these are detailed in note 6.

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to 81p for every pound raised, and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs. Our fundraising costs, 19p for every pound raised, are kept as low as possible while still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year the cost of raising funds is higher than previous years as we look to invest in our staff team to secure future growth in our income levels. Support costs, which cannot be solely attributed to either charitable or fundraising expenditure, are allocated in proportion to estimated staff time spent on each activity.

2.3 Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts.

The reserves policy states that the organisation should hold a minimum of 3-months of unrestricted expenditure at all times, with the aim to maintain reserves at a level above 6-months unrestricted expenditure. This decision is overseen by the Resources Sub-Committee.

Based on the 2023/24 budget this indicated a target reserves of £197k. Having carried forward unrestricted reserves £225,993 at the start of the year, we ended March 2024 with £225,537 of unrestricted reserves, a deficit of £56. Minus our fixed assets, this equates to 'free reserves' of £222,238. For 2024/25, our reserves target has increased to £233k, meaning we are starting just below this level for the new year.

2.4 Going concern

The Trustees confirm that the organisation is a going concern, as evidenced by the financial performance presented here and the robust forecast for the next twelve months. Despite operating in a challenging international development funding environment characterised by increasing competition, shifts in development 'trends', and economic uncertainties, the organisation has demonstrated resilience to sustain and grow its income levels. Unrestricted reserves remain at a healthy level, and the forecast indicates a continuation of this positive trend over the next 1-3 years.

While acknowledging the inherent risks associated with grant-based funding, the Trustees are confident in the organisation's ability to navigate these challenges. The new six-year 2030 strategic framework is designed to position the organisation for long-term sustainability by diversifying income streams and adapting to the evolving landscape of international development funding and programming.

2.5 Voluntary help and gifts in kind

We would like to thank all our generous volunteers and supporters for their work this year. We would like to thank the Exile Group for their continued in-kind support, most notably providing us with a long-term office space; and Simons Muirhead Burton for providing us with pro-bono legal support. We would also like to thank Corney & Barrow for their donation of wine for our Golf Day, Kunle Fagbenro for his continued support at our Annual Gala and every other person and company that donated a prize or service for our events throughout the year.

2.6 Investment policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. At the present time we do not have any funds invested but may review this position in future should resources allow.

3. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring we have the appropriate systems of control in place, financial and otherwise. Through the implementation of the Strategic Risk Register, the Trustees interrogate and proactively seek to reduce, eliminate or mitigate risks. The major risks to which we are exposed to are identified by the senior management team and nominated board members and reviewed by all Trustees at each quarterly board meeting.

The Trustees remain satisfied that current internal systems provide reasonable assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. At present the Trustees consider the two most significant risks are around financial sustainability and preventing child safeguarding incidents. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are summarised below.

Risk of insufficient funding and economic instability preventing us from delivering against our mission

In the current climate, risk to income, both restricted and unrestricted is high. At present we have a strong unrestricted reserves position, with 6-months reserves at March 2024 and a stable unrestricted income portfolio. This has helped us navigate the turbulent period over the last three years. However, the risk of securing grant-based funding remains high in the sector. While this wouldn't affect our continued operations, it would affect our ability to make impact on scale. Changes in grant donor arrangements or preferences, particularly regarding our largest and most regular donors, could have a significant impact on our output. At present we have over £325k of funding already secured for 2024/25 but are working to identify new donors and diversify our funding streams as we implement our new strategy. All financial planning is done collaboratively and transparently with the Board of Trustees to ensure proper oversight and a strategic response to a changing situation. This oversight is provided by the Treasurer (monthly) and Resources Sub-Committee (quarterly) who review rolling cash flow projections and annual budgets. This regular monitoring ensures we regularly monitor performance against targets, as well as implement strategic shifts early when required.

Risk of compliance in the implementation of projects by our partners

Our new strategy and theory of change both clearly lay out why we have chosen to work as a network of African-led organisations. Principally, we believe we are a vehicle for African organisations to achieve higher impact; we also believe this offers greater value for money to our donors. However, taking responsibility for the implementation of projects by our African partners, particularly where we are the primary grant holder, carries financial and reputational risk. We seek to mitigate this risk by developing collaborative, working relationships and transparent lines of communication; and having in place overarching Network and Grant Agreements. Our Programmes Team also conduct multiple in-person visits each year to check compliance of grants and improve systems. During these visits, the team regularly review activity delivery and project expenditure for specific grants, interrogating the quality of delivery and spend against outcomes. Project specific risk registers are developed collaboratively for each project; these inform our overall Operational Risk Register and are reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis. We have also developed a bespoke Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, as well as a summary for the organisations we represent, which is in compliance with the UK Bribery Act 2010.

Risk of safeguarding incident causing harm to one or more of the vulnerable people we work with

As an organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, we understand the importance of our role in their safeguarding. We also understand the threat of an incident involving one of our or our partner's staff, volunteers, or Trustees. While we do everything in our power to minimise the risk involving a staff member, volunteer or

Trustee, we accept that due to the nature of our work, there is an increased likelihood of the witnessing or reporting of abuse. We aim to deal with this risk in an honest and transparent way that puts the child or vulnerable adult at the centre of any action. We updated all our safeguarding policies and procedures in 2023, to ensure they are not only fit for purpose, but best practice. These procedures outline the measures in place to reduce a safeguarding incident that affects a child or vulnerable adult; and to appropriately act on any reported incident or suspicion of abuse. We have robust recruitment processes, with DBS checks on all staff, Trustees and volunteers upon appointment. All our staff are trained in safeguarding with regular team workshops where staff can discuss thoughts and facilitate learning and we have recruited a safeguarding professional onto the board as the nominated lead.

Risk of loss of business continuity through unexpected sudden departure of key members of the team

The success of our results and impact lies with its small and dedicated staff team. The unplanned and sudden loss or departure of staff therefore places a risk to our ability to operate efficiently, particularly given the size of the team. To mitigate this, we have taken a number of steps both to improve staff retention and to ensure the loss of institutional knowledge is reduced. Over the course of the last three years, we have placed an emphasis on staff wellbeing and organisational culture to improve staff retention and provide an attractive and supportive environment for staff. To protect institutional knowledge, we have built processes into our CRM system and have started to implement a change in culture to document the organisational knowledge away from individual staff members. We have a comprehensive Business Continuity Policy which works to ensure we are well-equipped to manage this risk, particularly in the current unstable external environment.

Risk to Able Child staff or volunteer safety during travel

Although we do not currently work in conflict areas, political instability, violence and kidnapping risks associated with travel to our chosen countries cannot be completely eliminated. We take our duty of care to our staff, Trustees and volunteers very seriously through robust travel policies and procedures to identify security risks and provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against any occurrence. Ahead of each trip the Programmes Manager undertakes an internal risk assessment, documents travel plans and movements, and provides a travel briefing. Staff, Trustees and volunteers who travel have access to a security and emergency travel app on the smartphone they are provided for travel and this is available to download on personal devices. Our latest security procedure review and staff training was undertaken in 2023/24, with a new Travel Safety and Security Policy developed following an internal review.

Risk of ineffective management of staff, volunteers, supporters' and/or beneficiaries' personal data

As a small organisation with limited resource to cover IT infrastructure, we understand the potential risks of ineffective IT systems or a cyber security attack that leads to a potential data breach. As part of the GDPR regulations, we have improved our IT policies, systems and infrastructure to better ensure that individual's data we hold is consensual, relevant for its purpose and secure. We have revised Data Protection Policies to bring them up to date with GDPR legislation and ensured their effective implementation across the organisation. We have developed new IT Usage and Security Policies and Procedures to provide effective guidelines to staff on using IT and people's data within the organisation. We have developed a data register outlining the data we collect, the purpose for collecting it and where it is stored. Staff receive annual Data Protection training and we review our data retention policies annually. We have developed Privacy Notices for all stakeholders to the organisation, including staff and Trustees. All our Privacy Notices and practices underwent an external review in early 2024 to ensure we are fully compliant and conducted an organisational-wide data cleanse to improve any areas of potential risk.

4. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2024 was ten. The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd were appointed as the charitable company's auditors in 2017 and have acted in that capacity for the last seven years. They have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 15 October 2024:

Mitul Shah

Mitul Shah – Chair

Able Child Africa
(trading as Able Child)
Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Able Child
Report and Audited Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Able Child Africa

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Company number	01861434
Charity number	326859
Trading name	Able Child
Registered office and operational address	34 Ponton Road London SW11 7BA
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Emily Bueno Catherine Carter Martin Hill Hannah Loryman — appointed 3 February 2024 Bharat Mehta Miiro Michael Maria Omare James Sellars Mitul Shah Dhiran Tanna — appointed 19 September 2024 Abigail Viljoen — appointed 15 July 2023
Company secretary and Co-CEOs	Karl Hankinson Lauren Watters — appointed 1 March 2024
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Solicitors	Bates Wells & Braithwaite 2-6 Cannon Street London EC4M 6YH
Auditors	Godfrey Wilson Limited 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Able Child Africa (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 8 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of the trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the trustees' report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

(1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.

(2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:
- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:
- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

William Guy Blake

Date: 15 October 2024

William Guy Blake ACA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
GODFREY WILSON LIMITED
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Able Child Africa

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2024 Total £**	2023 Total £
Income from:					
Donations	3	-	390,448	**390,448**	349,609
Charitable activities	4	476,584	41,417	**518,001**	663,109
Other trading income	5	-	28,695	**28,695**	19,078
Investments		-	10,268	**10,268**	3,290
Total income		476,584	470,828	**947,412**	1,035,086
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	184,968	**184,968**	160,362
Charitable activities		489,398	285,916	**775,314**	748,661
Total expenditure	6	489,398	470,884	**960,282**	909,023
Net income / (expenditure) and movement in funds	8	(12,814)	(56)	**(12,870)**	126,063
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		345,325	225,593	**570,918**	444,855
Total funds carried forward		332,511	225,537	**558,048**	570,918

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Able Child Africa

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		**3,299**	3,974
Current assets				
Debtors	12	**49,274**		123,152
Cash at bank and in hand		**538,935**		459,721
		588,209		582,873
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	13	**(33,460)**		(15,929)
Net current assets			**554,749**	566,944
Net assets	14		**558,048**	570,918
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			**332,511**	345,325
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			**225,537**	225,593
Total charity funds			**558,048**	570,918

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 15 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Mitul Shah

Mitul Shah -Chair

Able Child Africa

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	**(12,870)**	126,063
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**1,649**	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**(10,268)**	(3,290)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**73,878**	(86,475)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**17,531**	(411)
Net cash used in operating activities	**69,920**	35,887
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(974)**	(3,974)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**10,268**	3,290
Net cash provided by investing activities	**9,294**	(684)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**79,214**	35,203
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**459,721**	424,518
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**538,935**	459,721

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

Able Child Africa is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is 34 Ponton Road, London, SW11 7BA.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Able Child Africa meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of earned income, sales, and consultancy is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Grants payable

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure on the earlier of a) when the charity has a present obligation to transfer resources; and b) when the charity ceases to control the resource (e.g. via transferring funds to the grant recipient).

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of staff numbers, as follows:

	2024	2023
Raising funds	**22%**	27%
Charitable activities	**78%**	73%

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computers, database and website	3 years straight line
Furniture and fittings	5 years straight line

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

q) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1(j).

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Income from:			
Donations	-	349,609	349,609
Charitable activities	626,604	36,505	663,109
Other trading income	-	19,078	19,078
Investments	-	3,290	3,290
Total income	626,604	408,482	1,035,086
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	160,362	160,362
Charitable activities	526,752	221,909	748,661
Total expenditure	526,752	382,271	909,023
Net income and net movement in funds	99,852	26,211	126,063

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

3. Income from donations

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Sponsored challenge events	**81,634**	134,923
Fundraising events and community	**48,391**	14,222
Individual donors	**48,941**	47,181
Corporate donors	**158,882**	102,733
Gifts in kind*	**42,600**	39,050
Legacy income	**10,000**	11,500
Total	**390,448**	349,609

All donation income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

*Gifts in kind relate to the following goods and services provided free of charge:

	2024 £	2023 £
Rent	**39,600**	34,800
Prizes for golf day events	**3,000**	4,250
Gifts in kind	**42,600**	39,050

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2024 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Vitol Foundation	171,999	-	**171,999**
Comic Relief	134,966	-	**134,966**
Faroe Islands	68,825	-	**68,825**
The British & Foreign School Society	59,892	-	**59,892**
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	**30,000**
Rangoonwala	25,000	-	**25,000**
The Marr Munning Trust	15,902	-	**15,902**
Smaller grants < £10,000	-	11,417	**11,417**
Total	476,584	41,417	**518,001**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

Prior period comparative

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Grants > £10,000:			
Vitol Foundation	272,338	-	272,338
Comic Relief	235,897	-	235,897
Euromoney	35,000	-	35,000
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	30,000
The British & Foreign School Society	29,924	-	29,924
The Marr Munning Trust	20,170	-	20,170
The Network for Social Change	15,775	-	15,775
Rangoonwala	12,500	-	12,500
Smaller grants < £10,000	5,000	6,505	11,505
Total	626,604	36,505	663,109

Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from the Faroe Islands Ministry of Justice to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2024 was £68,825 (2023: Nil). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the prior year.

5. Other trading income

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Auction sales	**15,160**	11,692
Sales income	**13,535**	7,386
	28,695	19,078

All other trading income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2024 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	264,034	-	**264,034**
Staff costs (note 9)	90,589	315,899	45,171	**451,659**
Non-salaried personnel	-	14,556	16,024	**30,580**
Running costs	-	-	68,334	**68,334**
Fundraising and events	63,535	-	-	**63,535**
Governance	-	-	8,875	**8,875**
Programmes and operations	-	73,265	-	**73,265**
Sub-total	154,124	667,754	138,404	**960,282**
Allocation of support and governance costs	30,844	107,560	(138,404)	**-**
Total	184,968	775,314	-	**960,282**

Prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2023 Total £
Grants payable (note 7)	-	373,364	-	373,364
Staff costs (note 9)	77,686	256,119	33,787	367,592
Non-salaried personnel	-	12,824	9,220	22,044
Running costs	-	-	53,530	53,530
Fundraising and events	52,936	-	-	52,936
Governance	-	-	14,722	14,722
Programmes and operations	-	24,835	-	24,835
Sub-total	130,622	667,142	111,259	909,023
Allocation of support and governance costs	29,740	81,519	(111,259)	-
Total	160,362	748,661	-	909,023

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Grants payable to institutions

Grants were paid to the following overseas partner organisations in pursuit of the charity's objects:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)	**50,357**	63,411
Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)	**82,694**	38,088
Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)	**58,709**	138,470
Child Support Tanzania (CST)	**12,240**	23,584
UWEZO Youth Empowerment	**17,029**	26,964
Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)	**42,507**	82,847
Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM)	**498**	-
Total	**264,034**	373,364

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	**1,649**	-
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**Nil**	Nil
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Statutory audit	**5,550**	5,300
▪ Other services	**350**	300

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**398,686**	322,384
Social security costs	**34,261**	29,022
Pension costs	**15,737**	14,678
Other staff costs	**2,975**	1,508
Total	**451,659**	367,592

One employee earned between £70,001 and £80,000 during the year (2023: one employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the co-CEOs. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel, including gross salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions were £94,503 (2023: £75,494).

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Average head count	**10.40**	10.00

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Total
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	**19,922**
Additions	**974**
At 31 March 2024	**20,896**
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	**15,948**
Charge for the year	**1,649**
At 31 March 2024	**17,597**
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	**3,299**
At 31 March 2023	3,974

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Accrued income	**16,593**	105,758
Prepayments	**32,681**	17,394
Total	**49,274**	123,152

Included with prepayments are £4,933 (2023: £nil) of prepayments relating to more than one year in the future.

13. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	**11,791**	997
Accruals	**7,700**	6,871
Other taxation and social security	**10,975**	8,061
Other creditors	**2,994**	-
Total	**33,460**	15,929

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,299	**3,299**
Current assets	332,511	255,698	**588,209**
Current liabilities	-	(33,460)	**(33,460)**
Net assets at 31 March 2024	**332,511**	**225,537**	**558,048**

Prior period comparative

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,974	3,974
Current assets	345,325	237,548	582,873
Current liabilities	-	(15,929)	(15,929)
Net assets at 31 March 2023	345,325	225,593	570,918

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	**At 31 March 2024 £**
Restricted funds				
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	9,160	29,907	(26,278)	**12,789**
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	3,134	29,985	(18,356)	**14,763**
Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant	15,000	-	(15,000)	**-**
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	47,500	95,000	(61,113)	**81,387**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	31,218	32,386	(62,604)	**1,000**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST	4,773	-	(4,773)	**-**
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC	37,210	7,580	(44,790)	**-**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	**60**
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO	29,872	-	(22,748)	**7,124**
Faroe Islands - ZAPCD	-	68,825	(24,736)	**44,089**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	1,908	-	(1,908)	**-**
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	11,992	15,902	(21,371)	**6,523**
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	15,775	-	(11,956)	**3,819**
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	(3,665)	25,000	(17,319)	**4,016**
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	67,147	-	(67,147)	**-**
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	74,241	92,774	(89,299)	**77,716**
Vitol Foundation - PODCAM	-	79,225	-	**79,225**
Total restricted funds	345,325	476,584	(489,398)	**332,511**
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	225,593	470,828	(470,884)	**225,537**
Total unrestricted funds	225,593	470,828	(470,884)	**225,537**
Total funds	570,918	947,412	(960,282)	**558,048**

Prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds				
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation - CST	3,365	-	(3,365)	-
Book Aid International - CST	10,063	-	(10,063)	-
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	-	14,924	(5,764)	9,160
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	-	15,000	(11,866)	3,134
Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant	-	15,000	-	15,000
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	-	47,500	-	47,500
Comic Relief - Organisational Strengthening – USDC	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	37,888	75,179	(81,849)	31,218
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST	7,615	-	(2,842)	4,773
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC	84,796	68,218	(115,804)	37,210
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	60
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. –	33,542	35,000	(38,670)	29,872
James Tudor Foundation – FEDOMA	2,046	-	(2,046)	-
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	4,190	-	(2,282)	1,908
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	8,506	20,170	(16,684)	11,992
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	-	15,775	-	15,775
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust - FEDOMA	2,938	-	(2,938)	-
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	-	12,500	(16,165)	(3,665)
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	53,464	138,424	(124,741)	67,147
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	-	133,914	(59,673)	74,241
Other Restricted - FEDOMA	(3,000)	5,000	(2,000)	-
Total restricted funds	245,473	626,604	(526,752)	345,325
Unrestricted funds				
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy	17,764	-	(17,764)	-
General funds	181,618	408,482	(364,507)	225,593
Total unrestricted funds	199,382	408,482	(382,271)	225,593
Total funds	444,855	1,035,086	(909,023)	570,918

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY

This two-year project seeks to improve disability-inclusion of female youth with disabilities in vocational training and employment. It aims to do so by addressing the triple discrimination that many young women with disabilities in Kenya face in trying to access employment due to their gender, disability, and state of being youth. Female youth with disabilities will gain from training opportunities in employability skills, entrepreneurial business development and business leadership. The project will utilise a mentorship model, with female youth with disabilities also being supported to establish tested enterprises through seed funding or being matched with employment opportunities.

The British and Foreign School Society - USDC

This two-year project seeks to improve access to inclusive education for children and youth with disabilities in northern Ugandan refugee settlements. The children of refugees and displaced people living with disabilities face many challenges in accessing basic human rights including access to quality education. Using a multifaceted approach, working with children and youth with disabilities, teachers, and duty-bearers (government officials, community members, parents), activities include the identification and enrolment of out-of-schools children with disabilities, mentoring of children to keep them in education, training of teachers on inclusive methodologies and advocacy with local and national government officials.

Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant

This funding was provided by Comic Relief to support its existing grant recipients with additional funds to cover some of the cost-of-living rises seen in the UK and the countries where we work.

Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling

This project will enable Able Child Africa to better support organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) or disability-focused organisations through the implementation of our new strategic vision. The grant will allow us to strengthen our network’s systems and governance, deliver higher-impact inclusive education programmes for children with disabilities and effectively communicate our partner’s work to maximise their visibility and advocacy outcomes.

Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY

This three-year grant supported seeks to improve access to quality inclusive ECE for children with disabilities aged four to six in Nairobi, Kenya. This project will develop effective early identification systems, build the capacity of key ECD duty-bearers, and design an innovative Inclusive Play Programme to sustainably and holistically address barriers to their inclusion.

Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST

This four-year grant funded by Comic Relief scales up two Inclusive Education projects currently delivered with our partner Child Support Tanzania within Mbeya, Southwest Tanzania. Working in a consortium with two other international disability organisations funded under the same grants stream, the project seeks to increase the access, quantity and quality of inclusive education. The project utilises the Child-to-Child methodology developed with our partner USDC to ensure activities are participatory and determined by children.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC

This three-year project funded by Comic Relief will improve the primary school readiness of children with and without disabilities aged three to six years old in Uganda through the development of a community-led inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) model with caregivers, capacity building of key ECE duty-bearers and communities and a focused government advocacy campaign. This IECE model will be delivered through 18 community learning centres (CLCs) with activities delivered alongside local government schools to aid inclusion and break down barriers.

Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the The Leggatt Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our inclusive education programme in Tanzania and ensured children with disabilities received medical assessments during the project lifecycle.

Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO

This two to three-year grant is in support of the project “I Matter Too: Making Rwandan child protection systems disability-inclusive for children with disabilities”. The project will adopt a community-based inclusive development approach to target child protection systems in Gasabo, Rwanda to ensure that children with disabilities, as the children most at risk of neglect and abuse, are able to equitably access child protection systems.

Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

This 3-year project funded by Jersey Oversees Aid contributed to the government’s commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ through the advocacy for disability inclusive WASH policies and programmes for girls with disabilities in education. This multifaceted and youth-led project identified out of schoolgirls with disabilities and trained female youth with disability (YwD) mentors to design and implement a two-fold peer to peer mentoring programme using child-friendly resources.

The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC

This three-year project with our implementing partner USDC, expands on our prior Marr Munning Trust funded programme to directly support the Early Childhood Education (ECE) of 60 children with disabilities across six schools in Northern Uganda (Lira and Nebbi). It will support the government’s need to scale-up the Individualised Learning Plan (ILP) by adapting our ILP and disability screening tool for an Early Childhood Education context and delivering a focused multi-year government advocacy campaign. The campaign will target a network of district- and national-level government officials; supporting them to make the 'business case' for adopting the tools at all government schools.

Network for Social Change - UWEZO

This innovative one-year pilot project directly responds to a significant gap identified in Rwanda’s mental health service provision for children with disabilities. This project will aim to make mental health provision more inclusive through the creation and testing of an innovative mental health guide, as well as a ‘toolbox’ of inclusive mental health tools for children and youth with disabilities.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Rangoonwala Foundation – CST

The 'Let's Get Functional - Improving the Occupational Therapy and rehabilitative interventions for children with disabilities in Tanzania' project aims to improve the health and education of children with disabilities in Mbeya, Tanzania. Utilising the brand-new physiotherapy room at Child Support Tanzania's Early Childhood Education Centre, the project will facilitate teacher trainings and mentorship by physiotherapists, with children with disabilities then supported both at school and in their homes, where their parents will also receive guidance to better support their children's rehabilitative needs. The project will enable children with disabilities to receive rehabilitative support at their school, helping to prevent missed learning and to reduce educational inequalities between children with and without disabilities.

Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA

This three-year project aims to improve children with disabilities' (aged three to five years old) access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the introduction of innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes and the capacity building of actors responsible for children with disabilities early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents and children with disabilities themselves. Through their increased cooperation that ensures long-term systemic change, these actors will holistically break down barriers to ECD inclusion.

Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD

This project has a primary aim of ensuring children with disabilities aged three to six equitably access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE). Within six ECE Centres in Chadiza district, Zambia, the project's innovative inclusive ECE methodology will holistically tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face in accessing IECE through targeted interventions with children with and without disabilities, parents, ECE teachers, other service providers, community leaders and members, and the Zambian government.

16. Related party transactions

During the year, 4 Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £9,500 (2023: £2,850 from 5 Trustees).



info@ablechild.org.uk
ablechild.org.uk

Able Child is a registered charity (no. 326859) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 1861434) in England and Wales under the name Able Child Africa.

Able Child Africa

England & Wales - Charity number 326859

Accounts

able child AFRICA

Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Year end 31 March 2023

2023
Annual Report and Audited Accounts

Celebrating **39 years** of changing lives




Protect. Educate. Amplify.

We are Able Child Africa

We work towards a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.

We do this by bringing together a network of organisations that **protect,** **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.

We work across Africa, breaking down barriers to inclusion so that children with disabilities are safe, thriving and heard.



We are:

Collaborative.
We believe we can achieve more by working together.

Courageous.
We are bold and agile, with the courage to innovate.

Accountable.
We are accountable to the children we work with.

› And we use the expertise we have built up across Africa over the last 40 years **to make lasting change for children with disabilities.**

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Welcome from our Chair



Jim Sellars
Chair

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our 2023 Annual Report. Over the last year, Able Child Africa continued its vital work to protect, educate and amplify the voices of children with disabilities across Africa. We supported over 1,000 children and worked with over 1,750 parents, teachers and government officials across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia.

Last year represented the first time the organisation has raised over £1 million in charitable funds. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to all the hard work of the team, our partners and network members. While this has been a long-term goal though, there is still much more work to do.

Children with disabilities continue to be left behind. Through no fault of their own, they are consistently excluded, discounted and discriminated against in all walks of life, leading to health inequalities, a lack of basic education and financial deprivation.

As part of our desire to enhance our impact and ultimately support more children, we are launching a new 2030 Strategy. We are excited to announce that this year we will launch the Able Child Africa Network, where eight of the leading organisations working with children with disabilities in Africa will be coming together as the founding members. Able Child Africa is starting a journey to further put decision making in the hands of those who are closest to the work we do. Not only do we believe this the right thing to do for the children we work with, we also believe this supports the organisation's ambitions to reach many more children and triple in size by 2030.

Able Child Africa's past and future success is driven by our past partners and new network members with their commitment, vision, and knowledge; without them none of our work would be possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations we work with in Africa for everything they have done this year and throughout our many years of successful partnership.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the entire Able Child Africa team. Karl, our CEO, and Lauren, our Director of Impact and Advocacy, provide inspirational leadership to the whole organisation and drive the long-term vision of Able Child Africa. We are also indebted to the Board of Trustees, whose diverse skillsets and experiences have been crucial in navigating the challenges of operating a charity.

Despite the organisation reaching £1 million in fundraising last year, the external fundraising environment remains difficult. We do not underestimate the challenge ahead, and our final thanks are reserved for all our donors, whether individual, corporate or institutional, small and large. Your generosity is the organisation's lifeblood, and we remain indebted to your continued support. This has enabled Able Child Africa to deliver all the work described in the following pages and to continue our vital mission to protect, educate and amplify the voices of children with disabilities.

We are really excited about the future and sincerely hope you will continue to feel moved to support us in our vital work.

Best wishes,
Jim Sellars

Why we exist

1 in 10 children globally have a disability - that is 240 million children, and this number is expected to double by 2050.

Despite the decades of work since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Right of Persons with Disabilities, children with disabilities continue to be left behind. Through no fault of their own, they are consistently excluded, discounted and discriminated against in all walks of life, leading to health inequalities, a lack of basic education and financial deprivation.

The impact for children with disabilities is devastating.



Children with disabilities are:

- More likely to live **in poverty**.
- Twice as likely to **never attend school**.
- Three times more likely to be **underweight**.

Children with disabilities are also less safe. They are:

- Four times more likely to experience **physical violence**.
- Three times more likely to be **sexually assaulted**; and
- 17 times more likely to be **institutionalised**.

Girls with disabilities are at particular risk of violence. An estimated 70% of girls with intellectual disabilities will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, which contributes to girls with disabilities being 10 times more likely to experience gender-based violence than those without disabilities.

In Africa...

In low-income countries in Africa, the situation is worse. It is predicted that up to 80% of children with disabilities from these countries will not live to be five years-old. The ones that do are 10 times less likely to be in school, four times more likely to experience abuse or violence.

Children with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Each child is unique and lives with a distinct set of circumstances which determines their ability to thrive.

A child's age compounds with their socioeconomic background, gender, and race to deepen and complicate the exclusion they experience, and their perceived naivety means they are given little opportunity to communicate their needs or determine the types of support they receive.

Services for children with disabilities still fail to recognise or respond to the intersectional barriers children with disabilities face. Healthcare, education and social protection services remain inaccessible with physical, communication and attitudinal barriers limiting their participation and allowing children with disabilities to fall through the cracks.

We know that these inequalities can lead to additional and lifelong psychosocial barriers. Over 41% of children with disabilities are more likely to feel discriminated against, over 51% of children with disabilities are more likely to feel unhappy and 1 in 5 children with disabilities are less likely to have expectations of a better life. The emotional impact of exclusion can embed feelings of inadequacy which silence and disempower children with disabilities all the way through adulthood.



Able Child Africa exists to change this.

The **state of play** for civil society

Despite the evident need, only a small fraction of aid funding is targeted towards children with disabilities, which has meant that disability-focused organisations in Africa have long been under-resourced and under-supported. Traditionally receiving a large portion of its funding from overseas, the recent introduction of legislation constraining funding to NGO's, along with the unprecedented scale of Covid-19 has forced many of these organisations to close all together.

For African Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) the situation is particularly difficult. As organisations representing a marginalised group, they also experience discrimination and prejudice, receiving fewer invitations to participate or influence and even fewer opportunities to receive funding. Even where specific disability-focused funding or support is available, OPDs that work for children with disabilities are usually the last to receive it, unable to compete for space with larger players.



What we do

We **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive. We do this by:

Delivering high-quality programmes

We deliver high-quality programmes, generating evidence of what works and building best practice for inclusive programming for children with disabilities.

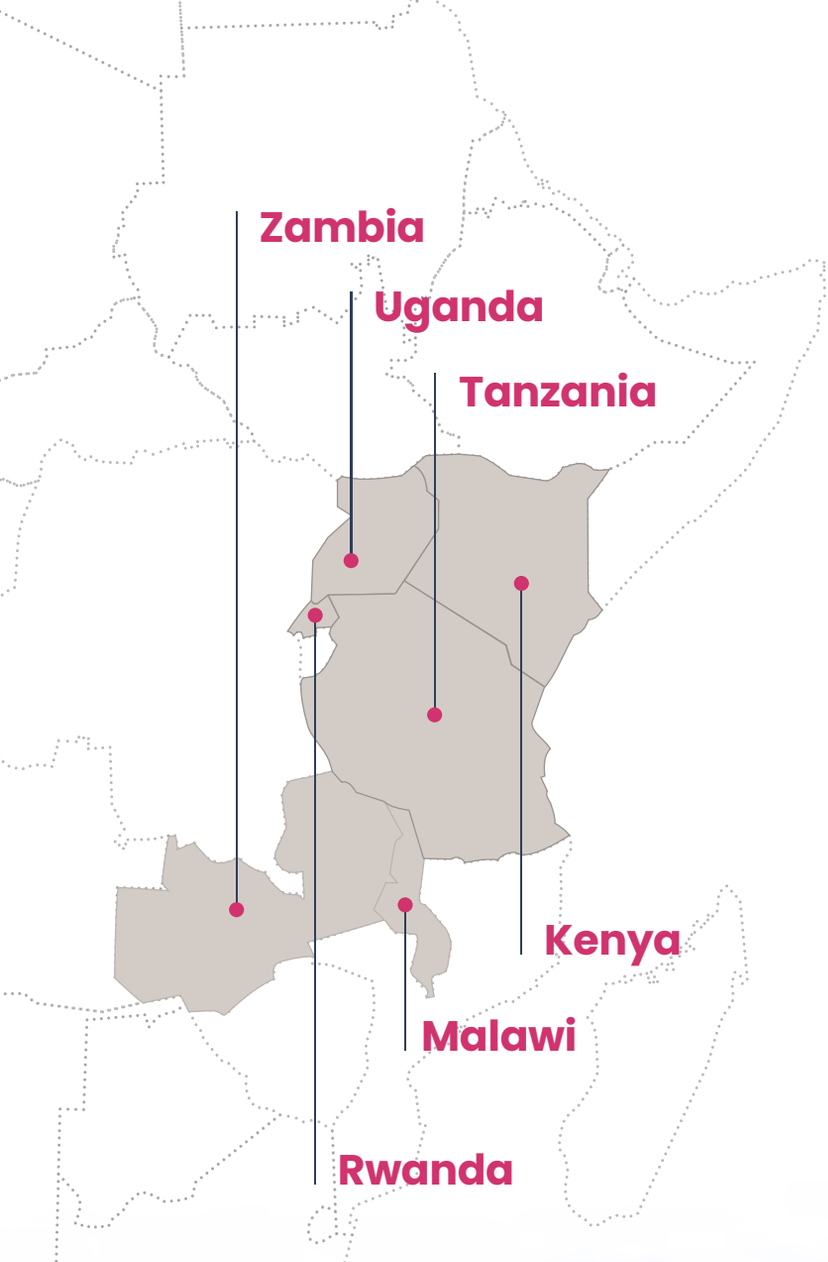
Standing up for their rights

Standing up for the rights of children with disabilities, amplifying their voice and creating change by influencing governments and other international allies.

The role for data.

Evidence underpins all of our work. We work together to collate data on the barrier's children with disabilities experience and generate evidence of what works for inclusive programming. We then use this information to deepen our impact with children with disabilities and to influence governments and other international allies.





We have over **39 years'** experience working with local organisations across Africa to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

Our **mission** is to promote the realisation of equal rights for children and young people with disabilities in Africa and to facilitate their meaningful inclusion in all aspects of life.



Protect.



We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are protected and included in their communities.

Children with disabilities are at a higher risk of violence, abuse or exploitation due to the multiple barriers that prevent them from protecting themselves or reporting incidents of abuse. We work across the network to improve and support local safeguarding practices that ensure the protection of children.

We support families to break down the stigma and discrimination around disability, to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities within their communities. We have been working to do this in Uganda...

Improving child safeguarding in Uganda:

We have been supporting **Ugandan Society for Disabled Children** (USDC) to build a more robust safeguarding culture. Through a Comic Relief funded grant, we delivered a workshop with staff to identify gaps in their knowledge, culture, policies and practices in relation to the different stages of the safeguarding cycle. This enabled the team to identify short- and long-term solutions to address these gaps, ensuring USDC is better placed to adopt better safeguarding practices across every aspect of their work.

We were able to utilise our expertise in disability inclusive child safeguarding to support USDC to develop their own set of safeguarding standards. This has ensured there is a shared understanding of USDC's commitments to safeguarding across the organisation and for all staff.



Educate.



We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to an education and the services they need to succeed.

In low-income countries, over 90% of children with disabilities do not attend formal school. To tackle this problem, we have developed inclusive education projects that support children with disabilities to access mainstream education alongside their peers, improving their educational outcomes and ensuring they are able to thrive.

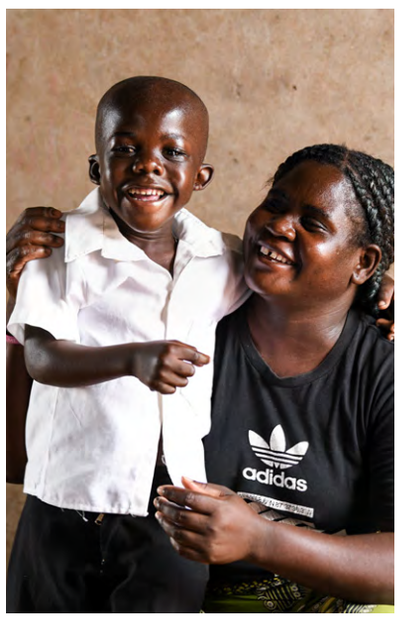
We have been working in Kenya to change the lives of children with disabilities through education...

Using inclusive play as a tool for inclusive education in Kenya:

We have been working with **Action Network for the Disabled** to develop and implement a disability inclusive play programme for children with disabilities to improve their access to quality Early Childhood Education.

Using our inclusive play approach, children attending early childhood centres are encouraged to play and interact with each other, bringing a sense of joy and laughter within the school environment. Crucially, this also helps the children to engage with their surroundings, develop communication skills and self-awareness, and connect with others. Play is a fundamental part of childhood for all children, with the development of an inclusive play programme ensuring teachers are equipped with the knowledge to effectively include children with disabilities in pre-school activities.

We have been working with 10 early education centres in Nairobi over four years, with the inclusive play programme playing an important role in supporting nearly 100 children with disabilities to access education for the first time.



Amplify.

We work with children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, amplifying their voice to demand their own inclusion.

For too long children with disabilities have been forgotten, hidden and systematically excluded. One of the key reasons for this is that children and their parents have been unaware of their rights and are therefore disempowered in the fight for justice. By providing children and young people with disabilities with knowledge of their rights and then amplifying their voice to speak out, they are able to break down the barriers to inclusion for themselves and their peers.

We have been working in Rwanda to amplify the voices of young people with disabilities …



Amplifying the voice of young people with disabilities in Rwanda:

Partnering with Euromoney Institutional Investor and **Uwezo Youth Empowerment** (UWEZO), we have been amplifying the voice of children and young people with disabilities to demand more inclusive child protection systems in Rwanda.

In partnership, we developed a youth-led model, providing training and other support to young people with disabilities to be the main implementers of the project. Young people with disabilities have led on parent workshops, meetings with government officials, and providing mentoring for younger children with disabilities. Through this approach, we have supported young people with disabilities to take ownership of the project and to draw on their own experiences to become key advocates for inclusion within child protection systems.

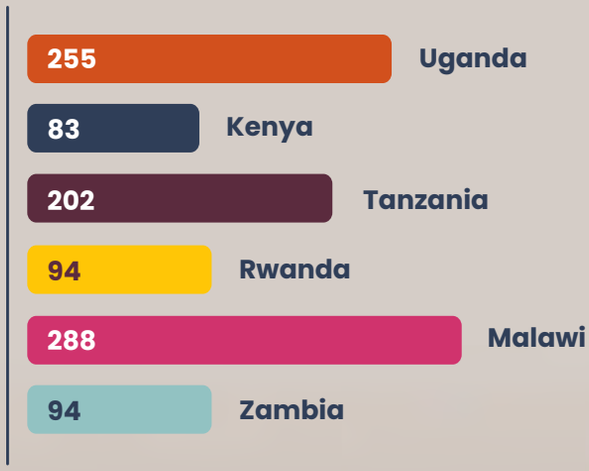
This has created new mechanisms, networks and support groups, where children and young people with disabilities are coming together to campaign for their inclusion in child protection systems, ensuring these systems are as inclusive and accessible as possible.

Our impact

Over the last year, we have been working across **six countries in Africa** to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

We directly supported children and young people with disabilities through enrolling out-of-school children into schools, providing disability aids, making school premises more accessible, establishing mentoring networks and activities to break down damaging myths about disability.

Children & young people with disabilities directly supported



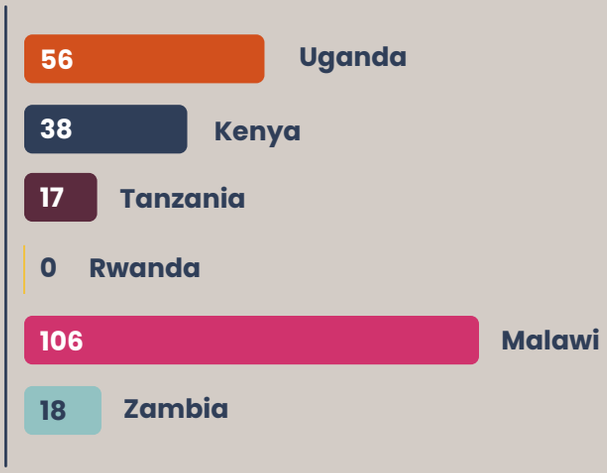
Total

1,016



Teachers we trained

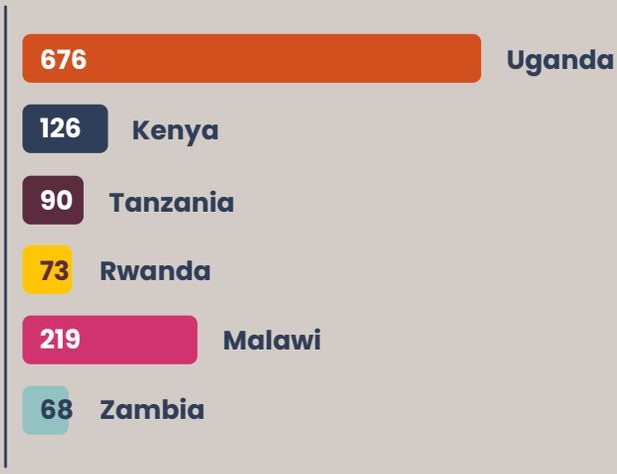
We trained teachers in inclusive teaching methods, providing the necessary training and tools to help teachers support all children in the classroom and ensuring children with disabilities can participate in lessons alongside their peers.



Total **235**

Parents we supported

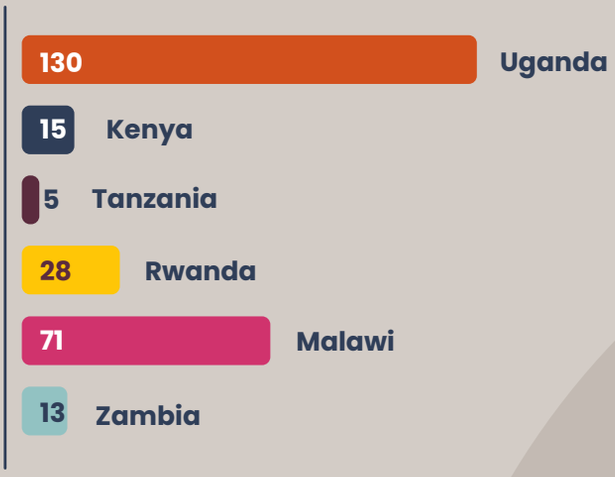
We supported parents of children with disabilities through parent support groups or community events, giving parents the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face, support each other and work together to advocate for their children's inclusion.



Total **1,252**

Government officials we worked with

We worked with government officials and ministers advocating for improvements in disability inclusion at a local and national level in key government services in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwand, Malawi and Zambia.



Total **262**

Uganda

We have been working in Uganda **since 1984** alongside **Uganda Society for Disabled Children** (USDC), supporting children with disabilities and their families to break down the barriers to inclusion.



Many people living with disabilities in Uganda lack resources and access to services. Where we work in northern Uganda, 80% of people with disabilities have been identified as **living in chronic poverty**. Despite significant progress at a policy level in Uganda, there is an implementation gap. With a policy of Universal Primary Education, school enrolment has reached 90%. However, this is not the case for children with disabilities, where **only 2% are graduating to secondary level**.

What we're proud of

We know that children with disabilities are at an increased risk of being left behind in school when their needs are not properly identified. Early detection of their needs therefore allows for the correct intervention and ensures better outcomes for children with disabilities. In partnership with Marr Munning Trust, we have successfully supported six schools to adopt and improve access to learning for children with disabilities through the combined use of Individualised Learning Plans and Early Screening tools. Through this project, over 60 children were identified and supported with Individualised Learning Plans (ILP) based on their specific needs. To date, 70% of the children have achieved their ILP objectives and are progressing to higher classes, which is a significant achievement in enabling children to realise their full potential.

Able Child Africa's support to my team and ongoing sharing of ideas has helped us come up with new ideas we would not have thought possible.

Dolorence Were,
Director USDC

Improving school enrolment through inclusive Early Childhood Education

Children with disabilities often remain hidden, with those around them more likely to hold low expectations for their future. **Getting them into early childhood settings and breaking down these negative stereotypes is vital to ensure they are able to thrive**. Having successfully opened 18 Community Learning Centres in partnership with Comic Relief, the past year has seen considerable progress in improving the school-readiness of children with disabilities through our community-led learning programme. The existing curriculum used in the centres was refined to ensure it was accessible for children with disabilities, and multiple trainings were delivered to the centre caregivers. There are now **724 children enrolled across the 18 Centres, of which 20% are children with disabilities, far exceeding our expectations at the start of the project**. As a community-led project, we have seen several instances where members of the community have donated time, materials and food to help ensure the successful running of the Centres. Awareness raising events have also ensured people in the community understand the importance of education for children with disabilities.



Through our current projects

We advocated to
2,781 community members
on disability awareness, early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities.

We advocated to
130 government officials
at district and national level on disability inclusive education policy

We supported
676 parents
through Parent Support Group meetings

Abasi's Story

Abasi is a four-year-old boy living in a village in northern Uganda. When Abasi was three weeks old, he became extremely unwell, and his health continued to deteriorate. He was referred to the general hospital for treatment and while there, he had several seizures. It wasn't until much later that his parents realised that Abasi was unable sit upright or crawl, like other children the same age were able to do. They were extremely worried and unsure what was wrong.

When Abasi was three, his mother heard about the **inclusive Early Childhood Education** (ECE) project, **where children with disabilities were being enrolled alongside children without disabilities in a community-led programme**. She expressed her interest and Abasi was immediately enrolled. Abasi received a formal medical assessment through the project, where he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Abasi's parents received support through the project's parent support group, as well as regular home visits from project staff. They learnt about basic physiotherapy exercises that they could do with Abasi at home to aid his development.

Now, Abasi is able to crawl and can stand upright when holding onto an object for support. He is doing well at the centre and enjoys playing with the other children. Abasi's parents are extremely pleased and have a restored hope for his future. A future where **he can continue to go to school and play an active role in society**, just like other children with disabilities reached through the project.

Abasi's parents are extremely pleased and have a **restored hope for his future**. A future where he can continue to go to school and **play an active role in society**.

Kenya

We have worked in Kenya **since 2009** with **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY) supporting children and young people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of their lives.



While Kenya has a system of free primary education, the curriculum requires basic skills that most children with disabilities do not have. Very few have accessed early education, meaning young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed, and more likely to be living in poverty. With limited access to education or health care, these young people continue to face injustice, stigma and sometimes abuse and violence. This is magnified in Kibera, Africa's largest slum where ANDY is based, and home to thousands of people with disabilities.

What we're proud of

This year, we kickstarted a new project **specifically looking to improve the inclusion of female young people with disabilities in vocational training and employment in Kenya**. This represents the first focused employability programme that we have delivered. The project aims to address the discrimination that many young women with disabilities in Kenya face in trying to access employment due to their gender and disability. The project, titled 'We Can! Women's employability and employment programme', commenced in December 2022 in partnership with the British and Foreign Schools Society, where 20 young people with disabilities were identified to become employability mentors. Through vocational skills training, mentoring, entrepreneurial business development and business leadership, the 20 young people will **mentor a wider group of 180 young people with disabilities** across the duration of the project. They will also **identify specific solutions to the barriers young people with disabilities face in developing employability skills and entering employment**, drawing on their own experiences to educate business leaders on how to create channels for employment.

Improving personal and social capabilities for lifelong learning

Creating platforms and spaces for children to express themselves provides a strong foundation for learning. This is why ANDY has been implementing Child Rights Clubs (CRCs) in Kenya for the last few years. In partnership with Comic Relief, we have implemented inclusive play sessions to over 60 targeted children with disabilities through our Ready Steady Go! project. Here, children with and without disabilities learn how to play together in a disability inclusive way, and how to support each other using child to child methodology. Teachers have received training and continual support to deliver the inclusive play sessions, with an inclusive play guide developed to ensure teachers can deliver activities that tailor to the needs of the individual children with disabilities. These platforms not only create a space for children with disabilities to be aware of their rights but allow for increased positive interactions between children with and without disabilities.



Through our current projects

We trained **38** teachers

on inclusive teaching practices and disability rights

We trained **126** parents

to better equip them to support the early childhood development of their children with disabilities

We advocated for the rights of children with disabilities with

15 government officials

The impact of Parent Support Groups

Moses is a nine-year-old boy who has a hearing impairment and uses sign language to communicate. Prior to being enrolled into his current school as part of our Ready Steady Go project, he was unable to communicate effectively and never went outside unless one of his parents was with him.

Due to the delays in enrolling him into a school, Moses started his journey with a number of difficulties. He had a short attention span, difficulty with his memory, low exposure to Kenyan sign language and a lack of cognitive skills. He also struggled to play with other children since he had never done so before, experiencing little to no interaction with his peers. He could also not express his needs to his parents easily, and they struggled to communicate with him, which was extremely frustrating for Moses.

Through our project, one of **Moses' parents joined the Parent Support Group, where they participated in trainings focused on disability, early intervention services and home-based learning**. The trainings highlighted the importance of inclusive education and play for children with disabilities and Moses' parents began the formal assessment process so that Moses could be placed in a school that could support him.

Since joining the school, Moses has flourished. His confidence has increased significantly and with the support and encouragement from his parents, he is much happier at home. He interacts well with his peers and can communicate his needs more effectively. Through their engagement with the Parent Support Group, his parents have benefited hugely. Their attitudes towards disability have completely changed and they have a much more positive outlook regarding their child's future, which has allowed Moses to thrive.

Since joining the school, **Moses has flourished**... He interacts well with his peers and can communicate his needs more effectively.

Tanzania

We have been working in Tanzania **since 2007** alongside our partners **Child Support Tanzania** (CST) to change the lives of children and young people with disabilities through inclusive education.



Many children and families in Mbeya (south-west Tanzania) are living in poverty, often exacerbated by disability, HIV/AIDS and high mortality rates. Here, services for children with disabilities are severely lacking and poorly resourced. Although primary education is free in Tanzania, children with disabilities often do not develop the basic early learning skills needed to succeed in this environment and are continually left behind when it comes to accessing primary education.

What we're proud of

This year we worked with Child Support Tanzania to open inclusive libraries in three primary schools in Mbeya. With funding and books provided by Book Aid International. These libraries are now **providing nearly 3,000 children with access to a range of books**, including textbooks, storybooks, novels, and sensory books. Together with Book Aid International, we trained a cohort of teachers to act as librarians, with the teachers now ensuring children of different ages and reading abilities are able to access quality books to aid with their learning. One of the libraries is situated within Child Support Tanzania's own school, with regular reading sessions taking place to complement the school curriculum.

Enhancing access to physiotherapy

Early intervention through rehabilitation therapies can significantly increase the functional independence of children. It is crucial that children with rehabilitative needs are provided with this support at the earliest possible stage in their development. However, there is generally a poor level of understanding of disability among healthcare workers and very few trained therapists provide adequate rehabilitation services. With many children with disabilities living in poverty, the cost of travel to rehabilitative appointments and the fees incurred also exclude most families from accessing these vital services.

In response to this, we have been working with Child Support Tanzania to develop a physiotherapy and occupational therapy project within Child Support Tanzania's brand-new physiotherapy room, which was constructed as part of the Irma Skeele's legacy project. The project aims to improve the health and education of children with disabilities at Child Support Tanzania's school through improved rehabilitative support.

Occupational therapy and physiotherapy training was provided for teachers, while direct support was provided to parents to provide therapeutic support for their children at home. The school was also equipped with sensory tools, and speech and language therapy tools, to ensure better retention rates for children and reduce educational inequalities between children with and without disabilities.



Through our current projects

We supported **90** parents

of children with disabilities through Parent Support Groups

We supported **202** children with disabilities

through access to quality inclusive libraries and physiotherapy support

We trained **17** tachers

on inclusive libraries management and rehabilitative support for children with disabilities



Individual Case Study: Mary

Mary, a new pupil at Child Support Tanzania's Inclusive Early Childhood Centre, used to crawl. She could occasionally use a walking frame for a short period of time but was unable to move around unattended and could only move a few steps at a time. But, through our project we have been trying to change that.

A physiotherapist, funded through the project has been supporting Mary in school and at home. Mary's mother has been trained on how to help her continue her rehabilitation at home and Child Support Tanzania have conducted several home visits to help monitor her progress outside of school.

With the help of the physiotherapists, teachers and her parents, there has been a significant improvement in Mary's mobility. **Mary is now able to walk without her frame with little support**. She has gained considerable confidence and both her teachers and family are continually encouraging Mary to keep progressing. **Everyone is now confident that Mary will be able to stand up and walk with no assistance**, something that would not have happened without the support she received - a result we are aiming to realise for many more children like Mary.

Rwanda

We have been working in Rwanda with **Uwezo Youth Empowerment** (UWEZO) **since 2016,** supporting children and young people with disabilities to stand up for their rights to access inclusive education, inclusive WASH, and accessible child protection systems.

Nearly half of all people with disabilities in Rwanda are under 35. Two-thirds are not in education or employment and over 90% fall below the national poverty line. Children with disabilities comprise less than 1% of all primary school students, and this rate drops further at secondary level. As they grow older, these inequities remain. Rwandan young people with disabilities are far less likely to participate in the workforce, with 18.5% unemployed. While Rwanda has a good track record of inclusive policies and has taken many strides towards better inclusion of its population, many children with disabilities are still unable to access basic services and face stigma and discrimination, and 30% of children with disabilities have never attended school.

What we're proud of

This year we are proud to be making child protection systems in Rwanda more inclusive in partnership with Euromoney Institutional Investor. Children and young people with disabilities are at much higher risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Exacerbating this is the lack of appropriate mechanisms to prevent, report and respond to child protection cases for children with disabilities.

Through our project with UWEZO, **we are supporting child protection systems to be more sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities, particularly girls**. We are working to ensure that parents of children with disabilities are better supported to prevent abuse through 'positive parenting' workshops. We are training young people with disabilities to mentor children with disabilities to inform them of their rights. We are also undertaking an extensive mapping of existing child protection services and systems in Rwanda, assessing the existing levels of disability inclusion. This will form an evidence base to promote inclusive child protection systems across Rwanda and more widely.



Inclusive mental health provision

Children with disabilities are at an elevated risk of mental health issues and psychosocial disabilities due to the high levels of stigma and exclusion they experience. Despite this, research has shown that there is very little mental health provision for children and young people with disabilities.

This year we started an exciting new mental health-focused project in Rwanda with UWEZO, in partnership with Network for Social Change, which will directly respond to Rwanda's mental health service provision gap for children with disabilities.
We held participatory workshops with children and young people with disabilities to help us understand their experiences and access to mental health services. This research is now informing the design of tools for an inclusive mental health 'toolbox', as well as a Disability-Inclusive Child Mental Health Guide. The pack will contain practical advice for practitioners on supporting the mental health of children and young people with disabilities, which we hope will be rolled out nationally.



Through our current projects

We have trained **12** young people with disabilities

in mentoring, inclusive child protection and safeguarding

We provided **94** children with disabilities

with one-to-one mentoring from older young people with disabilities

We facilitated **73** parents

disabilities to attend training workshops on positive parenting and child protection



Individual Case Study: Safia

Safia is a 13-year-old girl with a hearing impairment, who is sociable and has always enjoyed school. As part of our inclusive child protection project in Rwanda, young people with disabilities have set up child protection clubs in schools, which children with and without disabilities are invited to attend. Safia started attending these clubs regularly, giving her the **opportunity to share her own experiences and to learn from her peers**.

The groups are facilitated by the project's mentors, who lead discussions in a safe environment about disability rights for children and young people with disabilities. They discuss how any harm or abuse can be reported appropriately in disability inclusive and accessible ways. The group discussions have offered Safia the opportunity to learn more about child protection in a safe and comfortable environment, something she had not experienced before as topics such as sexual abuse are often taboo, and rarely spoken about openly. **Safia has been able to share her own worries** about how despite generally feeling included and safe while at home or school, having a hearing impairment can mean she can feel unsafe at times when she is out in her community.

Safia has developed so much in the group that she has volunteered to lead some sessions herself, such as mapping existing child protection systems in her community and making a presentation on the rights of children with disabilities to her classmates. She has even said that she now wants to become a social worker when she leaves school, so that she can focus on protecting children with disabilities in her community.

Malawi

We began working in Malawi in 2020 with **Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi** (FEDOMA).

Since then, we have worked together to strengthen FEDOMA's organisational capacity and to create a more inclusive environment for children and youth with disabilities in Malawi.

What we're proud of

Following on from the accessibility audits we completed led by people with disabilities, we have now improved the accessibility of Community Childhood Centres as part of our Early Childhood Education project in Malawi. We have supported the modification of these centres to ensure they are safe and inclusive for children with disabilities to learn and thrive. We have equipped the centres with **inclusive play equipment to encourage pre-school children with disabilities to develop key skills in a fun and inclusive environment**, preparing them for further learning.

We have also delivered trainings to Malawian government officials on disability inclusive child safeguarding and child protection, as well as on inclusive monitoring, evaluation and learning. These trainings have also offered the opportunity to reflect on existing strengths and opportunities in our Early Childhood Education programme and share best practice among staff.

We value the partnership with Able Child Africa as it goes beyond project implementation, to support organisational development and build our capacity

Chris, FEDOMA Project Manager



Disability inclusive play schemes

Children with disabilities are often excluded from early childhood education, an exclusion which can lead to educational and social inequalities that can persist through their lifetime. As part our three-year project in Malawi, we developed a disability inclusive play scheme, which is being implemented across multiple Community Centres. This scheme incorporates elements of play alongside more traditional teaching methods to develop valuable skills. To support this scheme, we have co-developed an inclusive play guide with Malawian education officials and organised multiple trainings for teachers on how to implement the play scheme in their centres in a disability inclusive way.

Bi-weekly sessions are being held for children with and without disabilities in the centres, where the children are led through games, music and other activities to encourage the development of their social and motor skills. This provides an valuable opportunity for children with disabilities to build their confidence, while creating an entry point for their integration into primary education.

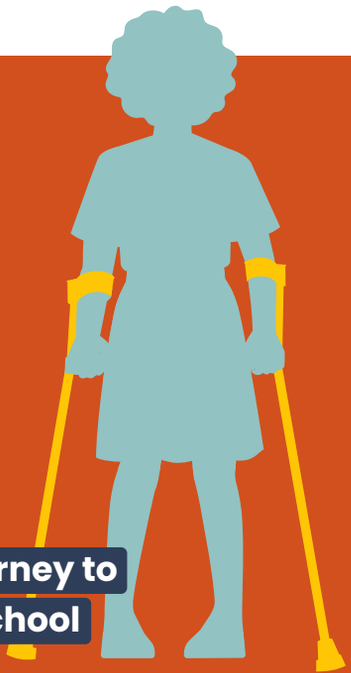


Through our current projects

We enrolled **288** young children with disabilities into early childhood education

We enrolled **219** parents of children with disabilities into parent support groups

We trained **106** teachers in disability inclusive teaching methods



Faith's journey to primary school

Faith is a seven-year-old girl who lives in a village in one of our project districts with her family. When she was three years old, she contracted cerebral malaria, which led to her developing a physical impairment. This impacted her ability to move independently, particularly her ability to walk.

As part of our Early Childhood Education project, **Faith started attending the inclusive play scheme at her local Community Centre**, where she was able to play with other children and develop critical motor skills, social skills, pre-numeracy and literacy skills. Faith also attended a screening programme where physical and occupational therapists were able to suggest ways she could be supported. As a result, parallel bars were installed in her home so she could practise walking independently and her parents were taught physiotherapy exercises to help Faith build her strength in a safe environment.

Through the inclusive play scheme, **Faith has met new friends and has grown in confidence**. As a result of the support she received, Faith has now successfully transitioned to primary school along with her peers and **continues to thrive in school**.

"There is a **great improvement in Faith**. We are now very hopeful because the changes we have seen."

Faith's mother

Zambia

We began working in Zambia with **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities** (ZAPCD) in 2020.

Since then, we have worked together to understand the barriers children with disabilities face in accessing inclusive education in the country and have developed a new inclusive education programme.

In Zambia, it is estimated there are just over 1 million people with disabilities, which equates to 7.2% of the population. No policy or statement which outlines the need for inclusive education exists in Zambia. As few as 22% of children with disabilities are in Early Childhood Education, 52% are in in primary education and only 12% are recorded as having completed secondary education. The needs of children with disabilities are not fully considered in government plans, with national data and evidence desperately needed to influence the government to address the needs of children with disabilities.



What we're proud of

Our new three-year Early Learning Programme in partnership with Vitol Foundation, **ensures young children with disabilities have equitable access to Early Childhood Education**. Working across six pre-primary schools in in the east of the country, the project is tackling the barriers children with disabilities face. Activities in the first year of the project have targeted parents, teachers, government officials and community leaders, while child-centred activities have encouraged children with and without disabilities to better support each other.

The project has also seen the **formation of Parent Support Groups, which equip parents with the knowledge and skills to provide Early Childhood Education support at homes**. The six centres will become 'centres of excellence' through teacher trainings, the incorporation of inclusive play and the use of Individualised Education Plans. A community awareness campaign has started to create greater demand for inclusive Early Childhood Education, while local and national advocacy activities have targeted government decision makers to realise IECE for children with disabilities.

Training the media on disability inclusive reporting

As part of our Inclusive Early Childhood Education programme in Zambia, we are working with ZAPCD to change the narrative of stigma and misunderstanding that can often surround children with disabilities. To tackle this, the project has included multiple community awareness events and media campaigns to spread awareness about the rights of children with disabilities, especially in their right to access Early Childhood Education.

As part of the programme's media campaign, a multi-day training was organised for media professionals to inform them of the rights of children with disabilities and identify different strategies for reporting on disability in an inclusive and empowering way. The professionals included representatives from both radio and television, covering local and national programming. Over two days, the participants were invited to learn about different models of disability, common myths and misconceptions about disability. At the end, participants organised a press conference where they discussed the rights of children with disabilities, which was broadcast across Zambia on both television and radio.



Through our current projects

We enrolled
94 young children with disabilities
into early childhood education.

We consulted with
13 government officials
throughout the set-up of the project to ensure their buy-in and ownership of the project.

We have supported
68 parents
parents of children with disabilities to register in parent support groups.

Helping Mary to better support her child

Mary is a mother of a child with disabilities who is part of our Early Childhood Education project in Zambia. She is a single parent as her husband left the home shortly after their child was born. Mary had assumed that her child would always stay at home with her due to his disability, as she had no knowledge of other children with disabilities in her village who had attended school.

However, when Mary's child was three years old, she was contacted by ZAPCD about the **inclusive childhood education programme in her local community centre**. Despite her initial reservations, and after discussing it with the teachers, Mary agreed to enrol her son in the centre for a few hours per day.

Mary immediately began to see a change in her son's confidence and progress in his speech. Mary became more active and **got involved in the project's Parent Support Group, where she was able to share her experiences with other parents in her community**. As part of the group, Mary also joined a savings group and received financial training, to help raise funds to be used to support their children.

Since their involvement in the project, Mary has greatly appreciated the positive changes she has seen in her son, but in addition, she has seen the benefit of the project's advocacy and awareness raising activities, which have changed the way her community treats her and her son. **The Parent Support Group has given her a renewed sense of belonging and confidence to raise her son**. Mary's story has shown the power of involving parents and communities to help support children with disabilities to access IECE.

"This project has really changed the way I see my child. I really used to feel hopeless, and no one gave me respect. Now when people see me attending meetings and workshops and my child going to school, **they ask me how I did it**."

Mary – Parent of a child with disability



"The project has **changed our attitude towards Peace's participation in education**. We better understand that a child with a disability has all the same rights as any other child."

– Peace's Father

Peace's story

Peace is a joyful and energetic six-year-old girl, the middle of three siblings. At an early age she was **diagnosed with Down Syndrome** which can sometimes make **communication a challenge**.

Peace's parents didn't know how best to support her, and for much of Peace's early life, she was not allowed to interact with other children and kept close to home. Her parents had limited resources to support and unaware of what rights Peace had, she was not enrolled into early education. Peace was in danger of falling behind.





This is where Able Child Africa came in.

Through our project, **Peace and her family were approached with information of the new Inclusive Early Childhood Education project** being implemented across her community. Following conversations with the project staff, Peace's parents agreed to enrol her in the centre. Once at the centre, Peace reacted positively to the environment and quickly began to **interact more freely with other children and started to make friends**. Her parents were also informed of financial support they were entitled to and were able to source funds and equipment to help her attend school.

Peace's parents attitude to their daughter's disability has changed entirely. Peace's father now chairs his local Parent Support Group and leads them to collectively improve their community's awareness and understanding of their children's rights and needs.

Advocating for Change

We are committed to raising awareness of the unique barriers that children with disabilities face and **actively advocate for recognition of their rights** and the **funding associated with their inclusion**.



We believe our partners are best placed to advocate locally and seek to strengthen their capacity to influence change. As such we work primarily through our partners to advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities in local policies, procedures and budgets. We stand alongside them to hold their governments to account for their stated obligations and commitments as outlined in national charters, constitutions and international frameworks and ensure it is them, not Able Child Africa who are recognised for projects that deliver local advocacy. We also work with partners to deliver local community level campaigns and awareness raising strategies to ensure children with disabilities grow up in supportive unprejudiced environments.

This year, our partners have we have had some significant success in **influencing** and **strengthening national level policies.**

In **Uganda**, USDC have been able to gain further support from the District Inspector of Schools in Lira, with Inspector agreeing to use the Individualised Learning Plans (ILPs) developed in the project across all schools in Lira. USDC visit the district education department on a monthly basis to ensure officials are updated regularly, with further awareness raised through involving officials in project trainings, government working groups and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) meetings.

In **Kenya**, as a result of continued lobbying activities and the establishment of two Community Based Rehabilitation groups, which bring together government officials, education and other professionals, parents and community members, there have been several successes with officials. Several children have received additional support, such as bursaries and assistive devices. Parents have also received additional training and grants to strengthen their businesses, with this income in turn support the inclusion of their children with disabilities in schools.

In **Tanzania**, Child Support Tanzania (CST) continue to be a leading voice in Tanzanian civil society for the inclusive education of children with disabilities. This year, CST have continued to be recognised by the government as a model centre of excellence for disability inclusive education, with government officials in Mbeya bringing their visitors to the CST school as a way of demonstrating the district government's commitment to inclusive education. CST continue to be consulted by national government on guiding the implementation plans of the National Strategy for Inclusive Education (NSIE) 2022-26 period, which they supported the initial development of. Advocacy continues to be high on CST's agenda, with several opportunities capitalised on to maximise their impact and subsequent awareness raising of disability inclusive education for children with disabilities.



In **Rwanda**, as part of our inclusive child protection programme, our partner UWEZO have continually engaged with local government officials to ensure their support for making Rwanda's child protection systems more disability inclusive. As a result, the officials have helped to facilitate the identification of children and youth with disabilities in their communities and have attended community meetings to talk about the importance of protecting and empowering children with disabilities. UWEZO have also created a system with local government officials to rapidly share information about safeguarding and child protection issues, allowing officials to draw on UWEZO's expertise to enable more disability-sensitive responses to child protection cases involving children with disabilities.
In Malawi, our partner FEDOMA have been working closely with the district governments in the project regions to support the design of the District Development Plan (DDP), which will guide all development activities in the districts over the next five years. FEDOMA have been brought on to the DDP committee as disability inclusion experts and have been advocating to ensure the DDP is inclusive of children and youth with disabilities. FEDOMA have also led on disability inclusion trainings for the team who will oversee the DDP's implementation to ensure the plan is rolled out in a disability sensitive way. This will have a huge impact on the inclusion of many people with disabilities in the regions who will benefit from the many development activities over the course of the next five years.

In **Zambia**, we have engaged with government officials during the first year of our Inclusive Early Childhood Education programme to ensure their support for the programme's outcomes. Representatives from multiple government departments have shared commitments to better include children with disabilities in Early Childhood Education across Chadiza district. Our partner ZAPCD have supported the establishment of a disability inclusion committee involving several government departments, which will serve as an accountability mechanism to ensure these commitments are carried out.

My daughter has brought great changes in her community. She has taught us to see that children with disabilities can achieve great things.

Mother of a beneficiary of our work

We have been able to build a national network of advocates; young people with disabilities empowered to campaign for their rights.

Youth Mentor and Advocate in Rwanda



Financial Report

Overview

Able Child Africa's total income this year was £1,035,086 which represents a growth of 50% from the previous financial year.
This is comprised of £626,604 in restricted funding (including grants) and £408,482 in unrestricted flexible funding.

Total expenditure this year was £909,023, which is a 23% growth from the previous financial year.

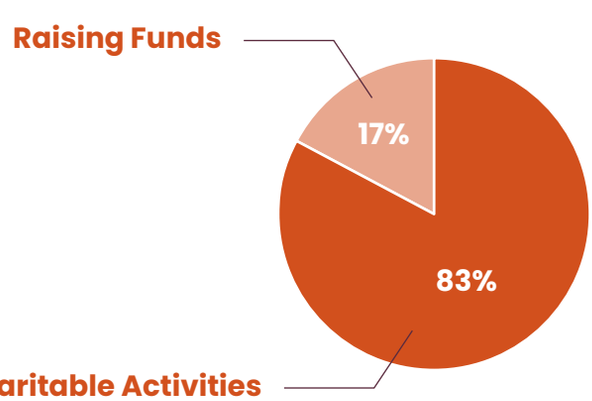
Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds**
Income	£408,482	£626,604	£1,035,086
Expenditure	£382,271	£526,752	£909,023
Net Income (Expenditure)	£26,211	£99,852	£126,063

Spending on Charitable Activities

Expenditure Split	Charitable Activities	Raising Funds	**Total Expenditure**
Total	£748,661	£160,362	£909,023

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to **83p for every pound** raised and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing.



Reserves

We ended March 2023 with £225,593 of unrestricted reserves, well above our 6-months reserves target. We have continued to maintain a strong unrestricted reserves position throughout this unstable period and predict a growth in our unrestricted income levels over the next year.

Our full report and accounts are available at this end of this report.

Celebrating You

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Patrons

We are lucky to have some amazing patrons who continue to support our work and raise the profile of what we do. We want to thank Anne Wafula-Strike, Ellie Robinson, Keith Nethercot and Emeli Sandé for all their support over the last year and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Our Ambassadors

There are a small group of people who go above and beyond in their support of our work. Our Ambassadors are incredibly dedicated individuals who understand the importance of our work and are willing to back us on a personal basis and over a long period of time. We want to say a huge thank you to Azad Ayub, to Clare Persey, to Vijay Parikh for your unwavering support and personal connection to what we do. Your support is not taken for granted and we are proud to call you part of the Able Child Africa family.

Our Corporate Supporters

We are very fortunate to have some amazing corporate partners, whose continued support through a challenging environment over the last few years has been vital. To The Exile Group, to Dan Sheriff, Dom Kloiber, Katy Rose and Hesham Zakai and all the team, a huge thank you not only for your continued generosity of support, but your willingness to make us part of your family. The Exile Group currently provide us with an office space free of charge, which means a significant saving to the charity and means more money can get to where it is needed most.

To PenCarrie, thank you for once again not only continuing your support but for increasing your support and commitment to the work we do. It means a lot.

To Hassell Inclusion, to Rosnah and Jonathan Hassell for quietly providing an incredibly generous and long-term commitment to the charity and buying in to what we do. Your support is valuable, and it is great to have you with us on this journey.

To American Century and Paul Harrison, who have now provided five years of support through their grant donation and matching scheme, allowing us to build a base on which we hope to be able to grow our support in the US.

To Cargill and Juwon Sofola for your significant and continued annual donation towards our work.

We would also like to thank everyone that donates their services free of charge or at reduced rates to help us keep our costs down and ensure as much money as possible goes to where it is needed most. A big thank you to the team at Penelope for their IT support; to Raihan Islam, Bakhtiyar Islam and everyone at Iirth for their brand and website support; to Michèle Renée Creative for design support; and to Peter Weiss at Simon Muirhead Burton for pro-bono legal advice a huge thank you.

Our Challenge Takers

Every year we are so lucky to have an amazing group of fundraisers who take on the challenge of the London Marathon and raise funds for our work. This year, we had another big team with 38 runners. We want to thank each and every one of you that ran and raised money for us this year. We know how difficult both parts of that challenge can be and it was great to be able to cheer you all on, on the day.

We also want to say a special thank you to a few of you who went the extra step this year. To Krishan Basra, who raised an incredible sum of over £7,500 for Able Child Africa - a huge achievement. To Edward Joudrey, who ran for us for the second year in a row and as well as raising over £3,700. And to Alastair Cotterell and Steve Leighfield who both went above board in raising over £2,500. We also send a special thank you to David Cowie, Gary Cowie, and young Raf who independently raised over £2,000 during a five-day cycle across Holland, from the Hook to Amsterdam. The funds and awareness you raised are hugely appreciated. Thank you.

Our Individual Supporters

There are so many of you that support our work. From regular monthly donations to spreading the news of our work. Each and every one of you is an inspiration and we thank you for the role you play in changing the lives of children with disabilities. A special thank you goes out to Cath Ford and Tony Shubrook, Steve Smith, Heather Barr, Tunji Akintokun, Patricia Balogun and Kunle Fagbenro for supporting us for so long and for your unwavering support to help us achieve our mission.

Celebrating You

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Trustees

None of what we do would be possible without the support of an incredibly passionate Board of Trustees, who all give up their time to make us a better organisation. We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive and engaged group of individuals who create a positive environment that allows the organisation to flourish.

So, to our UK Board - to Jim Sellars who has been a driving force as Chair over the past three years. To Mitul Shah as Treasurer, Martin Hill, Emily Bueno, Cat Carter, Maria Omare, Miiro Michael, Bharat Mehta and Abigail Viljoen we want to say a massive thank you for everything that you do, we couldn't do it without you.

We also want to thank our US Board of Trustees, who are working very hard to help us establish our base in the US. To Paul Harrison, Liz Macfadyen, Rachelle Gregory and Neil Hankinson, a huge thank you for the time, energy and commitment to help us build something new, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Our Staff

And finally, a huge thank you to the whole staff team, who work tirelessly to bring to life the vision of the charity. We are very lucky to have such a passionate, hardworking, and skilled team, who help drive forward the organisation to make it what it is. We think they are all great and would like to thank them for making Able Child Africa feel like a family and a positive place to work.

We would like to thank the following donors for their support in the last year

American Century Investments
Azad Ayub Ltd.
The Bartlett Foundation
Book Aid International
Cargill
Comic Relief
Euromoney Institutional Investors
Exile Group
Hassell Inclusion
Irma Skeeles Legacy
James Tudor Foundation
Network for Social Change
PenCarrie
Rangoonwala Foundation
Souter Charitable Trust
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust
The British and Foreign Schools Society
The Marr Munning Trust
Tula Trust
Vitol Foundation



Looking Ahead:
Our 2030 Strategy

> With a changing landscape comes a changing role for Able Child in how to **best support children with disabilities** in Africa.

For the last 40 years Able Child has been part of a progressive change to support African organisations working to improve the lives of children with disabilities. As our reach grew over the last ten years, we began a process to analyse what our role has been, what it is now and what it should be in the future.

Following an extensive 18-month consultation and review process, we have developed a new way forward. A direction that creates an organisation that is fit for purpose, that builds a model aligned with the interests of our current partners in Africa, and ensures we are best placed to achieve our vision of ensuring no child with a disability is left behind.

This is our 2030 Strategy.

We are undergoing an **operational shift**. Able Child has always been a 'vehicle' for African registered organisations to build expertise, access funding and to advocate for change. Our new strategy takes this role to the next logical step as we transition ourselves into a **network**, cementing our partners at the centre of who we are.

This is a journey that will begin with the incubation of the new network model within our current structure, ensuring a supportive environment for the network to learn and grow. Once up and running, the network will have greater decision making over the organisation and decide how we prioritise our activities. At the same time, we will be expanding to new regions, confirming our presence in Southern Africa as well as expanding into West Africa, as we look form a wider network across Africa.

To support this growth, we will embark on an international expansion of our operations. The new strategy will see a significant expansion in our activities in the US as we look to build new funding partners and influence in the run up to 2030. Following the expansion in the US we will then look for future growth opportunities as we raise the profile of the brand so we can secure more fundings and have greater influence on the international stage.

We have identified two strategic priorities. We want to have greater reach and expand our influence across Africa, and we believe transitioning to a network model is the best way to achieve this.

Growth & Influence

Expanding our reach and impact across Africa, working with more organisations in more countries.

Expansion of our income portfolio outside the UK, moving first into the US and then looking at future opportunities.

Raising the profile of the organisational brand, so we have greater influence on the international stage.

Building a Network

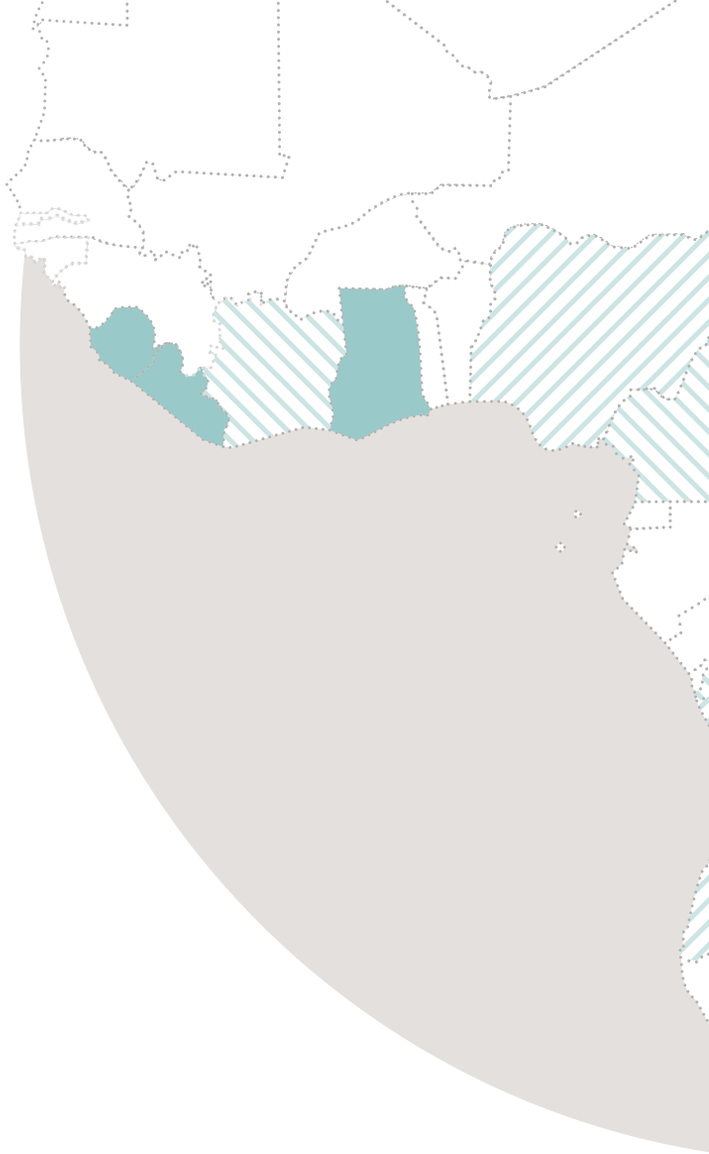
Implementation of a new network model, for African organisations supporting children with disabilities.

Creation of a new body or structure that meaningfully shifts power to member organisations within the network.

Development of a powerful joint voice to speak with expertise on the issues of children with disabilities.

Able Child Africa Network

We are implementing a new network model to bring together the leading African based organisations working with and for children with disabilities across the continet.



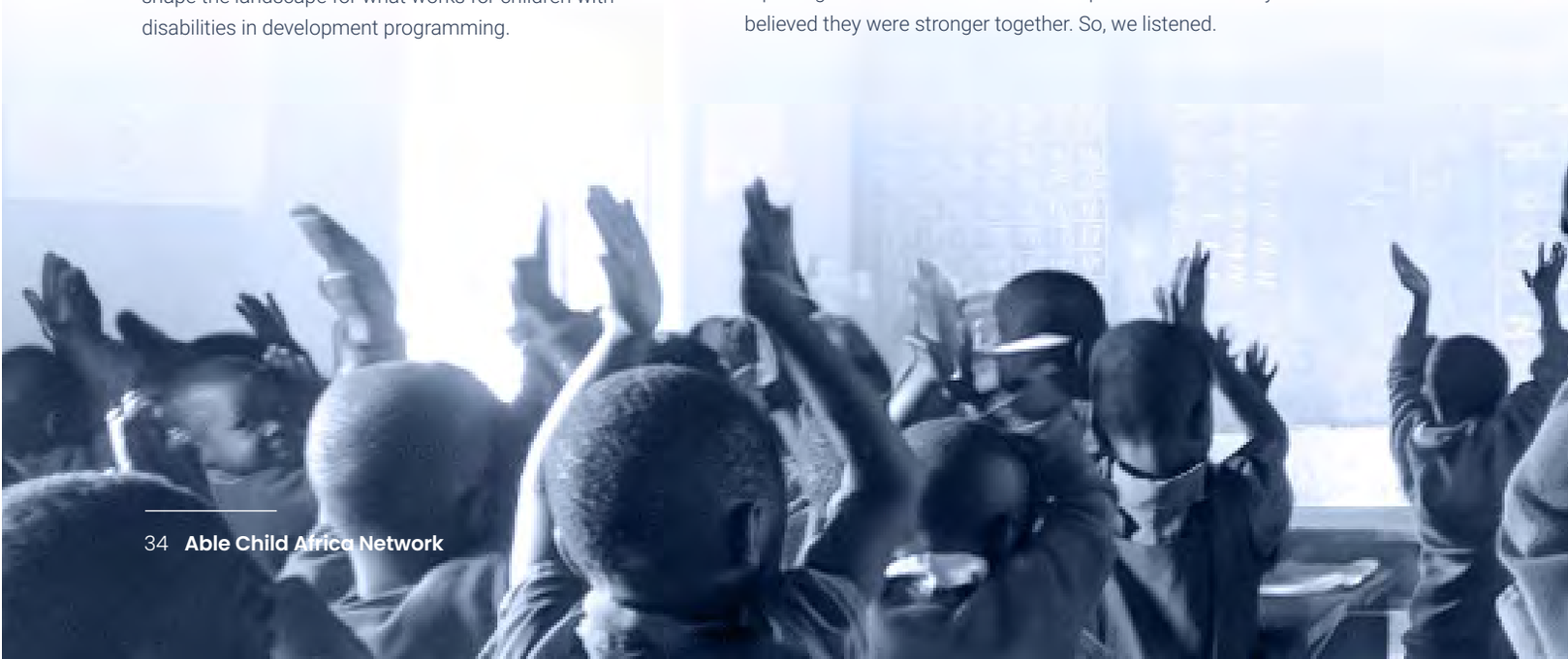
Why we need the network

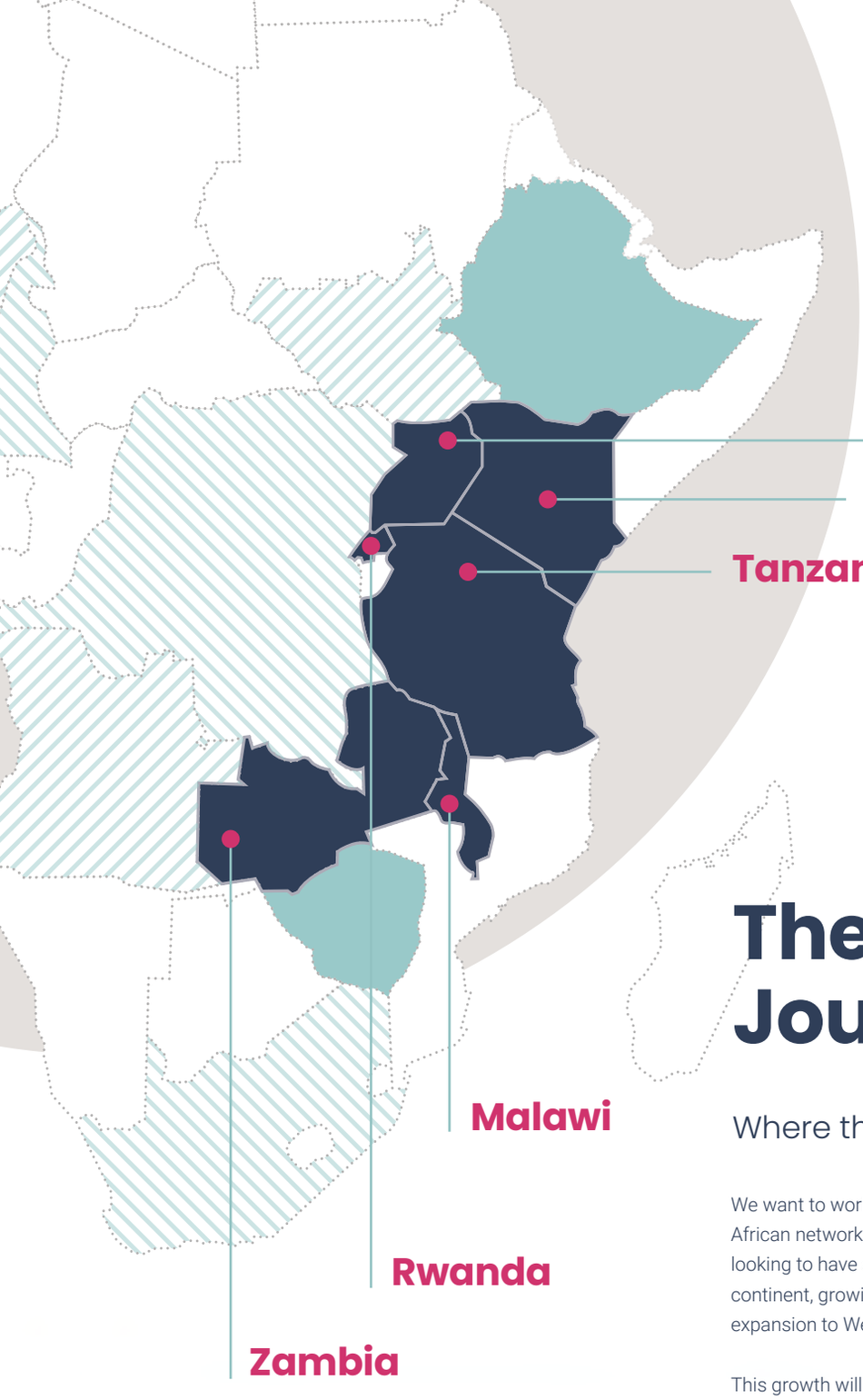
Broaden our impact.
Principally we want to do more. We are really proud of our partnership model and it has been a strong driver of our success over recent years. But we believe we can achieve greater impact as a wider network of likeminded organisations across Africa.

Positioning ourselves.
We will be the leading network working solely to improve the lives of children with disabilities in Africa. We will bring the expertise from the best African-registered NGOs to shape the landscape for what works for children with disabilities in development programming.

Changing landscape.
There have been social shifts in relation to our work that requires us to change. The anti-racism movement, alongside dialogues about unequal power-dynamics and outdated, colonial approaches to development brings with it a need to be self-critical and a responsibility to adapt to new ways of working.

Listening to our partners.
Our partners told us they wanted to do things differently. They want to take the lead and make decisions about how we support and allocate our funds. They wanted to challenge extractive reporting and to have direct relationships with donors. They believed they were stronger together. So, we listened.





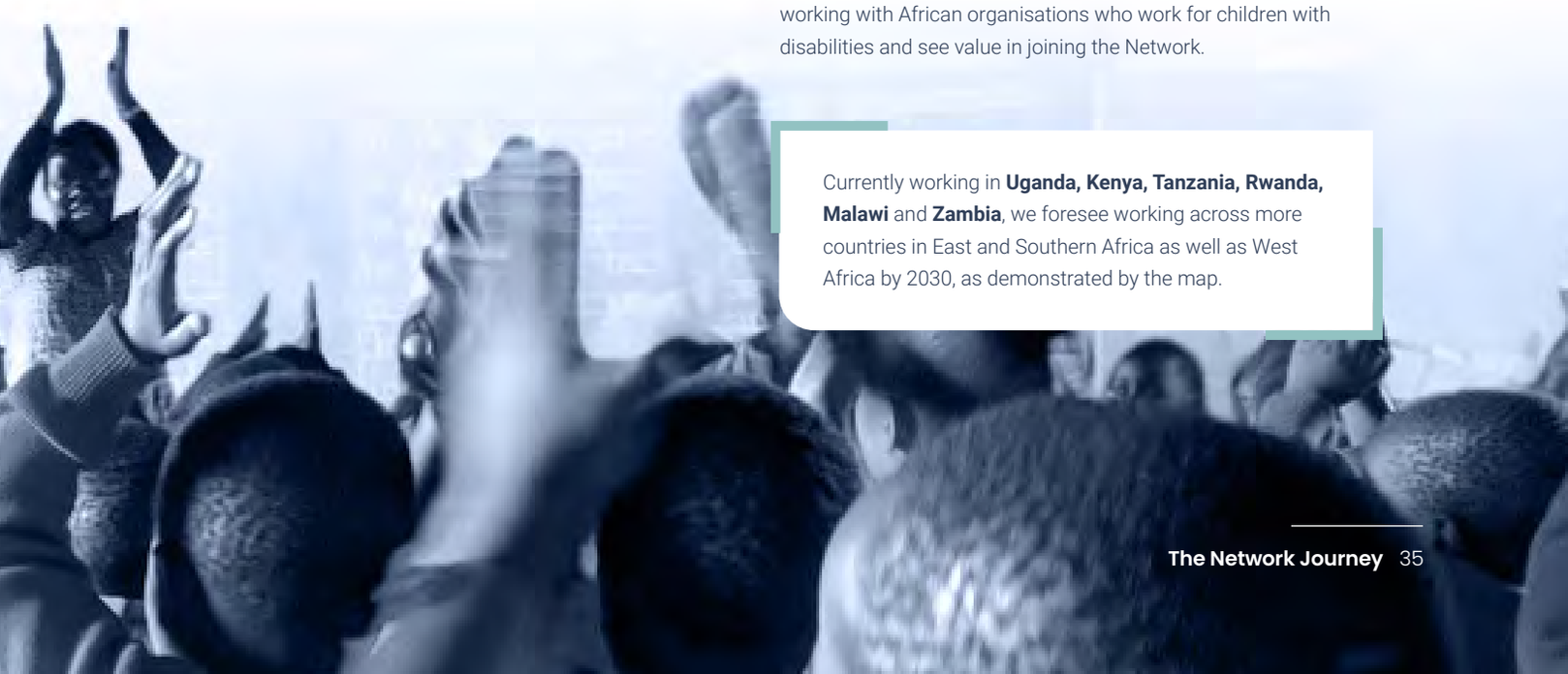
The Network Journey

Where the network will operate.

We want to work across Africa. In order to be a fully representative African network, we need to broaden our reach. By 2030 we are looking to have active members in at least three regions on the continent, growing our presence in Southern Africa, alongside an expansion to West Africa.

This growth will be led by the network themselves, who will choose how and where we grow. Our priority will always be focussed on working with African organisations who work for children with disabilities and see value in joining the Network.

Currently working in **Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi** and **Zambia**, we foresee working across more countries in East and Southern Africa as well as West Africa by 2030, as demonstrated by the map.



Safe. Thriving. Heard.



Safe.

We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are protected and included in their communities.

Thriving.

We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to an education and the services they need to succeed.

Heard.

We work with children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, amplifying their voice to demand their own inclusion.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with Able Child Africa's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



1. Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Legal Status

Able Child Africa is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, not having a share capital, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (company number 01861434). The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). Able Child Africa was previously known as the Uganda Society for Children with Disabilities.

1.2 Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Able Child Africa for the purposes of Company law) who held office during the financial year are set out in this document. They represent a diverse skill set with experience in finance, law, HR and the third sector, including programme delivery, safeguarding and advocacy. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair, James Sellars. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by the CEO, Karl Hankinson. The CEO also acts as Company Secretary. During the year two Trustees left the Board, and one new Trustee was appointed. One further Trustee was appointed in July 2023.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in Able Child Africa's Articles of Association, which allow for appointment at any time. New trustees are nominated by current members of the Board of Trustees, following an open and competitive recruitment process, and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, Trustees undergo a thorough induction process. Trustees do not receive any remuneration but may claim for incidental expenses, such as travel to board meetings.

The full Board meets on a quarterly basis. We also have one sub-committee, the Resources Sub-Committee that meets quarterly to oversee finance, unrestricted fundraising and give recommendations to the board. The Resources Sub-Committee has its own identified terms of reference, nominated chair and reports to the full board. The chair of the Resources Sub-committee is currently Martin Hill, appointed in March 2020.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for setting and maintaining the strategic direction of Able Child Africa, setting policies and managing resources, risk and staffing. Trustees ensure appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed, and they review the Articles of Association, last revised in 2017, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. They carefully monitor finances to ensure viability and sustainability of existing commitments and future plans; they oversee decisions relating to non-budgeted commitments in excess of £1,000; and budgeted commitments in excess of £5,000. Trustees also oversee and ensure compliance of statutory and legal requirements, both internally within Able Child Africa as well as to our beneficiaries and donors.

The Board oversees staff remuneration and sets the pay scales and any benefits package, currently limited only to pension payments, for the organisation. Salary scales are benchmarked using the Croner Charity Rewards Report, which provides the most comprehensive set of data on salary and benefit packages for the Charity Sector in the UK. The last pay scale review was completed in 2017 and amended in 2020.

1.3 Staffing

Able Child Africa maintains a small staff team in the UK. For most of the financial year we had eleven staff members, which included the Chief Executive, a Director of of Impact & Advocacy, a Head of Fundraising & Communications, a Programmes Manager, a Senior Programme Officer, a Programme Officer, a Finance & Operations Manager, a Programmes Funding Officer, an Individual Giving & Events Officer and a Trusts & Foundations Executive. We also had one part-time Advocacy & Communications Assistant for the full year.

Able Child Africa is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equality of opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are also proud to be a registered 'disability confident' committed employer. In our recruitment processes we particularly encourage applications from people with disabilities and people with direct experience of living or working with children with disabilities; those meeting essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

1.4 Fundraising Performance

Following our prior year drop in grant funding due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2022/23 saw us rebound and deliver our highest annual income total to date, with over £1million of total income. We saw our second-best unrestricted income result, with over £400,000 secured for the year, a level which is expected to be maintained in 2023/24.

We also have over £300,000 of multi-year grants secured for delivery for 2023/24 already and we are in a strong position to deliver against our strategic objectives with a similar income level to 2022/23 predicted. There are still challenges in securing continued large scale grant funding over the next strategic cycle and have invested in our fundraising team in order to diversify our fundraising to ensure our sustainability over this period. This is part of our new 2030 Strategy, which we are launching later in 2023.

1.5 Public Benefit Statement

Able Child Africa works for the public benefit through its international development and advocacy work, in support of children with disabilities in Africa.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for this year and those contained in the next Strategic Plan.

Our charitable object as outlined in the Articles of Association is:

> To relieve charitable need, promote health, advance education and promote the social integration of disabled children for the public benefit, with a focus on (but without limitation) promoting such disabled children achieving their human, social, cultural and economic rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"), Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UNCRC, the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) by any means the Trustees in their absolute discretion choose and in particular by raising awareness as to the needs of disabled children and advocacy as to how those needs can best be met.

2. Financial Review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 83% of total expenditure. As a small bespoke charity, we recognise the value of every penny donated and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs in order to ensure that we maximise expenditure on charitable activities. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments in order to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and securing our own financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain external environment.

2.1 Income

Able Child Africa's total income this year was £1,035,086 which represents an increase of 50% from the previous financial year. This is comprised of £626,604 in restricted funding (including grants) and £408,482 in unrestricted flexible funding.

The higher proportion of income (61%) for the financial year was restricted through grants from institutional donors and corporate partnerships. including Comic Relief, and Vitol Foundation - see note 4 for more details.

Unrestricted income amounted to 41% of total income, which was raised from individual donors, through unrestricted corporate support from TXF, The Bartlett Foundation, Cargill Financial Services Europe Ltd, PenCarrie, Hassell Inclusion and American Century Investments; and through our fundraising events including our annual gala fundraising event and the London Marathon.

2.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure this year was £909,023 which is a 23% increase from the previous financial year. Restricted expenditure totalled £526,752, which was spent delivering projects to benefit children with disabilities in Africa; these are detailed in note 6.

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to 83p for every pound raised, and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs. Our fundraising costs, 17p for every pound raised, are kept as low as possible whilst still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year cost of raising funds primarily includes fundraising staff time. Support costs, which cannot be solely attributed to either charitable or fundraising expenditure, are allocated in proportion to estimated staff time spent on each activity.

2.3 Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts.

The reserves policy states that the organisation should hold a minimum of 3-months of unrestricted expenditure at all times, with the aim to maintain reserves at a level above 6-months unrestricted expenditure. This decision is overseen by the Resources Sub-Committee.

Based on the 2022/23 budget this indicated a target reserves of £191k. Having carried forward unrestricted reserves of £199,382 at the start of the year, we ended March 2023 with £225,593 of unrestricted reserves.

2.4 Going Concern

The Trustees reaffirm that Able Child Africa is a going concern, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next 12-months. While the external environment over the last three years has been difficult, we have maintained a strong unrestricted reserves position throughout this period (above six-months reserves) and have demonstrated an ability to grow our unrestricted income base.

While we have just recorded our biggest year, we still foresee challenges with restricted grant-based funding. However, our expansion into the US and diversification of our unrestricted income portfolio should ensure we continue the growth trajectory seen over the last ten years; a move that will ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of our organisation going forward.

2.5 Voluntary Help and Gifts in Kind

We would like to thank all our generous volunteers and supporters for their work this year. We would like to thank the Exile Group for their continued in-kind support, most notably providing us with a long-term office space; and Simons Muirhead Burton for providing us with pro-bono legal support. We would also like to thank Kunle Fagbenro and every person and company that donated a prize or service for our events auctions.

2.6 Investment Policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. At the present time we do not have any funds invested but may review this position in future should resources allow.

3. Risk Management Statement

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that Able Child Africa has the appropriate systems of control in place, financial and otherwise. Through the implementation of the Strategic Risk Register, the Trustees interrogate and proactively seek to reduce, eliminate or mitigate risks. The major risks to which Able Child Africa is exposed to are identified by the senior management team and nominated board members and reviewed by all Trustees at each quarterly board meeting.

The Trustees remain satisfied that current internal systems provide reasonable assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. At present the Trustees consider the two most significant risks are around financial sustainability and preventing child safeguarding incidents. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are summarised below.

Risk of insufficient funding and economic instability preventing us from delivering against our mission

In the current climate, risk to income, both restricted and unrestricted is high. At present we have a strong unrestricted reserves position, with over 6-months reserves at March 2023 and a stable unrestricted income portfolio. This has helped us manage navigate the turbulent period over the last three years. However, the risk of a sustained reduction in grant-based funding remains high in the sector. While this wouldn't affect our continued operations, it would affect our ability to make impact on scale. Changes in grant donor arrangements or preferences, particularly regarding our largest and most regular donors, could have a significant impact on our output. At present we have approximately £300k of funding already secured for the next year but are working to identify new donors and diversify our funding streams. We are preparing for this new external environment with the launch of our new strategy as we look at how we future proof our organisation as the donor landscape changes. All this has been done collaboratively and transparently with the Board of Trustees to ensure proper oversight and a strategic response to a changing situation. Financial oversight is provided by the Treasurer (monthly) and Resources Sub-Committee (quarterly) who review rolling cash flow projections and annual budgets. This regular monitoring ensures we regularly monitor performance against targets, as well as implement strategic shifts early when required.

Risk of compliance in the implementation of projects by our partners

Able Child Africa's strategy and theory of change both clearly lay out why we have chosen to work as a network of African-led organisations. Principally, we believe we are a vehicle for African organisations to achieve higher impact; we also believe this offers greater value for money to our donors. However, taking responsibility for the implementation of projects by our African partners, particularly where we are the primary grant holder, carries financial and reputational risk. We seek to mitigate this risk by developing collaborative, working relationships and transparent lines of communication; and having in place overarching Network and Grant Agreements. Our Programmes Team also conduct multiple in-person visits each year to check compliance of grants and improve systems. During these visits, the team regularly review activity delivery and project expenditure for specific grants, interrogating the quality of delivery and spend against outcomes. Project specific risk registers are developed collaboratively for each project; these inform Able Child Africa's overall risk register and are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. We have also developed a bespoke Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, as well as a summary for the organisations we represent, which is in compliance with the UK Bribery Act 2010.

Risk of safeguarding incident causing harm to one or more of the vulnerable people we work with

As an organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, Able Child Africa understands the importance of our role in their safeguarding. We also understand the threat of an incident involving one of our or our partner's staff, volunteers, or Trustees. While we do everything in our power to minimise the risk involving a staff member,

volunteer or Trustee, we accept that due to the nature of our work, there is an increased likelihood of the witnessing or reporting of abuse. We aim to deal with this risk in an honest and transparent way that puts the child or vulnerable adult at the centre of any action. We updated all our safeguarding policies and procedures in 2023, to ensure they are not only fit for purpose, but best practice. These procedures outline the measures in place to reduce a safeguarding incident that affects a child or vulnerable adult; and to appropriately act on any reported incident or suspicion of abuse. We have robust recruitment processes, with DBS checks on all staff, Trustees and volunteers upon appointment. All our staff are trained in safeguarding with regular team workshops where staff can discuss thoughts and facilitate learning and we have recruited a safeguarding professional onto the board as the nominated lead.

Risk of loss of business continuity through unexpected sudden departure of key members of the team

The success of Able Child Africa's results and impact lies with its small and dedicated staff team. The unplanned and sudden loss or departure of staff therefore places a risk to our ability to operate efficiently, particularly given the size of the team. To mitigate this, we have taken a number of steps both to improve staff retention and to ensure the loss of institutional knowledge is reduced. Over the course of the last three years, we have placed an emphasis on staff wellbeing and organisational culture to improve staff retention and provide an attractive and supportive environment for staff. To protect institutional knowledge, we have built processes into our CRM system and have started to implement a change in culture to document the organisational knowledge away from individual staff members. We have a comprehensive Business Continuity Policy which works to ensure we are well-equipped to manage this risk, particularly in the current unstable external environment.

Risk to Able Child Africa staff or volunteer safety during travel

Although Able Child Africa does not currently work in conflict areas, political instability, violence and kidnapping risks associated with travel to our chosen countries cannot be completely eliminated. We take our duty of care to our staff, Trustees and volunteers very seriously through robust travel policies and procedures to identify security risks and provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against any occurrence. Ahead of each trip the Programmes Manager undertakes an internal risk assessment, documents travel plans and movements, and provides a travel briefing. Staff, Trustees and volunteers who travel have access to a security and emergency travel app on the smartphone they are provided for travel and this is available to download on personal devices. Our latest security procedure review and staff training was undertaken in 2021/22 following the pandemic, with a new Travel Safety and Security Policy developed following an internal review.

Risk of ineffective management of staff, volunteers, supporters' and/or beneficiaries' personal data

As a small organisation with limited resource to cover IT infrastructure, we understand the potential risks of ineffective IT systems or a cyber security attack that leads to a potential data breach. As part of the GDPR regulations, Able Child Africa has improved its IT policies, systems and infrastructure to better ensure that individual's data held by Able Child Africa is consensual, relevant for its purpose and secure. We have revised Data Protection Policies to bring them up to date with GDPR legislation and ensured their effective implementation across the organisation. We have developed new IT Usage and Security Policies and Procedures to provide effective guidelines to staff on using IT and people's data within the organisation. We have developed a data register outlining the data we collect, the purpose for collecting it and where it is stored. Staff receive annual Data Protection training and we review our data retention policies annually. We have developed Privacy Notices for all stakeholders to the organisation, including staff and Trustees. All our Privacy Notices and practices underwent an external review by a specialist law firm in 2020 to ensure we are fully GDPR compliant. This is due for review and update end 2023.

4. Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2023 was eight. The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd were appointed as the charitable company's auditors in 2017 and have acted in that capacity for the last five years. They have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 07 October 2023:

James sellars

James Sellars – Chair

Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Able Child Africa
Report and Audited Financial Statements
31 March 2023

Able Child Africa

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Company number	01861434
Charity number	326859
Registered office and operational address	Unit 6 Madeira Tower 34 Ponton Road London SW11 7BA
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Heather Barr	resigned 29 November 2022
Emily Bueno	
Catherine Carter	
Martin Hill	
Bharat Mehta	appointed 17 September 2022
Miiro Michael	
Maria Omare	
Catherine Turner	resigned 8 July 2022
James Sellars	
Mitul Shah	
Abigail Viljoen	appointed 15 July 2023

Company secretary and CEO	Karl Hankinson	
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ	Barclays Bank 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Solicitors	Bates Wells & Braithwaite 2-6 Cannon Street London EC4M 6YH	
Auditors	Godfrey Wilson Limited 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD	

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Able Child Africa (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the Trustees' report, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

(1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.

(2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:

- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:

- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alison Godfrey

Date: 9 October 2023

Alison Godfrey FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
GODFREY WILSON LIMITED
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Able Child Africa

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2023 Total £**	2022 Total £
Income from:					
Donations	3	-	349,609	**349,609**	233,619
Charitable activities	4	626,604	36,505	**663,109**	436,832
Other trading income	5	-	19,078	**19,078**	18,253
Investments		-	3,290	**3,290**	67
Total income		626,604	408,482	**1,035,086**	688,771
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	160,362	**160,362**	125,215
Charitable activities		526,752	221,909	**748,661**	612,430
Total expenditure	6	526,752	382,271	**909,023**	737,645
Net income / (expenditure) and movement in funds	8	99,852	26,211	**126,063**	(48,874)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		245,473	199,382	**444,855**	493,729
Total funds carried forward		345,325	225,593	**570,918**	444,855

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Able Child Africa

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	£	**2023** **£**	2022 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		**3,974**	-
Current assets				
Debtors	12	**123,152**		36,677
Cash at bank and in hand		**459,721**		424,518
		582,873		461,195
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	13	**(15,929)**		(16,340)
Net current assets			**566,944**	444,855
Net assets	14		**570,918**	444,855
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			**345,325**	245,473
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds			**-**	17,764
General funds			**225,593**	181,618
Total charity funds			**570,918**	444,855

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 7 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by

James sellars

James Sellars - Chair

Able Child Africa

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	**126,063**	(48,874)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**-**	1,869
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**(3,290)**	(67)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	**(86,475)**	3,374
Decrease in creditors	**(411)**	(1,872)
Net cash used in operating activities	**35,887**	(45,570)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(3,974)**	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**3,290**	67
Net cash provided by investing activities	**(684)**	67
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**35,203**	(45,503)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**424,518**	470,021
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**459,721**	424,518

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Able Child Africa meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of earned income, sales, and consultancy is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Grants payable

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure on the earlier of a) when the charity has a present obligation to transfer resources; and b) when the charity ceases to control the resource (e.g. via transfering funds to the grant recipient).

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of staff numbers, as follows:

	2023	2022
Raising funds	**27%**	18%
Charitable activities	**73%**	82%

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computers, database and website	3 years straight line
Furniture and fittings	5 years straight line

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

q) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1(j).

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2022 Total £**
Income from:			
Donations	-	233,619	**233,619**
Charitable activities	436,832	-	**436,832**
Other trading income	-	18,253	**18,253**
Investments	-	67	**67**
Total income	436,832	251,939	**688,771**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	125,215	**125,215**
Charitable activities	376,749	235,681	**612,430**
Total expenditure	376,749	360,896	**737,645**
Net income / (expenditure)	60,083	(108,957)	**(48,874)**
Transfers between funds	2,676	(2,676)	**-**
Net movement in funds	62,759	(111,633)	**(48,874)**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

3. Income from donations

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Sponsored challenge events	**134,923**	67,343
Fundraising events and community	**14,222**	16,004
Individual donors	**47,181**	41,487
Corporate donors	**102,733**	93,626
Gifts in kind*	**39,050**	15,159
Legacy income	**11,500**	-
Total	**349,609**	233,619

All donation income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

*Gifts in kind relate to the following goods and services provided free of charge:

	2023 £	2022 £
Rent	**34,800**	14,000
Prizes for gala dinner	**4,250**	1,159
Gifts in kind	**39,050**	15,159

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2023 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Vitol Foundation	272,338	-	**272,338**
Comic Relief	235,897	-	**235,897**
Euromoney	35,000	-	**35,000**
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	**30,000**
The British & Foreign School Society	29,924	-	**29,924**
The Marr Munning Trust	20,170	-	**20,170**
The Network for Social Change	15,775	-	**15,775**
Rangoonwala	12,500	-	**12,500**
Smaller grants < £10,000	5,000	6,505	**11,505**
Total	626,604	36,505	**663,109**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

Prior period comparative

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2022 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Comic Relief	183,994	-	**183,994**
Vitol Foundation	127,959	-	**127,959**
Euromoney	35,000	-	**35,000**
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust	20,000	-	**20,000**
Book Aid International	18,860	-	**18,860**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	13,485	-	**13,485**
The British & Foreign School Society	14,920	-	**14,920**
Smaller grants < £10,000	22,614	-	**22,614**
Total	436,832	-	**436,832**

Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Jersey Overseas Aid Commission to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2023 was £Nil (2022: £18,485). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the prior year.

5. Other trading income

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Auction sales	**11,692**	12,560
Sales income	**7,386**	5,693
	19,078	18,253

All other trading income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2023 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	373,364	-	**373,364**
Staff costs (note 9)	77,686	256,119	33,787	**367,592**
Non-salaried personnel	-	12,824	9,220	**22,044**
Running costs	-	-	53,530	**53,530**
Fundraising and events	52,936	-	-	**52,936**
Governance	-	-	14,722	**14,722**
Programmes and operations	-	24,835	-	**24,835**
Sub-total	130,622	667,142	111,259	**909,023**
Allocation of support and governance costs	29,740	81,519	(111,259)	**-**
Total	160,362	748,661	-	**909,023**

Prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2022 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	268,643	-	**268,643**
Staff costs (note 9)	64,395	242,944	34,553	**341,892**
Non-salaried personnel	-	4,618	2,463	**7,081**
Running costs	-	-	45,326	**45,326**
Fundraising and events	45,006	-	-	**45,006**
Governance	-	-	6,552	**6,552**
Programmes and operations	-	23,145	-	**23,145**
Sub-total	109,401	539,350	88,894	**737,645**
Allocation of support and governance costs	15,814	73,080	(88,894)	**-**
Total	125,215	612,430	-	**737,645**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

7. Grants payable to institutions

Grants were paid to the following overseas partner organisations in pursuit of the charity's objects:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)	**63,411**	68,737
Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)	**38,088**	17,225
Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)	**138,470**	66,229
Child Support Tanzania (CST)	**23,584**	36,145
UWEZO Youth Empowerment	**26,964**	2,822
Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)	**82,847**	77,485
Total	**373,364**	268,643

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	**-**	1,869
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**Nil**	Nil
Auditors' remuneration:		
▪ Statutory audit	**6,360**	5,220
▪ Other services	**300**	300

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**322,384**	303,511
Social security costs	**29,022**	25,699
Pension costs	**14,678**	11,292
Other staff costs	**1,508**	1,390
Total	**367,592**	341,892

One employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2022: one).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel, including gross salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions were £75,494 (2022: £69,909).

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Average head count	**8.90**	8.03

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Computers, database and website	Furniture and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	17,860	666	**18,526**
Additions	3,974	-	**3,974**
Disposals	(1,912)	(666)	**(2,578)**
At 31 March 2023	19,922	-	**19,922**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	17,860	666	**18,526**
On Disposals	(1,912)	(666)	**(2,578)**
At 31 March 2023	15,948	-	**15,948**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	**3,974**	**-**	**3,974**
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-

12. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	**-**	774
Accrued income	**105,758**	15,226
Prepayments	**17,394**	20,657
Other debtors	**-**	20
Total	**123,152**	36,677

13. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**997**	90
Accruals	**6,871**	8,423
Other taxation and social security	**8,061**	7,827
Total	**15,929**	16,340

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,974	**3,974**
Current assets	345,325	237,548	**582,873**
Current liabilities	-	(15,929)	**(15,929)**
Net assets at 31 March 2023	**345,325**	**225,593**	**570,918**

Prior period comparative

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	**-**
Current assets	245,473	17,764	197,958	**461,195**
Current liabilities	-	-	(16,340)	**(16,340)**
Net assets at 31 March 2022	**245,473**	**17,764**	**181,618**	**444,855**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	**At 31 March 2023 £**
Restricted funds				
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation - CST	3,365	-	(3,365)	**-**
Book Aid International - CST	10,063	-	(10,063)	**-**
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	-	14,924	(5,764)	**9,160**
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	-	15,000	(11,866)	**3,134**
Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant	-	15,000	-	**15,000**
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	-	47,500	-	**47,500**
Comic Relief - Organisational Strengthening – USDC	-	30,000	(30,000)	**-**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	37,888	75,179	(81,849)	**31,218**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST	7,615	-	(2,842)	**4,773**
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC	84,796	68,218	(115,804)	**37,210**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	**60**
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO	33,542	35,000	(38,670)	**29,872**
James Tudor Foundation – FEDOMA	2,046	-	(2,046)	**-**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	4,190	-	(2,282)	**1,908**
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	8,506	20,170	(16,684)	**11,992**
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	-	15,775	-	**15,775**
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust - FEDOMA	2,938	-	(2,938)	**-**
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	-	12,500	(16,165)	**(3,665)**
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	53,464	138,424	(124,741)	**67,147**
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	-	133,914	(59,673)	**74,241**
Other Restricted - FEDOMA	(3,000)	5,000	(2,000)	**-**
Total restricted funds	245,473	626,604	(526,752)	**345,325**

15. Movements in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	**At 31 March 2023 £**
Unrestricted funds				
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy	17,764	-	(17,764)	**-**
General funds	181,618	408,482	(364,507)	**225,593**
Total unrestricted funds	199,382	408,482	(382,271)	**225,593**
Total funds	444,855	1,035,086	(909,023)	**570,918**

Prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	**At 31 March 2022 £**
Restricted funds					
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	3,365	-	-	-	**3,365**
Aletheia Foundation	306	-	(306)	-	**-**
The British and Foreign School Society	2,565	14,920	(17,485)	-	**-**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go	40,423	74,108	(76,643)	-	**37,888**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School	(2,153)	9,768	-	-	**7,615**
Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education	6,882	(2,327)	(4,555)	-	**-**
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME!	66,647	102,444	(84,295)	-	**84,796**
The Commonwealth Foundation	67	996	(1,063)	-	**-**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	-	**60**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	(5,001)	5,001	-	-	**-**
Sub-total of restricted funds	113,161	204,910	(184,347)	-	**133,724**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds (continued): prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	**At 31 March 2022 £**
Restricted funds (continued)					
Sub-total of restricted funds from prior page	113,161	204,910	(184,347)	-	**133,724**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding	(2,537)	-	(139)	2,676	**-**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	(3,330)	13,485	(5,965)	-	**4,190**
Laureus Foundation	756	4,528	(5,284)	-	**-**
The Marr-Munning Trust	23,893	-	(15,387)	-	**8,506**
Network for Social Change	3,136	-	(3,136)	-	**-**
The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	**-**
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	47,635	104,878	(99,049)	-	**53,464**
James Tudor Foundation	-	3,940	(1,894)	-	**2,046**
Euromoney	-	35,000	(1,458)	-	**33,542**
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	-	20,000	(17,062)	-	**2,938**
Book Aid International	-	18,860	(8,797)	-	**10,063**
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	-	23,081	(23,081)	-	**-**
The Souter Charitable Trust	-	-	(3,000)	-	**(3,000)**
Other Restricted - FEDOMA	-	5,650	(5,650)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	182,714	436,832	(376,749)	2,676	**245,473**
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy	85,000	-	(67,236)	-	**17,764**
General funds	226,015	251,939	(293,660)	(2,676)	**181,618**
Total unrestricted funds	311,015	251,939	(360,896)	(2,676)	**199,382**
Total funds	493,729	688,771	(737,645)	-	**444,855**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation - CST

This three-year grant supports the second phase, larger development of CST's purpose-built, fully inclusive school site including architectural design, construction and school equipment. Capacity building support is also provided to CST in terms of strategic and business planning, training and capacity building as needed to transition to a larger profile, purpose-built school.

Book Aid International - CST

This one-year grant is for the project "Quality School Libraries for All". This project will set up three inclusive libraries across three schools. This will include the donation of 9,000 books to the three schools (3,000 books each), once of which be CST's inclusive school. The project will also provide funding to enable the schools to make inclusive adaptations to the library rooms to make them accessible for all children and will train teachers and school librarians on inclusive education techniques to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the new libraries.

The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY

This two-year project seeks to improve disability-inclusion of female youth with disabilities in vocational training and employment. It aims to do so by addressing the triple discrimination that many young women with disabilities in Kenya face in trying to access employment due to their gender, disability, and state of being youth. Female youth with disabilities will gain from training opportunities in employability skills, entrepreneurial business development and business leadership. The project will utilise a mentorship model, with female youth with disabilities also being supported to establish tested enterprises through seed funding or being matched with employment opportunities.

The British and Foreign School Society - USDC

This two-year project seeks to improve access to inclusive education for children and youth with disabilities in northern Ugandan refugee settlements. The children of refugees and displaced people living with disabilities face many challenges in accessing basic human rights including access to quality education. Using a multifaceted approach, working with children and youth with disabilities, teachers, and duty-bearers (government officials, community members, parents), activities include the identification and enrolment of out-of-schools children with disabilities, mentoring of children to keep them in education, training of teachers on inclusive methodologies and advocacy with local and national government officials.

Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant

This funding was provided by Comic Relief to support its existing grant recipients with additional funds to cover some of the cost-of-living rises seen in the UK and the countries where we work.

Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling

This project will enable Able Child Africa to better support organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) or disability-focused organisations through the implementation of our new strategic vision. The grant will allow us to strengthen our network's systems and governance, deliver higher-impact inclusive education programmes for children with disabilities and effectively communicate our partner's work to maximise their visibility and advocacy outcomes.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Comic Relief - Organisational Strengthening – USDC

This project will facilitate organisational strengthening support for USDC. This project has been realised through the All In, All Learning Extension project, with USDC invited to apply for additional budget to facilitate staff trainings and strengthen the organisation's systems to deliver their programmes more effectively. Focus areas include developing a new monitoring, evaluation and learning system, the development of a child safeguarding policy, which Able Child Africa is supporting the team with, and the advancement of USDC's financial management systems.

Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY

This three-year grant supported seeks to improve access to quality inclusive ECE for children with disabilities aged four to six in Nairobi, Kenya. This project will develop effective early identification systems, build the capacity of key ECD duty-bearers, and design an innovative Inclusive Play Programme to sustainably and holistically address barriers to their inclusion.

Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST

This four-year grant funded by Comic Relief scales up two Inclusive Education projects currently delivered with our partner Child Support Tanzania within Mbeya, Southwest Tanzania. Working in a consortium with two other international disability organisations funded under the same grants stream, the project seeks to increase the access, quantity and quality of inclusive education. The project utilises the Child-to-Child methodology developed with our partner USDC to ensure activities are participatory and determined by children.

Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC

This three-year project funded by Comic Relief will improve the primary school readiness of children with and without disabilities aged three to six years old in Uganda through the development of a community-led inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) model with caregivers, capacity building of key ECE duty-bearers and communities and a focused government advocacy campaign. This IECE model will be delivered through 18 community learning centres (CLCs) with activities delivered alongside local government schools to aid inclusion and break down barriers.

Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the The Leggatt Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our inclusive education programme in Tanzania and ensured children with disabilities received medical assessments during the project lifecycle.

Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO

This two to three-year grant is in support of the project "I Matter Too: Making Rwandan child protection systems disability-inclusive for children with disabilities". The project will adopt a community-based inclusive development approach to target child protection systems in Gasabo, Rwanda to ensure that children with disabilities, as the children most at risk of neglect and abuse, are able to equitably access child protection systems.

James Tudor Foundation – FEDOMA

This six-month project aims to improve children with disabilities' (three to five years old) access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the provision of medical screenings, assessments and provision of assistive devices which will support them to better access education services.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

This 3-year project funded by Jersey Oversees Aid contributed to the government's commitment to 'leave no one behind' through the advocacy for disability inclusive WASH policies and programmes for girls with disabilities in education. This multifaceted and youth-led project identified out of schoolgirls with disabilities and trained female youth with disability (YwD) mentors to design and implement a two-fold peer to peer mentoring programme using child-friendly resources.

The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC

This three-year project with our implementing partner USDC, expands on our prior Marr Munning Trust funded programme to directly support the Early Childhood Education (ECE) of 60 children with disabilities across six schools in Northern Uganda (Lira and Nebbi). It will support the government's need to scale-up the Individualised Learning Plan (ILP) by adapting our ILP and disability screening tool for an Early Childhood Education context and delivering a focused multi-year government advocacy campaign. The campaign will target a network of district- and national-level government officials; supporting them to make the 'business case' for adopting the tools at all government schools.

Network for Social Change - UWEZO

This innovative one-year pilot project directly responds to a significant gap identified in Rwanda's mental health service provision for children with disabilities. This project will aim to make mental health provision more inclusive through the creation and testing of an innovative mental health guide, as well as a 'toolbox' of inclusive mental health tools for children and youth with disabilities.

The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust - FEDOMA

This one-year project aims to build on the Vitol Foundation-funded project to improve children with disabilities' (three to five years old) access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the introduction of innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes and the capacity building of actors responsible for children with disabilities' early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents & children with disabilities themselves.

Rangoonwala Foundation – CST

The 'Let's Get Functional - Improving the Occupational Therapy and rehabilitative interventions for children with disabilities in Tanzania' project aims to improve the health and education of children with disabilities in Mbeya, Tanzania. Utilising the brand-new physiotherapy room at Child Support Tanzania's Early Childhood Education Centre, the project will facilitate teacher trainings and mentorship by physiotherapists, with children with disabilities then supported both at school and in their homes, where their parents will also receive guidance to better support their children's rehabilitative needs. The project will enable children with disabilities to receive rehabilitative support at their school, helping to prevent missed learning and to reduce educational inequalities between children with and without disabilities.

Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA

This three-year project aims to improve children with disabilities' (aged three to five years old) access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the introduction of innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes and the capacity building of actors responsible for children with disabilities early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents and children with disabilities themselves. Through their increased cooperation that ensures long-term systemic change, these actors will holistically break down barriers to ECD inclusion.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD

This project has a primary aim of ensuring children with disabilities aged three to six equitably access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE). Within six ECE Centres in Chadiza district, Zambia, the project's innovative inclusive ECE methodology will holistically tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face in accessing IECE through targeted interventions with children with and without disabilities, parents, ECE teachers, other service providers, community leaders and members, and the Zambian government.

Other Restricted - FEDOMA

Consisted of grants from The Souter Charitable Trust and Tula Trust.

Top-up funding for the FEDOMA Vitol project for the design and development of two trainings for Community-Based Childcare Centre staff on disability inclusion, child protection, the use of Individualised Education Plans, and the delivery of a weekly inclusive play scheme for children with disabilities.

Purpose of designated fund

Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy

The legacy funding will facilitate the third phase of CST's purpose-built, fully inclusive school site including architectural design, construction and school equipment. Specifically, the funds will realise the construction of an additional fully accessible classroom and physiotherapy unit.

Funds in deficit

Funds in deficit represent recoverable overspends in the current year, to be recovered via further restricted income in 2023/24.

16. Related party transactions

During the year, 5 Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £2,850 (2022: £3,955 from 6 Trustees).


Protect. Educate. Amplify.

able child AFRICA

info@ablechildafrica.org
ablechildafrica.org

A registered UK charity (No. 326859), a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No. 01861434) and a US 501 (c)(3) public charity (EIN 47-5435034).

Able Child Africa

England & Wales - Charity number 326859

Accounts

able child AFRICA

Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Year end 31 March 2022

2022
Annual Report and Audited Accounts

Celebrating **38 years** of changing lives




Protect.
Educate.
Empower.

We are Able Child Africa

The leading UK charity working solely to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities in Africa.

For over 38 years, we've been making lasting change for children with disabilities in Africa, operating across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia.

We break down the barriers to inclusion for children with disabilities and empower them to fight for their rights. We create change on a national scale by influencing governments and other agencies.

We are a small charity making a big impact. We are uncompromising in our mission. We are experts in what we do and are passionate about the approach we take. We are bold and agile, with the courage to innovate and take disciplined risks.



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Welcome from our Chair



Jim Sellars
Chair

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our 2022 Annual Report. We are very proud of the work we do through our partners to protect, educate and empower children with disabilities, so they are able to fulfil their potential. In the last year, our partners worked with over 700 children and supported over 1,000 parents across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia. Among the many highlights, we secured our first multi-year grant funding for our newest partner ZAPCD in Zambia and have become a leading figure in the UK and internationally on disability-inclusive child safeguarding, following the launch of the Disability-inclusive Child Safeguarding Guidelines.

Like many charities, we were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic both operationally and financially. In the last financial year, we saw a significant contraction in our funding. However, the team and our partners have worked tirelessly through these challenging times and we are delighted that funding and, most importantly, service delivery are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

As part of our five-year strategic cycle, we have launched a strategic review of Able Child Africa, in conjunction with our partners and wider stakeholders. The new strategy will aim to ensure that the organisation will continue to support the children we work with in the best possible way. Excitingly, we have recently received multi-year grant funding to support some of the proposed changes and we look forward to sharing more details of this new strategy, when it is finalised in the new year.

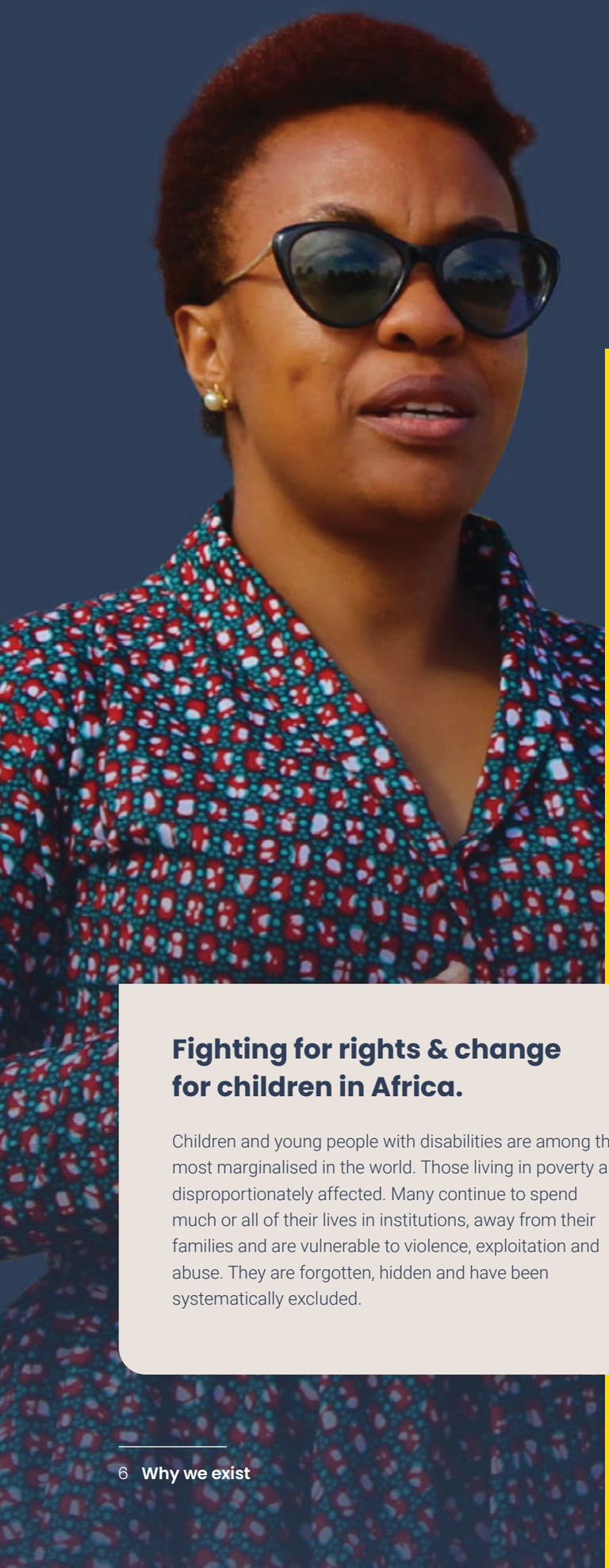
We work side-by-side with our six partners and their commitment, vision, and knowledge drive the success of Able Child Africa, without whom none of our work would be possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for everything they have done this year and throughout our many years of successful partnership.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the entire Able Child Africa team. Karl, our CEO, and Lauren, our Head of Programmes and Advocacy, provide both inspirational leadership to the whole organisation and drive the long-term vision of Able Child Africa. We are also indebted to the Board of Trustees, whose diverse skillsets and experiences have been crucial in navigating the challenges of the last two years.

Despite the organisation's recovery following the pandemic, the external fundraising environment remains difficult. We do not underestimate the challenge ahead, and our final thanks are reserved for all our donors, whether individual, corporate or institutional, small and large. Your generosity is the organisation's lifeblood, and we remain indebted to your continued support. This has enabled Able Child Africa to deliver all the work described in the following pages and to continue our vital mission to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

While this has been a challenging period, the organisation remains well-placed to flourish and ultimately support many more children who need our support. We are really excited about the future and sincerely hope you will continue to feel moved to support us in our vital work.

Best wishes,
Jim Sellars



60 million

people with disabilities live in Africa, the vast majority of which are children.

Only 1 in 10 attend school



This impact is worsened for girls with disabilities.

Fighting for rights & change for children in Africa.

Children and young people with disabilities are among the most marginalised in the world. Those living in poverty are disproportionately affected. Many continue to spend much or all of their lives in institutions, away from their families and are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. They are forgotten, hidden and have been systematically excluded.

Children with disabilities are **4 times** more likely to suffer abuse or violence



Why we exist

Up to 80% of children with disabilities from low-income countries will not live to be 5 years old. The children that do are four times more likely to suffer abuse and eight times less likely to go to school.

Our vision is a world in which all children with disabilities are fully included as equal members of society.



Only half of the children who begin go on to complete their primary education. Most drop out after a few months due to feelings of exclusion, isolation or stigma.

Every day, these children are facing barriers such as stigma and discrimination just for being who they are. They are some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

Local disability-focused organisations are severely underfunded and under-resourced, so Able Child Africa plays a key role in supporting local partners to protect, educate and empower children with disabilities so they are able to fulfil their potential.

Denying children with disabilities their equal rights has a lifelong impact. **It leads to a life of poverty, abuse, dependence and discrimination.** We believe every child is able: able to learn, able to contribute to society and able to shape their own future.



What we do

We work with local partners to **protect, educate and empower** children with disabilities so they are able to fulfil their potential. We do this by...

Delivering high quality programmes

We deliver high-quality programmes alongside local partners that break down the barriers to inclusion for children with disabilities.

Strengthening local organisations

We strengthen local organisations on the ground which ensures they can deliver lasting change in the countries where we work.

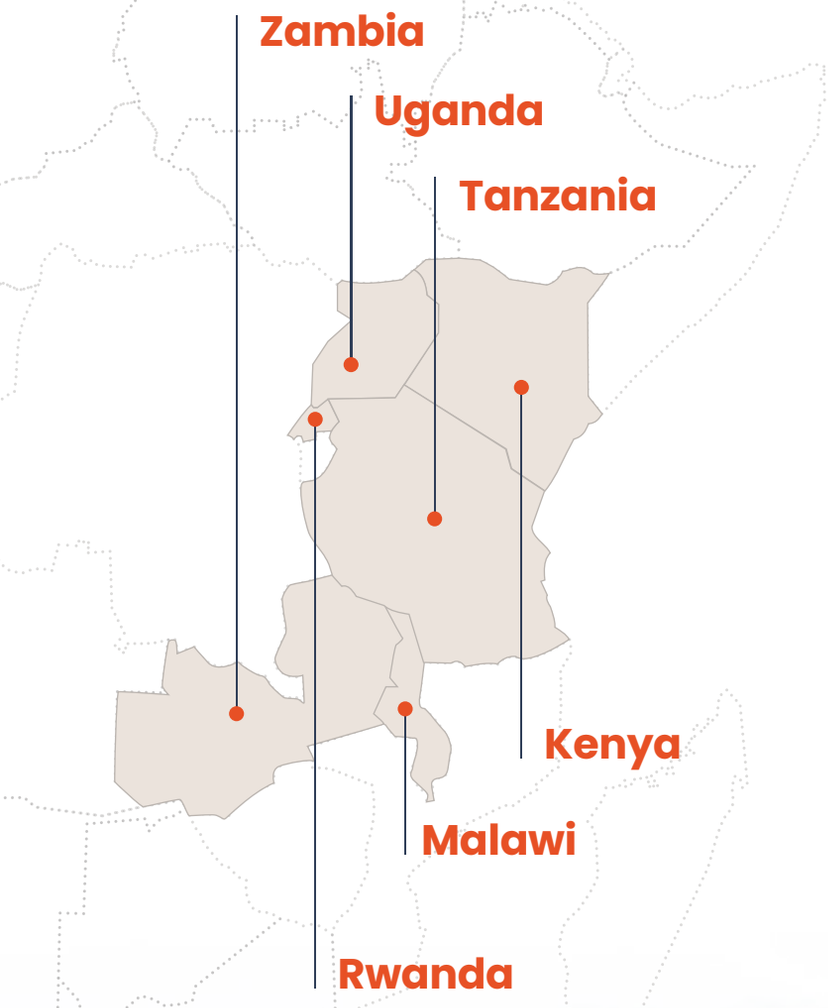
Fighting for rights & creating change

We fight for the rights of children with disabilities, creating change on a national scale by influencing governments and agencies.



Able Child Africa has benefited our work in so many areas, providing us with a valuable network where we have been able to learn from other organisations doing similar work.

Beneficiary of our work in Tanzania



We have over **38 years'** experience working with local organisations across Africa to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

Our **mission** is to promote the realisation of equal rights for children and young people with disabilities in Africa and to facilitate their meaningful inclusion in all aspects of life.



Protect.



Ensuring the protection of children with disabilities in Africa.

Children with disabilities are at a higher risk of violence, abuse or exploitation due to the multiple barriers that prevent them from protecting themselves or reporting incidents of abuse. We work with all our partners to improve and support local safeguarding practices and ensure the protection of children in the areas where we work.

By supporting local families and organisations to break down the stigma and discrimination around disability, we ensure the **protection** and inclusion of children with disabilities within their communities. We have been working to do this in Kenya...

Improving Child Safeguarding in Kenya

We worked with our partner **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY) in Kenya to build their capacity to safeguard children with disabilities. Much of ANDY's early work had focused on supporting young people, however, they were increasingly looking for ways to work with younger children with disabilities, as they identified large numbers of children who were out of school. ANDY sought Able Child Africa's support to include children with disabilities in their five-year strategy, and together we developed a new child protection and safeguarding policy for the organisation.

The full involvement of both ANDY and Able Child Africa in this process ensured that both national and international standards were considered. Crucially, we have been able to apply our extensive experience and knowledge of the considerations needed for inclusive safeguarding, specifically for children with disabilities.



Educate.



Changing the lives of children with disabilities through education.

In low income countries, over 90% of children with disabilities do not attend formal school. To tackle this problem, we have developed inclusive **education** projects that support children with disabilities to access mainstream education alongside their peers, improving their educational outcomes and ensuring they are able to fulfil their potential.

We have been working in Uganda to change the lives of children with disabilities through education...

Child to Child Inclusive Education in Uganda

We teamed up with our partners **Uganda Society for Disabled Children** (USDC), to implement an Inclusive Education Project using an innovative Child to Child approach. The project worked to support children to break down the environmental, institutional and attitudinal barriers faced by children with disabilities to accessing safe, inclusive education.

Using the Child to Child approach, children already attending school are encouraged to identify and engage with out-of-school children with disabilities in their communities. Together with teachers, they identify barriers to exclusion, and work with schools and communities to ensure that children with disabilities are in education, and importantly stay in school.

We worked with 27 schools across three districts (Lira, Adjumani and Nebbi) over 5 years, enabling us and USDC to get over 1,500 children with disabilities into school.



Empower.



Empowering children with disabilities in Africa to fight for their rights.

For too long children with disabilities have been forgotten, hidden and systematically excluded. A key reason is that the children and their parents have been unaware of their rights and are disempowered in the fight for justice. By **empowering** children and young people with disabilities with knowledge of their rights, they are able to break down the barriers to their inclusion for themselves and their peers.

Raising Aspirations in Rwanda

With funding from the UK Government, we joined the fight to 'leave no one behind' in Rwanda, partnering with **Uwezo Youth Empowerment** (UWEZO) to empower children and young people with disabilities to demand inclusion within the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Alongside UWEZO, we developed and implemented a youth-led model, where we trained young people with disabilities to mentor and work with younger children with disabilities. Through this approach, we provided a platform to develop youth-led solutions for meaningful inclusion, where young people themselves become the key advocates for inclusion at the community and government level.

This has created new mechanisms and networks, where young people with disabilities are empowered to campaign for their inclusion across society.



Our impact

Objective 1: **Support African-led organisations to help children with disabilities and their families realise their full potential**

In 2021/22, we have been working with **six partners** across **six countries** in Africa to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

We directly supported children and young people with disabilities through enrolling out-of-school children into schools, providing disability aids, making school premises more accessible, establishing mentoring networks and activities to break down damaging myths about disability.

Children & young people with disabilities directly supported

Uganda: **243** children & young people supported

Kenya: **69** children & young people supported

Rwanda: **74** children & young people supported

Tanzania: **250** children & young people supported

Malawi: **68** children & young people supported

Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **704**



We trained teachers in inclusive teaching methods, providing the necessary training and tools to help teachers support all children in the classroom and ensuring children with disabilities can participate in lessons alongside their peers.



Teachers we trained

Uganda: **86** teachers trained
Kenya: **40** teachers trained
Rwanda: **0** teachers trained
Tanzania: **12** teachers trained
Malawi: **37** teachers trained
Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **175**

We supported parents of children with disabilities through parent support groups or community events, giving parents the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face, support each other and work together to advocate for their children's inclusion.

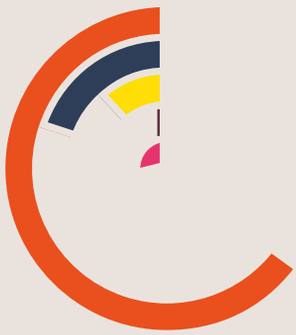


Parents we supported

Uganda: **566** parents supported
Kenya: **208** parents supported
Rwanda: **50** parents supported
Tanzania: **90** parents supported
Malawi: **150** parents supported
Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **1,064**

We worked with government officials and ministers advocating for improvements in disability inclusion at a local and national level in key government services in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Malawi.



Government officials we worked with

Uganda: **65** government officials we worked with
Kenya: **20** government officials we worked with
Rwanda: **12** government officials we worked with
Tanzania: **2** government officials we worked with
Malawi: **29** government officials we worked with
Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **128**

Uganda

We have been working in Uganda **since 1984** alongside our partner **USDC,** supporting children with disabilities and their families to break down the barriers to inclusion.



Many people living with disabilities in Uganda continue to face **stigma** and **discrimination**. In northern Uganda, where we work, 80% of people with disabilities have been identified as living in chronic poverty. Despite significant progress at a policy level in Uganda, there is an implementation gap. With a policy of Universal Primary Education, school enrolment has reached 90%. However, this is not the case for children with disabilities, where only 2% are graduating to secondary level.

What we're proud of

As part of our Comic Relief funded project, we are proud to have **successfully opened all 18 of our Community Learning Centres** (inclusive community-based pre-primary schools) across the districts of Nebbi and Adjumani in northern Uganda. Government restrictions due to COVID-19 had prevented them being opened as planned in the previous year, however they are all now fully operational with children both with and without disabilities playing and learning together through our inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) curriculum. The children are being taught by a dedicated group of 54 parents and caregivers who have been trained in inclusive early childhood education practices (IECE) and inclusive safeguarding and we are now looking forward to seeing how these children grow and develop through IECE before they successfully transition into primary schools.

Able Child Africa's support to my team and ongoing sharing of ideas has helped us come up with new ideas we would not have thought possible.

Dolorence Were, Director USDC

Supporting children with disabilities through individualised education plans

This year we completed our new project with USDC, funded by The Marr Munning Trust, which seeks to widen access to individualised learning plans (ILPs) for children across Uganda's public school system. We are supporting 60 children with disabilities across six primary schools in Lira to build the evidence base on why ILPs are so effective at helping children with disabilities reach their full potential in school. At the same time, we are working closely with the government's District Inspector of Schools to help advocate to policymakers on why and how ILPs should be rolled out to other primary schools in Lira and across the country, enabling us to reach even more children with disabilities.



Through our current projects

We trained **47** service providers and Village Health Teams

on early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities

We provided medical assessments for

126 children with disabilities

We supported **506** parents

through Parent Support Group meetings



Mr. Egea's Story

Mr. Egea is a 41-year-old man who has a physical disability and is a parent of a child who enrolled in one of our Community Learning Centres in northern Uganda. He saw that the learning centres could benefit from more resources and decided to **lead a campaign in his community that would ultimately strengthen his child's inclusive early childhood education**. Mr. Egea travelled across his village in his adapted wheelchair to lead a campaign to raise local materials for the construction of semi-permanent structures for the learners from the learning centre so they could have a better space to learn. He went from home-to-home requesting people to support the construction of the new classroom, with many members of the community donating. The parents of the centre were overjoyed at the role Mr. Egea played and how **his advocacy had given all the children a chance to keep learning** and so they elected Mr. Egea to become a member of the management committee of the centre to guide the development of the centre in the future.

> **The parents of the centre were overjoyed** at the role Mr. Egea played and how his advocacy had given all the children **a chance to keep learning**

Kenya

We have worked in Kenya **since 2009** with our partners **ANDY** supporting children and young people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of their lives.



While Kenya has a system of free primary education, the curriculum requires basic skills that most children with disabilities do not have. Very few have accessed early education, meaning young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed, and more likely to be living in poverty. With limited access to education or health care, these young people continue to face injustice, stigma and sometimes abuse and violence. This is magnified in Kibera, Africa's largest slum where ANDY is based, and home to an estimated **100,000** people with disabilities.

What we're proud of

As part of our Comic Relief funded inclusive Early Childhood Development programme with ANDY in Kenya, we have had real **success with the adopted Parent Champion model and the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) meetings**. The Community Based Rehabilitation groups bring together government officials, education, health and community professionals, parents of children with disabilities and other individuals that have a responsibility to uphold the rights of children with disabilities. The groups were able to work with the Ministry of Education to highlight the key challenges faced by children with disabilities in educational inclusion, such as a lack of officials responsible for formally assessing children. Through these meetings and their engagement with officials within communities, Parent Champions have also secured access to school bursaries, disability cash transfers, additional trainings and free services including physiotherapy assessments.

I love being in school because I am learning to depend on myself. I am no longer isolated.

Beneficiary of our work in Kenya

Improving the quality of early years education for children with disabilities

Despite children being eligible to enrol in pre-primary education from the age of three, assessments in Kenya are only conducted with children from the age of five. There is also a significant gap of officials responsible for assessing and identifying children with disabilities. This means that children who need additional support in their early years are excluded at this crucial stage in their life, resulting in lower enrolment and lower retention of children with disabilities. With the development of our 'Early Years Child Functioning Assessment Tools', we are now seeing increasing numbers of children with disabilities identified within the schools we are working in. The tools assess different functions of individual children such as vision, hearing, mobility, learning, communication, dexterity and playing, and emotions. Through their implementation along with the required teacher training, children with disabilities are not only being enrolled into school who would not have been earlier identified, they are also staying there.



Through our current projects

We trained **40** teachers

on inclusive teaching practices and disability rights

We trained **199** parents

to better equip them to support the early childhood development of their children with disabilities

We advocated for the rights of children with disabilities with

18 government officials

The impact of a Parent Support Group for Mama Baraka

Mama Baraka is a member of one of our Parent Support Groups in Kasarani, Kenya. She is a single mother with two children, one of whom is a child with Down syndrome called Baraka. Mama Baraka joined the local Parent Support Group and it has been a huge help, supporting her to cope with the challenges she faces in her everyday life.

"The Parent Support Group has been my second home for me. I am able to talk to other members, where we **share the same challenges which helps me to be strong each day**. "

With the **support from the Parent Support Group**, she has been able to **start her own business**. Mama Baraka secured a loan as part of a Village Savings and Loan Association Scheme. This provided her with the capital to start a catering business where she now sells potatoes and chicken in her community.

"The loan I got helped me to start my own business so **I am able to support my children**, especially the transport for Baraka to go to school. This was my biggest challenge, at one time, I had contemplated withdrawing him from that school."

The income generated from her business has been instrumental in **ensuring she has the money to support both her children to attend school**. Through the Parent Support Group, **Baraka's teachers have also received training** to ensure Baraka experiences an inclusive environment at school where he can learn and play together with his peers. **Through our support, Baraka has a brighter future ahead of him.**

Tanzania

We have been working in Tanzania **since 2007** alongside our partners **Child Support Tanzania** (CST) to change the lives of children and young people with disabilities through inclusive education.



Many children and families in Mbeya are living in poverty, often exacerbated by **disability**, HIV/AIDS and **high mortality rates**. Here, services for children with disabilities are severely lacking and poorly resourced. Although primary education is free in Tanzania, children with disabilities often do not develop the basic early learning skills needed to succeed in this environment and are continually left behind when it comes to accessing primary education.

What we're proud of

Following the legacy of Irma Skeeles, we have realised the construction of a new block at Child Support Tanzania's (CST) inclusive school in Mbeya. Consisting of a new physiotherapy room and classroom, CST have been able to enrol more children with disabilities who can now benefit from the inclusive education services that CST provide. With funding from Rangoonwala Foundation, we will soon begin delivery of a new project that aims to improve the health and education of CST's students with disabilities through the establishment of their Therapy and Rehabilitation Centre in the new physiotherapy room. In addition to purchasing brand new physiotherapy and occupational therapy equipment, CST's teachers will be trained and continually mentored to ensure students receive the rehabilitative support they require to develop and reach their full potential. Parents will also receive guidance on how to support the therapeutic needs of their children at home, further helping to prevent children with disabilities from missing school and therefore reducing the inequalities that exist between children with and without disabilities.

Quality School Libraries for All

This year we worked with Child Support Tanzania to open inclusive libraries in three primary schools in Mbeya, Tanzania. With funding and books provided by Book Aid International, these libraries will provide nearly 3,000 children with and without disabilities with access to a range of books, including textbooks, storybooks, novels, and sensory books. Together with Book Aid International, we trained a cohort of teachers to act as librarians in each school, with the equipment, knowledge and understanding to successfully run inclusive libraries in their schools. The passion and skill they brought to the training has been central to the success of the project. Accessibility audits of the library spaces were undertaken by children with disabilities to identify barriers to inclusion, with custom made shelves designed to enable the library space to be fully accessible to all children. The libraries are now open, with teachers using the books encouraging an even greater passion for reading and learning.



Through our current projects

We supported **90** parents

of children with disabilities through Parent Support Groups

We supported **2,800** children

with and without disabilities to access school books through our inclusive school libraries.

We have opened **3** inclusive school libraries

to enable children with and without disabilities to access a wide range of schoolbooks, literature, and inclusive learning resources.



Individual Case Study: Grace's love of reading

Grace, who is six years old and full of enthusiasm for learning, has a physical disability. As a student at Child Support Tanzania's (CST) inclusive school, Grace has benefited from the new inclusive school library that opened at her school, with **over 3,000 books to choose from**. Grace is too young to read on her own, but by using the new facilities, Grace has improved her basic reading and writing skills. She is now beginning to read some sentences in books and speak the sounds. This has given her **increased confidence and she is improving all the time**. She is also starting to show improvements in her daily activities within the school environment. It has helped her play with other children, and make new friends by being part of the reading groups.

"

My daughter has brought **great changes in her community**. She has taught us to see that **children with disabilities can achieve great things**.

Mother of a beneficiary of our work

Rwanda

We have been working in Rwanda **since 2016** alongside our partners **Uwezo** Youth Empowerment (UWEZO), empowering children and young people with disabilities to fight for their rights and access inclusive education.



Nearly half of all people with disabilities in Rwanda are under 35. Two-thirds are not in education or employment and over **90%** fall below the national poverty line. Children with disabilities comprise less than 1% of all primary school students, and this rate drops further at secondary level. As they grow older, these inequities remain; Rwandan youth with disabilities are far less likely to participate in the workforce, with only a small number in employment. While Rwanda has a good track record of inclusive policies and has taken many strides towards better inclusion of its population, many children with disabilities are still unable to access basic services and face stigma and discrimination.

What we're proud of

This year we were proud to strengthen Able Child Africa and UWEZO's ability to design and deliver effective disability-inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects. We held a two-day workshop for young people with disabilities, allowing them to reflect on their experiences of disability-inclusive WASH from our completed Jersey Overseas Aid funded project, and to suggest strategies for best practice in health-focused programming in the future. The evidence gathered during these workshops has enabled us to work with UWEZO to co-create disability-inclusive data collection tools, which can capture data from the experiences of people with disabilities face, relating to WASH and other health-related projects.

Making Rwandan child protection systems disability-inclusive for children with disabilities

This year we started an exciting new project in Rwanda with our partner UWEZO, with funding from Euromoney Institutional Investor. The project is focussed on making Rwandan child protection systems more disability-inclusive for children with disabilities. Children and young people with disabilities are often at much higher risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Compounding these risks, is the lack of appropriate mechanisms to prevent, report and respond to child protection cases for children with disabilities. Where services do exist, they are often not disability inclusive or accessible, meaning that many issues are not dealt with appropriately.

The project is tackling these issues by supporting child protection systems in Rwanda to be more disability inclusive and sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities, particularly girls. The project is supporting the parents of children with disabilities to prevent and report abuse to ensure their children do not continue to fall through the net. Youth advocates with disabilities have been identified to become mentors for the younger children with disabilities and tasked with mapping current child protection services to assess their accessibility, which will inform the changes needed to make them more inclusive for children with disabilities. The project will then form an evidence base to promote inclusive child protection systems across Rwanda and more widely.



Through our current projects

We have trained **12** young people with disabilities

in mentoring, inclusive child protection and safeguarding

We provided **60** children with disabilities

with one-to-one mentoring from older young people with disabilities

We facilitated **50** parents

of children with disabilities to attend training workshops on positive parenting and child protection.

Individual Case Study: Liana's journey as a youth advocate in Rwanda

Liana has had a physical disability since childhood. **In 2018, her potential to positively impact on the lives of other children and young people with disabilities was recognised when UWEZO selected her as one of the twenty 'Youth Disability Advocates' in a now completed youth-led project.** In her role as a youth advocate, Liana received training in multiple areas of advocacy, disability and inclusion. Using these skills and her own experiences as a person with a disability, Liana mentored children with disabilities in their homes, working closely with the children's families, surrounding communities and schools and regularly meeting with government officials to discuss effective ways of ensuring disability inclusion in policy development and implementation.

During her time as a youth advocate, Liana's confidence grew significantly, and she discovered a real passion for advocacy. She also discovered her talent for acting and would regularly take part in radio shows and plays, which covered different elements of disability inclusion. She found that her own experiences as a person with a disability enabled her to easily step into the stories and tell them in an authentic way, and in turn these shows were positively received by listeners.

This year, when Able Child Africa and UWEZO launched our new disability-inclusive child protection project, **Liana was selected to be one of the new project mentors** due to her continued enthusiasm. Her experiences of having a disability and of being an experienced project mentor and disability advocate has meant that she is confident to take on the new role. Liana is continuing her passion for performance and activism by writing and acting in radio plays that focus on child protection and safeguarding for children with disabilities, and which invite listeners to think about how to keep children with disabilities in their communities safe. **The difference in Liana's confidence from the beginning of the advocacy project in 2018 to her now is clear to see.** She hopes to pass on her passion for acting to other children with disabilities so they can continue to tell their own stories.

Malawi

We began working in Malawi in 2020 with the **Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi** (FEDOMA), and in two years we already achieved notable successes.



What we're proud of

Feedback collected during our projects directly from children with disabilities themselves and their families identified that one of the biggest barriers to children with disabilities attending education at a crucial early age is the lack of access to medical care, correct diagnosis of their disability and subsequent provision of assistive devices which could support their equitable inclusion. We are therefore proud to have facilitated mass medical and disability screening events for children with disabilities in Malawi, with identified children then referred to formal medical services. After medical assessments and referrals were completed, assistive devices were procured for those children who could benefit, and follow-up visits were arranged with these children to monitor their progress and improve rehabilitation outcomes. This whole process ensures that these children are adequately supported to equitably access education.

We value the partnership with Able Child Africa as it goes beyond project implementation, to support organisational development and build our capacity

Chris, FEDOMA Project Manager

Improving the accessibility of Community-Based Childhood Centres (CBCCs)

As part our Early Childhood Education (ECE) project in Malawi, we have supported accessibility audits and modifications of Community Childhood Centres to ensure they are fully accessible and inclusive for all children to attend safely. At the start of the project, a total of 10 Community Childhood Centres were audited across different project districts, and all were found to be inaccessible in one way or another. Two Community Childhood Centres did not have any structure at all, with children instead learning under a tree. Other inaccessible features included a lack of ramps or handrails, doors that were too narrow for wheelchair users, uneven floors, poor lighting, broken roofs/doors/walls, inaccessible tables or chairs, inaccessible toilet facilities, and a lack of any play items, toys or educational equipment. Following the accessibility audits, led by people with disabilities, we have supported the modification of these Community Childhood Centres including building ramps, widening doorways and installing handrails and more accessible latrines. We have also equipped the centres with inclusive play equipment such as toys, swings, balls and learning materials to encourage children with disabilities to be able to play and develop key skills in a more fun and inclusive way, preparing them for further learning.



Through our current projects

We enrolled **68** young children with disabilities into early childhood education

We enrolled **150** parents of children with disabilities into parent support groups

We trained **37** teachers (Community Childhood Centre workers) in disability inclusive teaching methods



Jasmine's Educational Journey

As part of our three-year project to improve access to Early Childhood Education (ECE) for young children with disabilities (aged three to five years old), a key element has been improving awareness in the community that help to identify and support children with disabilities. One such child has been Jasmine, a six year old girl who lives in a rural area of Malawi. Her family had previously kept her at home simply due to a lack of knowledge on how to support her and what services were available. After the project's training of Community Childhood Centre staff and community awareness raising events, several people from the community identified Jasmine, who was previously unknown to staff. Utilising their training, **the staff were able to visit the girl and her family, informing them of her right to an education and what the project could do to support them**. They were able to bring her to the Community Childhood Centre to join in with her peers and were also able to offer basic physical therapy and nutritional advice to her family. She is also being fitted with two assistive devices as part of the project, enabling her to sit up and to move around more independently.

This example **shows the project's value in bringing together different project actors to take ownership of outcomes**. In this instance, a combination of informed community members and trained Community Childhood Centre staff have collectively led to the empowerment of this child and this is being replicated throughout the project, at multiple other sites.

Zambia

As one of our newest partners, we began working in Zambia with **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities** (ZAPCD) last year, with ZAPCD chosen as a partner organisation who can help us further our collective mission and add value to each other's work.



In Zambia, it is estimated that there are just over 1 million people with disabilities, which equates to 7.2% of the population. Lack of access to services are cited as one of the main barriers people with disabilities face. For children with disabilities, no inclusive education policy or statements that outline the need for inclusive education at any level exists in Zambia. As few as 22% of children with disabilities are in Early Childhood Education (ECE), 52% in primary education and only 12% are recorded as having completed secondary education. The needs of children with disabilities are not fully considered in government plans, with national data and evidence desperately needed to inform and influence the government to address the ECE needs of children with disabilities in Zambia. Recognising that education starts at pre-primary level, focusing on efforts to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of ECE for children with disabilities offers a real opportunity to give children the best start possible to progress through their educational journey.

With Able Child Africa's support we have been able to begin our national review of Early Childhood Education, with input from different stakeholders across the country.
Charity, ZAPCD

What we're proud of

In 2021, we concluded our very first project with ZAPCD in Zambia, following funding from Vitol Foundation. The funding was to conduct a national review of the availability and accessibility of Early Childhood Education (ECE) services for children with disabilities in Zambia. The review examined the barriers children with disabilities face and identified some successful approaches for inclusive early childhood education that already existed. This allowed an analysis of recommendations on what would be the most sustainable solutions for furthering inclusive early childhood education in the country. This project was completed through consultations with children with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, community leaders, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), government officials, teachers, and other education professionals. The evidence of this comprehensive review produced a detailed evidence paper and has since informed the development of a multi-year inclusive ECE programme, funded again by Vitol Foundation, which is due to start in September 2022.





The Zambia Inclusive Early Learning Programme

We are delighted to announce that starting in September 2022, we have **funding secured for our first new multi-year programme with ZAPCD**, 'The Zambia Inclusive Early Learning Programme' funded by Vitol Foundation.

The new programme has a **primary aim of ensuring young children with disabilities equitably access inclusive Early Childhood Education**. Working across six Early Childhood Education Centres (pre-primary schools) in the Eastern Province of Zambia, the project will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face. Activities will target individuals that have a duty of care, such as parents, teachers, government officials and community leaders, while child-centred activities will encourage children with and without disabilities to better support each other.

Newly formed Parent Support Groups will ensure parents are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide Early Childhood Education support in the home, with grants for business enterprises helping to tackle financial barriers. The six centres across the region we identify will become 'centres of excellence' for inclusive Early Childhood Education provision through teacher trainings, the incorporation of inclusive play and the use of Individualised Education Plans for children.

Collectively, this will **ensure the region is better equipped** to support children with disabilities and demand the inclusion of children with disabilities in Early Childhood Education.

We consulted with **241** people

to inform the design of our funded multi-year inclusive Early Childhood Education programme, including 56 children with disabilities.



Building Local Capacity



Building the capacity of our local partners is a core part of the work we deliver and **central to our impact strategy**.

It is a distinct objective in our strategy and outlines a commitment to provide focused and measured organisational development support to each of the organisations we work with. We only work with organisations where both parties feel they can add value to each other, and we ensure that a willingness to take part in this reciprocal capacity building is considered in the selection of new partners.

Objective 2: Build the capacity of a network of African-led disability organisations, both individually and collectively, to maximise the impact and sustainability of their work

This year, we worked with our partners on their defined organisational development priorities and determined how we can provide the identified support. We met with our partners to develop workplans for their organisational development priorities and created a set of defined 'mini projects' that will target thematic areas of improvement in their systems, policies, processes or staff practices. This covers areas such as finance, safeguarding, programme management, fundraising and monitoring and evaluation.

In **Uganda**, we supported USDC to prioritise their organisational development needs into three projects covering inclusive safeguarding, financial processes and monitoring and evaluation systems. USDC led the process for prioritisation and chose inclusive safeguarding as their first priority area of focus. We supported them to conduct an audit of their safeguarding policy using our new policy audit tool and to develop activity-level risk assessments in our current projects. All staff were then trained, equipping them to redraft their safeguarding policy to address gaps identified in the audit. We are now working with USDC to implement these best practices into their wider team to create a leading safeguarding culture across the organisation.

In **Kenya**, we began working with ANDY to improve the organisation's ability to diversify its income through the development of an unrestricted fundraising strategy. A key part of this has involved sharing Able Child Africa's own fundraising plan and working with the team to identify opportunities in Kenya, such as hosting a gala dinner, asking marathon runners to raise funds or identify and develop relationships with high-net-worth individuals. ANDY have successfully delivered campaigns to raise funds previously, and together we will look to build on this momentum to support ANDY's sustainability as an organisation.

In **Tanzania**, we continued to support Child Support Tanzania (CST) to improve their financial management and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) capacity through a visit to their offices in April. We worked with CST to review the progress made and redefine their development priorities in this next phase of partnership. We also worked with CST to begin the development of workplans for the new mini projects they want support with, targeting areas of their organisational development. These are now being implemented through a project to improve their evaluation and finance systems.

In **Rwanda**, we supported UWEZO to build their capacity in designing and delivering inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes. We facilitated a specialised training for their staff, which covered multiple elements of technical programming, empowering UWEZO to deliver more specialised programmes in the future. We also facilitated workshops with their staff and young people with disabilities to gather their experiences of WASH projects and to co-create specialised WASH data collection tools, which we will continue to incorporate in future programmes.

In **Malawi**, we worked with our partner FEDOMA to strengthen their capacity in monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL), working together to map their existing data collection tools, policies and processes. We visited the FEDOMA offices in March, where we held a workshop with project staff to plan and co-create new data collection tools, which will allow them to collect specific disaggregated disability data in their projects.

In **Zambia**, we worked with ZAPCD to identify the learnings from our national scoping study, which looked at the accessibility of Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Zambia. This was used to develop a multi-year inclusive ECE application to the Vitol Foundation, which was successful. The project, which is due to start in late 2022 will assess the types of changes needed among different groups, such as parents of children with disabilities, government, schools and communities, to ensure they have maximum impact for children themselves. The current focus now is on developing ZAPCD's safeguarding and monitoring systems to strengthen project delivery and management for this next phase.

Grace's story

Grace was born with a physical disability which meant her limbs didn't develop, yet she **didn't have access** to the **vital equipment** she desperately needed.

While she should have been learning to walk, Grace was left completely dependent and vulnerable. Her parents struggled to look after her, so she went to live with her grandfather. Despite trying many times, he found it impossible to enrol her in any school, so she ended up staying at home.



This is where Able Child Africa came in.

It was through our **'Child-to-Child' Inclusive Education Project** in Uganda that Grace was finally able to be assessed. It was clear that Grace was being held back by not having access to a wheelchair, which could give her a vital level of independence.

With our support, **Grace received her modified wheelchair**, which included an attached table, meaning she could practice her reading and writing whenever she wanted. **Grace was finally able to go outside independently, make new friends and go to school.**

"I love that the friends I have made can take me to school. It means I now feel **included** and think **I will be able to do great things**.

– Grace

Advocating for Change

We are committed to raising awareness of the unique barriers that children with disabilities face and **actively advocate for recognition of their rights** and the **funding associated with their inclusion**.



We believe our partners are best placed to advocate locally and seek to strengthen their capacity to influence change. As such we work primarily through our partners to advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities in local policies, procedures and budgets. We stand alongside them to hold their Governments to account for their stated obligations and commitments as outlined in national charters, constitutions and international frameworks and ensure it is them, not Able Child Africa who are recognised for projects that deliver local advocacy. We also work with partners to deliver local community level campaigns and awareness raising strategies to ensure children with disabilities grow up in supportive unprejudiced environments.

Objective 3: Effect positive changes in the realisation of the rights of children with disabilities through strengthened policies, improved budgeting and expanded opportunities for child and youth participation.

This year

This year, our partners have we have had some significant success in influencing and strengthening national level policies.

In **Uganda**, USDC have been able to gain the support of the District Inspector of Schools in Lira to support our project that focuses on improving access to Individualised Learning Plans (ILPs) for children with disabilities in primary schools. USDC have raised awareness of this project through their leadership in educational government working groups, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) meetings and individual advocacy meetings with senior civil servants.

In **Kenya**, as a result of continued lobbying activities and the establishment of two Community Based Rehabilitation groups, which bring together government officials, education and other professionals, parents and community members, there have been several successes. Several children have received additional support, such as bursaries and assistive devices. Parents have also received additional training and grants to strengthen their businesses, with this income in turn supporting the inclusion of their children with disabilities in schools.

In **Tanzania**, Child Support Tanzania (CST) have continued to be a leading voice in Tanzanian civil society for the inclusive education of children with disabilities. CST were invited by the government to review the previous National Strategy for Inclusive Education (NSIE) 2017-2021, giving them an influential voice. This position was capitalised on when they were able to become a policy influencer for the development of the new strategy for the 2022-26 period this year. CST has since used this access to develop pieces of guidance on the strategy implementation, helping to share their learnings on quality inclusive education through guidance for teachers on child-to-child approaches.

In **Rwanda**, through project inception meetings for our inclusive child protection programme, UWEZO have continually engaged with local government officials. As a result, the officials have helped to facilitate the identification of children and young people with disabilities in their communities and have attended community meetings to talk about the importance of protecting and empowering children with disabilities. UWEZO continue to work with these officials to secure their buy-in, and to ensure ongoing support in improving the accessibility of child protection services in communities.



In **Malawi**, our project has continued to ensure sustained engagement with both local and national government actors to embed support for disability-inclusive Early Childhood Education. This includes successfully lobbying the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare to support the recognition of a link between disability and poverty, something that is crucial in addressing some of the most entrenched barriers that children with disabilities face. As a result of this advocacy, the Minister agreed to engage the Ministry of Health to deliver this message during the World Health Assembly, including writing a letter to the World Health Organisation Regional Director and Malawi's UN representative.

In **Zambia**, we have been able to capitalise on consultations with government officials as part of our national review, to secure buy-in for the multi-year inclusive Early Childhood Education programme for children with disabilities in Zambia. Our partner ZAPCD has continued to engage with officials to build momentum, working closely with them to identify children with disabilities and select the six target schools, which is an approach that has successfully supported the sustainability of our programmes elsewhere.

In the UK

In the UK, we work to advocate for children with disabilities by providing training and facilitating workshops for mainstream organisations and donors on child-led disability inclusion. We believe that by influencing larger mainstream organisations with a wider reach across their projects, we create a cost-effective and efficient way of reaching larger numbers of children and their families.



We have continued in our leadership roles as a Co-Chair of the UK Bond Disability and Development Group and the Bond Child Rights Working Group Steering Group. This year we have also taken on a leading role on the International Development and Disability Consortium (IDDC) Inclusive Safeguarding Task Group.

Disability-inclusive Child Safeguarding - Our work on the Disability-inclusive child safeguarding guidelines has continued to have widespread impact. Able Child Africa was specifically referenced in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) new disability strategy. Following publication of this strategy, we have focused on ensuring the FCDO's strategy becomes an outward facing and accountable document, as opposed to a set of internal performance indicators. We also took our expertise to the Global Disability Summit in February 2022, running a side event on safeguarding and contributing to wider advocacy goals to make sure that the commitments made are realised globally.

Momentum Panel Series - This year we continued to grow our series of knowledge sharing events around important issues affecting children with disabilities, bringing people from across the world to learn and share their experiences. The first event discussed the benefits and challenges of the child-to-child approach to inclusive education for children with disabilities. Another looked at how investing in disability inclusion offers real value for money gains both in the short and long-term for societies, and why supporting children with disabilities is worth every penny. These events have continued to be a useful forum for raising awareness of these important issues concerning disability inclusion and we look forward to expanding the series this year with talks on individualised learning plans and psychosocial disabilities.

Training and Knowledge Sharing - This year we have continued to deliver trainings and webinars for organisations across the sector on several topics relating to disability or inclusion. Working with organisations such as Jersey Overseas Aid and Liliane Fonds, we have developed a specialised series of training packages and consultancies, which draw on our extensive organisational experience of disability inclusion. These training packages are suitable for different types of organisations, whether they have needed help with the basics of disability inclusion, or have been looking for specialised disability-focused training. Recognising that the cost of trainings can often be prohibitive for smaller or grassroots organisations, the training packages include a price structure that is based on the size and income of organisations. We are also continuing to periodically host free webinars and trainings for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to ensure they have access to our resources.

Financial Report

Overview

Able Child Africa's total income this year was £688,771 which represents a reduction of 28% from the previous financial year. This is comprised of £436,832 in restricted funding (including grants) and £251,939 in unrestricted flexible funding.

Total expenditure this year was £737,645, which is a 19% reduction from the previous financial year.

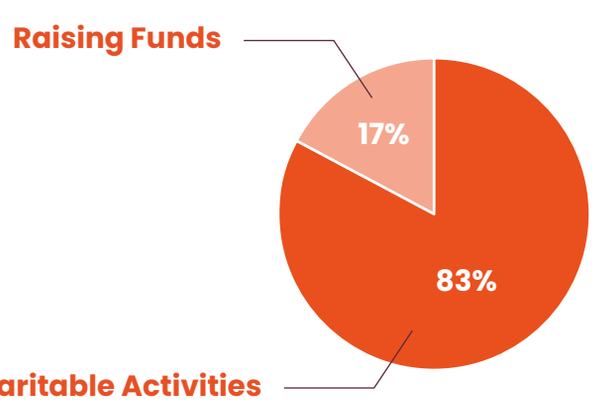
Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds**
Income	£251,939	£436,832	£688,771
Expenditure	£360,896	£376,749	£737,645
Net Income (Expenditure)	-£108,957	£60,083	-£48,874

Spending on Charitable Activities

Expenditure Split	Charitable Activities	Raising Funds	**Total Expenditure**
Total	£612,430	£125,215	£737,645

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to **83p for every pound** raised and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs.



Reserves

We ended March 2022 with £199,382 of unrestricted reserves. This included £17,764 of designated funds, resulting in a net unrestricted reserves figure of £181,618, well above our 6-months reserves target. We have continued to maintain a strong unrestricted reserves position throughout this unstable period and predict a growth in our unrestricted income levels over the next year.

Our full report and accounts are available at this end of this report.

Celebrating You

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Patrons

We are lucky to have some amazing patrons who continue to support our work and raise the profile of what we do. We want to thank Anne Wafula-Strike, Ellie Robinson, Keith Nethercot and Emeli Sandé for all their support over the last year and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Our Ambassadors

There are a small group of people who go above and beyond in their support of our work. Our Ambassadors are incredibly dedicated individuals who understand the importance of our work and are willing to back us on a personal basis and over a long period of time. We want to say a huge thank you to Azad Ayub, to Clare Persey, to Vijay Parikh and to Baz Mehta for your unwavering support and personal connection to what we do. Your support is not taken for granted and we are proud to call you part of the Able Child Africa family.

Our Corporate Supporters

We are very fortunate to have some amazing corporate partners, whose continued support through a challenging environment over the last few years has been vital.

To The Exile Group, to Dan Sheriff, Dom Kloiber, Katy Rose and Hesham Zakai and all the team, a huge thank you not only for your continued generosity of support, but your willingness to make us part of your family. The Exile Group currently provide us with an office space free of charge, which means a significant saving to the charity and means more money can get to where it is needed most.

To PenCarrie and to Clare Persey, thank you for once again not only continuing your support but for increasing your support and commitment to the work we do. It means a lot.

To Hassell Inclusion, to Rosnah and Jonathan Hassell for quietly providing an incredibly generous and long-term commitment to the charity and buying in to what we do. Your support is valuable, and it is great to have you with us on this journey.

To American Century and Paul Harrison, who have now provided five years of support through their grant donation and matching scheme, allowing us to build a base on which we hope to be able to grow our support in the US.

To Cargill and Juwon Sofola for your significant and continued annual donation towards our work.

We would also like to thank everyone that donates their services free of charge or at reduced rates to help us keep our costs down and ensure as much money as possible goes to where it is needed most. A big thank in particular to Raihan Islam, Bakhtiyar Islam and everyone at Iirth for their brand and website support.
To Michèle Renée Creative for your design support. And to Peter Weiss at Simon Muirhead Burton for pro-bono legal advice a huge thank you.

Our Marathon Runners

Every year we are so lucky to have an amazing group of fundraisers who take on the challenge of the London Marathon and raise funds for our work. This year, we had our biggest ever team with nearly 40 runners. We want to thank each and every one of you that ran and raised money for us this year. We know how difficult both parts of that challenge can be and it was great to be able to cheer you all on, on the day.

We also want to say a special thank you to a few of you who went the extra step this year. To Peter Slot, who for the second year in a row donned his cheese outfit and raised over £7,000 for Able Child Africa - an incredible achievement. To Sarah Abrams, who flew over from the USA for the race and raised nearly £5,000 for our work. And to Danny Harty, Rory Nixon and Roddy Pimentel who all raised over £3,500 and helped raise awareness of our work.

Our Individual Supporters

There are so many of you that support our work. From regular monthly donations to spreading the news of our work. Each and every one of you is an inspiration and we thank you for the role you play in changing the lives of children with disabilities. A special thank you goes out to Cath Ford and Tony Shubrook, Steve Smith and Tunji Akintokun, for supporting us for so long and for your unwavering support to help us achieve our mission.

Celebrating You

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Trustees

None of what we do would be possible without the support of an incredibly passionate Board of Trustees, who all give up their time to make us a better organisation. The last two and a half years have been particularly challenging for everyone, but the Trustees have remained compassionate, strategic and committed to the staff team, which helps create a positive atmosphere throughout the organisation.

So, to our UK Board - to Jim Sellars who has put in an incredible shift as Chair since taking over the role in 2020. To Kate Oldridge Turner who stepped down as Vice Chair after completing her six-year term and who has been a powerhouse of support over this period. To Heather Barr who has been an invaluable support over her time as Trustee, to Martin Hill, Emily Bueno, Cat Carter, Mitul Shah and to our two newest Trustees, Maria Omare and Miiro Michael, we want to say a massive thank you for everything that you do, we couldn't do it without you.

We also want to thank our US Board of Trustees, who are working very hard to help us establish our base in the US. To Paul Harrison, Liz Macfadyen, Rachelle Gregory and Neil Hankinson, a huge thank you for the time, energy and commitment to help us build something new, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Our Staff

And finally, a huge thank you to the whole staff team, who work tirelessly to bring to life the vision of the charity. We are very lucky to have such a passionate, hard working and skilled team, who help drive forward the organisation to make it what it is. We think they are all great and would like to thank them for making Able Child Africa feel like a family and a really positive place to work.

We would like to thank the following donors for their support in the last year

American Century Investments

Azad Ayub Ltd.

Book Aid International

Cargill

Comic Relief

Euromoney Institutional Investors

Exile Group

Hassell Inclusion

Network for Social Change

PenCarrie

The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust

The British and Foreign School Society

The Commonwealth Foundation

The Marr Munning Trust

Vitol Foundation



Looking Forward



Karl Hankinson
Chief Executive Officer

As we emerge out of the last two and a half years, we do so into a very unstable world. We are currently facing one of the most challenging environments for charities in the last thirty years. With the decline of aid funding, the cost of living crisis and the current geopolitical instability, we are having to work as hard as ever to raise money and more importantly raise awareness of the challenges faced by children with disabilities in Africa.

That being said, Able Child Africa is emerging in a strong position. While we saw a 28% decline in our income in the last year due to a significant decline in aid funding, we are predicting to be back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year and in a strong position to build for the future. This is down to the generosity of many supporters who have continued to stand by the organisation through the last few years. This support has been and continues to be humbling and I would like to thank everyone that has supported us over the last year. Whether you donate monthly, ran the London Marathon, or attended our Annual Gala, your support means a great deal.

We are now looking forward into what will be an exciting stage for the organisation. While our current partnership model has been extremely effective, we have realised there is a need to refine our current approach so that we are able to future proof the organisation and most importantly, provide more effective support to the organisations we work with in Africa. We also want to make Able Child Africa more representative of the organisations we work with, with more power concentrated in Africa.

To do this, we are embarking on an ambitious but achievable new strategy. We have spent the last twelve months conducting a strategic review, looking at what we do and where we make the most impact with the goal of setting a new course for the organisation to best support children with disabilities. This has been an inspiring and energising process that has engaged the whole team, our partners, parents and most importantly children and young people with disabilities.

Out of this process, we have a developed a new direction, which will be developed into a full strategy for launch in April 2023. This change will be a three-year journey, which will result in a growth of the number of partners we work with and an expansion in the number of countries where we work. But ultimately, it will ensure we are able to support more children with disabilities and their families.

Many thanks

Karl Hankinson
Chief Executive Officer

Strategic Priorities

We are developing our next **five-year strategy,** marking a step change for the organisation.

The **three key components** of the new strategy are as follows.

1. Adaptation of our current partnership model

We believe there is a need to build a wider network of organisations that work with and for children with disabilities across Africa. We want to use our tried and tested partner approach to support more organisations, to share best practice between countries and ultimately reach more children with disabilities.

Our focus will remain on strengthening civil society organisations, prioritising Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, but working with other organisations as well. We will continue to provide direct support, trainings and materials to these organisations but in a different way, creating resources for the whole network rather than individual partners. We will become specialists in what we do, facilitating knowledge sharing and best practice, and facilitating a more robust collection of data on children with disabilities to ensure those currently hidden away are identified and then supported.

Through this new approach, we will look to self-fund and secure funding for new innovative projects, testing models and coordinating larger consortium projects across the network. And we will play a leading role as an international advocacy agency for children with disabilities, bringing together the voices and skill sets of a larger network of experts in the field to campaign for change.

2. Transition to an international organisation, with a new representative governance structure

We believe there is an opportunity to grow into more of an international organisation, rather than one solely based in the UK. This is in terms of being able to bring the right people into the organisation with the right experience, but also with the aim of becoming a more representative organisation of the people we work with.

We will begin by recruiting our first role in Africa, to develop our new Network model. This Network Manager will ensure the network we build is effective and fit for purpose, using the experience of our current partners and other stakeholders to build a model that works. We will also grow a new small team in the US, capitalising on the opportunities we have there to grow awareness of what we do and build further support. And finally, we will work to create a governance structure above the current Boards, which places more power in the hands of the people we work with and for. We are passionate about this approach but want to find a structure that works, so will be consulting with various stakeholders to achieve this.

3. We restructure and invest in our fundraising team to deliver this

The fundraising landscape has changed significantly over the last three years, with an unstable external environment significantly affecting our ability to bring in funds. While some of these changes are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels, some of the shifts will remain, meaning it will be harder than it was before to bring in funds to support our work.

Because of this, we will need to invest in, and restructure our fundraising team to remain fit for purpose. Our plans are ambitious but very achievable, and the additional staff resource we have identified will ensure we are able to secure the necessary funds to support this shift. While this investment will increase costs at the outset, we believe this investment is necessary and will ultimately allow us to grow and have a greater impact on more children with disabilities, while ensuring we remain a strong and stable organisation to navigate the uncertain landscape.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with Able Child Africa's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



1. Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Legal Status

Able Child Africa is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, not having a share capital, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (company number 01861434). The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). Able Child Africa was previously known as the Uganda Society for Children with Disabilities.

1.2 Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Able Child Africa for the purposes of Company law) who held office during the financial year are set out in this document. They represent a diverse skill set with experience in finance, law, HR and the third sector, including programme delivery, safeguarding and advocacy. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair, James Sellars. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by the CEO, Karl Hankinson. The CEO also acts as Company Secretary. During the year one Trustee left the Board, and two new Trustees were appointed.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in Able Child Africa's Articles of Association, which allow for appointment at any time. New trustees are nominated by current members of the Board of Trustees, following an open and competitive recruitment process, and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, Trustees undergo a thorough induction process. Trustees do not receive any remuneration but may claim for incidental expenses, such as travel to board meetings.

The full Board meets on a quarterly basis. We also have one sub-committee, the Resources Sub-Committee that meets quarterly to oversee finance, unrestricted fundraising and give recommendations to the board. The Resources Sub-Committee has its own identified terms of reference, nominated chair and reports to the full board. The chair of the Resources Sub-committee is currently Martin Hill, appointed in March 2020.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for setting and maintaining the strategic direction of Able Child Africa, setting policies and managing resources, risk and staffing. Trustees ensure appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed, and they review the Articles of Association, last revised in 2017, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. They carefully monitor finances to ensure viability and sustainability of existing commitments and future plans; they oversee decisions relating to non-budgeted commitments in excess of £1,000; and budgeted commitments in excess of £5,000. Trustees also oversee and ensure compliance of statutory and legal requirements, both internally within Able Child Africa as well as to our beneficiaries and donors.

The Board oversees staff remuneration and sets the pay scales and any benefits package, currently limited only to pension payments, for the organisation. Salary scales are benchmarked using the Croner Charity Rewards Report, which provides the most comprehensive set of data on salary and benefit packages for the Charity Sector in the UK. The last pay scale review was completed in 2017 and amended in 2020.

1.3 Staffing

Able Child Africa maintains a small staff team in the UK. For most of the financial year we had nine staff members, which included the Chief Executive, a Head of Programmes & Advocacy, a Senior Programme Officer, two Programme Officers, a Finance & Operations Executive, a Philanthropy & Partnerships Manager and a Fundraising & Communications Officer. We also had one part-time Advocacy & Communications Assistant for the full year.

Able Child Africa is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equality of opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are also proud to be a registered 'disability confident' committed employer. In our recruitment processes we particularly encourage applications from people with disabilities and people with direct experience of living or working with children with disabilities; those meeting essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

1.4 Fundraising Performance

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Able Child Africa experienced consistent growth over the last few years, averaging 20% growth for each of the last five years up to this year. 2021/22 saw us contract for the first time in seven years, caused largely by the drying up of restricted grants across the sector. This trend seems to be temporary however, with income for 2022/23 predicted to be just under £1million again.

We have over £300,000 of multi-year grants secured for delivery for 2023/24 already and we are in a strong position to deliver against our strategic objectives. We do still see challenges in securing continued large scale grant funding over the next strategic cycle and have invested in our fundraising team in order to diversify our fundraising to ensure our sustainability over this period.

1.5 Public Benefit Statement

Able Child Africa works for the public benefit through its international development and advocacy work, in support of children with disabilities in Africa.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for this year and those contained in the next Strategic Plan.

Our charitable object as outlined in the Articles of Association is:

> To relieve charitable need, promote health, advance education and promote the social integration of disabled children for the public benefit, with a focus on (but without limitation) promoting such disabled children achieving their human, social, cultural and economic rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"), Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UNCRC, the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) by any means the Trustees in their absolute discretion choose and in particular by raising awareness as to the needs of disabled children and advocacy as to how those needs can best be met.

2. Financial Review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 83% of total expenditure. As a small bespoke charity, we recognise the value of every penny donated and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs in order to ensure that we maximise expenditure on charitable activities. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments in order to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and securing our own financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain external environment.

2.1 Income

Able Child Africa's total income this year was £688,771 which represents a reduction of 28% from the previous financial year. This is comprised of £436,832 in restricted funding (including grants) and £251,939 in unrestricted flexible funding.

The higher proportion of income (63%) for the financial year was restricted through grants from institutional donors and corporate partnerships. including Comic Relief, and Vitol Foundation - see note 4 for more details.

Unrestricted income amounted to 37% of total income, which was raised from individual donors, through unrestricted corporate support from TXF, Cargill Financial Services Europe Ltd, PenCarrie, Hassell Inclusion and American Century Investments; and through our fundraising events including our annual gala fundraising event and the London Marathon.

2.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure this year was £737,645, which is a 19% reduction from the previous financial year. Restricted expenditure totalled £376,749, which was spent delivering projects to benefit children with disabilities in Africa; these are detailed in note 6.

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to 83p for every pound raised, and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs. Our fundraising costs, 17p for every pound raised, are kept as low as possible whilst still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year cost of raising funds primarily includes fundraising staff time. Support costs, which cannot be solely attributed to either charitable or fundraising expenditure, are allocated in proportion to estimated staff time spent on each activity.

2.3 Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts.

The reserves policy, as defined in April 2020 states that the organisation should hold a minimum of 3-months of unrestricted expenditure at all times, with the aim to maintain reserves at a level above 6-months unrestricted expenditure. This decision is overseen by the Resources Sub-Committee.

Based on the 2021/2022 budget this indicated a target reserves of £157k. Having carried forward unrestricted reserves of £311,015 (including £85,000 of designated funds) at the start of the year, we ended March 2022 with £199,382 of unrestricted reserves. This included £17,764 of designated funds, resulting in a net unrestricted reserves figure of £181,618, well above our target.

2.4 Going Concern

The Trustees reaffirm that Able Child Africa is a going concern, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next 12-months.

While the external environment over the last two years has placed a significant strain on our ability to bring in funds to the organisation, we have maintained a strong unrestricted reserves position throughout this period and predict a growth in our unrestricted income levels over the next year.

With the drop in grant income seen over the last year which caused a contraction in the size of the organisation, some concern remains regarding grant-based funding. However, we have seen a replenishment of some of our lost grants in 2022 and are also in the process of finalising our new strategy which we believe will ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of our organisation going forward.

2.5 Voluntary Help and Gifts in Kind

We would like to thank all our generous volunteers and supporters for their work this year. We would like to thank the Exile Group for their continued in-kind support, most notably providing us with a long term office space. We would also like to thank Latham & Watkins and Simons Muirhead Burton for providing us with pro-bono legal support.

2.6 Investment Policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. At the present time we do not have any funds invested but may review this position in future should resources allow.

3. Risk Management Statement

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that Able Child Africa has the appropriate systems of control in place, financial and otherwise. Through the implementation of the Strategic Risk Register, the Trustees interrogate and proactively seek to reduce, eliminate or mitigate risks. The major risks to which Able Child Africa is exposed to are identified by the senior management team and nominated board members and reviewed by all Trustees at each quarterly board meeting.

The Trustees remain satisfied that current internal systems provide reasonable assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. At present the Trustees consider the two most significant risks are around financial sustainability and preventing child safeguarding incidents. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are summarised below.

Risk of insufficient funding and economic instability preventing us from delivering against our mission

In the current climate, risk to income, both restricted and unrestricted is high. At present we have a strong unrestricted reserves position, with over 6-months reserves at March 2022 and a stable unrestricted income portfolio. This has helped us manage navigate the turbulent period over the last two and a half years. However, while unrestricted income streams have been affected in the short term, in the more medium term, the focus is on the risk of reduced grant-based funding and other changes in the sector. While significant reductions in grant-based funding wouldn't affect our continued operations, it would affect our ability to make impact on scale. Changes in grant donor arrangements or preferences, particularly regarding our largest and most regular donors, will therefore have a significant impact on our output. At present we have approximately £300k of funding already secured for the next year but are working to identify new donors and diversify our funding streams. We are also planning for a new external environment and looking at how we future proof our organisation as the funding and donor landscape changes. All this is being done collaboratively and transparently with the Board of Trustees to ensure proper oversight and a strategic response to a changing situation. Financial oversight is provided by the Treasurer (monthly) and Resources Sub-Committee (quarterly) who review rolling cash flow projections and annual budgets. This regular monitoring ensures we regularly monitor performance against targets, as well as implement strategic shifts early when required.

Risk of compliance in the implementation of projects by our partners

Able Child Africa's strategy and theory of change both clearly lay out why we have chosen to work in partnership with African-led organisations. Principally, we believe quality, success and sustainability of our work depends on being grounded in the local context; we also believe this offers greater value for money to our donors. However, taking responsibility for the implementation of projects by our African partners, particularly where we are the primary grant holder, carries financial and reputational risk. We seek to mitigate this risk by developing collaborative, working relationships and transparent lines of communication with our partners; and having in place overarching Partnership Agreements and supplementary Funding Agreements in relation to each secured grant. We also conduct multiple in-person visits each year to check compliance of grants and improve systems. Following Covid-19 and the restrictions on travel, we have been able to resume travel this year to conduct these checks. During these visits, the programmes team regularly review activity delivery and project expenditure by partners, interrogating the quality of delivery and spend against outcomes. Project specific risk registers are developed collaboratively with partners for each project; these inform Able Child Africa's overall risk register and are reviewed and updated on an annual basis with partners. We have also developed a bespoke Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, as well as a summary for our overseas partners, which is in compliance with the UK Bribery Act 2010.

Risk of safeguarding incident causing harm to one or more of the vulnerable people we work with

As an organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, Able Child Africa understands the importance of our role in their safeguarding. As a partner-led organisation we also understand the threat of an incident involving one of our or our partner's staff, volunteers, or Trustees. While we do everything in our power to minimise the risk involving a staff member, volunteer or Trustee, we accept that due to the nature of our work, there is an increased likelihood of the witnessing or reporting of abuse. We aim to deal with this risk in an honest and transparent way that puts the child or vulnerable adult at the centre of any action.

We have a detailed and robust Inclusive Safeguarding Policy and Procedures that outlines the measures in place to reduce a Safeguarding incident that affects a child or vulnerable adult; and to appropriately act on any reported incident or suspicion of abuse. We have robust recruitment processes, with DBS checks on all staff, Trustees and volunteers upon appointment. All our staff are trained in safeguarding with regular team workshops where staff can discuss thoughts and facilitate learning and we have recruited a Safeguarding professional onto the board as the nominated lead. While our policies and procedures are strong, we are currently undergoing a full review and update of our systems to ensure they not only fit for purpose, but best practice.

Risk of loss of business continuity through unexpected sudden departure of key members of the team

The success of Able Child Africa's results and impact lies with its small and extremely dedicated staff team. The unplanned and sudden loss or departure of staff therefore places a risk to our ability to operate efficiently, particularly given the size of the team. To mitigate this, we have taken a number of steps both to improve staff retention and to ensure the loss of institutional knowledge is reduced. Over the course of the last two years, we have placed an emphasis on staff wellbeing and organisational culture to improve staff retention and provide an attractive and supportive environment for staff. To protect institutional knowledge, we have built processes into our CRM system and have started to implement a change in culture to document the organisational knowledge away from individual staff members. We have revised and updated our Business Continuity Policy this year to improve our oversight of the risk, particularly in light of a global pandemic and are well-equipped to manage this risk.

Risk to Able Child Africa staff or volunteer safety during travel

Although Able Child Africa does not currently work in conflict areas, political instability, the social turbulence, violence and kidnapping risks associated with travel to our chosen countries cannot be completely eliminated. We take our duty of care to our staff and volunteers very seriously through robust travel policies and procedures to manage security risks and provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against any occurrence. Ahead of each trip the Head of Programmes undertakes an internal risk assessment, documents travel plans and movements, and provides a travel briefing. Staff and volunteers who travel have access to a security and emergency travel app on the smartphone they are provided for travel and this is available to download on personal devices. Our latest security procedure review and staff training was undertaken last year, with a new Travel Safety and Security Policy developed following an internal review.

Risk of ineffective management of staff, volunteers, supporters' and/or beneficiaries' personal data

As a small organisation with limited resource to cover IT infrastructure, we understand the potential risks of ineffective IT systems or a cyber security attack that leads to a potential data breach. This risk is increased while we work remotely during

the current extended period. As part of the GDPR regulations, Able Child Africa has improved its IT policies, systems and infrastructure to better ensure that individual's data held by Able Child Africa is consensual, relevant for its purpose and secure. We have revised Data Protection Policies to bring them up to date with GDPR and ensured their effective implementation across the organisation. We have developed new IT Usage and Security Policies and Procedures to provide effective guidelines to staff on using IT and people's data within the organisation. We have developed a data register outlining the data we collect, the purpose for collecting it and where it is stored. Staff have received Data Protection training pre- and post-GDPR implementation and we have updated our data retention policies and developed Privacy Notices for all stakeholders to the organisation, including staff and Trustees. All our Privacy Notices and practices underwent an external review by a specialist law firm to ensure we are fully GDPR compliant and to ensure more effective management of all our data. This was completed at the end of 2020.

4. Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2022 was ten. The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd were appointed as the charitable company's auditors in 2017 and have acted in that capacity for the last five years. They have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 03 December 2022:



James Sellars – Chair

Company no. 01861434
Charity no. 326859

Able Child Africa
Report and Audited Financial Statements
31 March 2022

Able Child Africa

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Company number	01861434
Charity number	326859
Registered office and operational address	Unit 6 Madeira Tower 34 Ponton Road London SW11 7BA
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Abubakar Askira	(resigned 24 April 2021)
Heather Barr	
Emily Bueno	
Catherine Carter	
Martin Hill	
Miiro Michael	(appointed 18 September 2021)
Maria Omare	(appointed 18 September 2021)
Catherine Turner	
James Sellars	
Mitul Shah	

Company secretary and CEO	Karl Hankinson	
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ	Barclays Bank 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Solicitors	Bates Wells & Braithwaite 2-6 Cannon Street London EC4M 6YH	
Auditors	Godfrey Wilson Limited 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD	

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Able Child Africa (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the Trustees' report, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

(1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.

(2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:

- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:

- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alison Godfrey

Date: 7 December 2022

Alison Godfrey FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
GODFREY WILSON LIMITED
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Able Child Africa

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2022 Total £**	2021 Total £
Income from:					
Donations	3	-	233,619	**233,619**	271,220
Charitable activities	4	436,832	-	**436,832**	685,305
Other trading income	5	-	18,253	**18,253**	738
Investments		-	67	**67**	167
Total income		436,832	251,939	**688,771**	957,430
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	125,215	**125,215**	83,061
Charitable activities		376,749	235,681	**612,430**	826,652
Total expenditure	6	376,749	360,896	**737,645**	909,713
Net income / (expenditure)		60,083	(108,957)	**(48,874)**	47,717
Transfers between funds		2,676	(2,676)	**-**	-
Net movement in funds	8	62,759	(111,633)	(48,874)	47,717
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		182,714	311,015	**493,729**	446,012
Total funds carried forward		245,473	199,382	**444,855**	493,729

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Able Child Africa

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2022

	Note	£	**2022** **£**	2021 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		**-**	1,869
Current assets				
Debtors	12	**36,677**		40,051
Cash at bank and in hand		**424,518**		470,021
		461,195		510,072
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	13	**(16,340)**		(18,212)
Net current assets			**444,855**	491,860
Net assets	14		**444,855**	493,729
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			**245,473**	182,714
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds			**17,764**	85,000
General funds			**181,618**	226,015
Total charity funds			**444,855**	493,729

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 3 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by

James Sellars - Chair

Able Child Africa

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	**(48,874)**	47,717
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**1,869**	5,316
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**(67)**	(167)
Decrease in debtors	**3,374**	33,064
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**(1,872)**	1,321
Net cash used in operating activities	**(45,570)**	87,251
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**67**	167
Net cash provided by investing activities	**67**	167
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(45,503)**	87,418
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**470,021**	382,603
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**424,518**	470,021

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Able Child Africa meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The Trustees reaffirm that Able Child Africa is a going concern, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next 12-months. While the external environment over the last two years has placed a significant strain on our ability to bring in funds to the organisation, we have maintained a strong unrestricted reserves position of £199,382 and strong cash position of £424,518 throughout this period and predict a growth in our unrestricted income levels over the next year.

Concern continues regarding grant-based funding, which has caused a slight contraction in the size of the organisation. However, we are in the process of finalising our new strategy which we believe will ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of our organisation going forward.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of earned income, sales, and consultancy is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Grants payable

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure on the earlier of a) when the charity has a present obligation to transfer resources; and b) when the charity ceases to control the resource (e.g. via transfering funds to the grant recipient).

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of staff numbers, as follows:

	2022	2021
Raising funds	**18%**	17%
Charitable activities	**82%**	83%

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computers, database and website	3 years straight line
Furniture and fittings	5 years straight line

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

q) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1(j).

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2021 Total £**
Income from:			
Donations	-	271,220	**271,220**
Charitable activities	675,305	10,000	**685,305**
Other trading income	-	738	**738**
Investments	-	167	**167**
Total income	675,305	282,125	**957,430**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	83,061	**83,061**
Charitable activities	713,490	113,162	**826,652**
Total expenditure	713,490	196,223	**909,713**
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	(38,185)	85,902	**47,717**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

3. Income from donations

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2022 Total £**	2021 Total £
Sponsored challenge events	-	67,343	**67,343**	33,717
Fundraising events and community	-	16,004	**16,004**	15,303
Individual donors	-	41,487	**41,487**	54,005
Corporate donors	-	93,626	**93,626**	53,178
Gifts in kind*	-	15,159	**15,159**	5,000
Legacy income	-	-	**-**	85,031
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	**-**	24,986
Total	-	233,619	**233,619**	271,220

All donation income in the prior year was unrestricted.

*Gifts in kind relate to the following goods and services provided free of charge:

	2022 £	2021 £
Rent	**14,000**	-
Prizes for gala dinner	**1,159**	5,000
Gifts in kind	**15,159**	5,000

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2022 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Comic Relief	183,994	-	**183,994**
Vitol Foundation	127,959	-	**127,959**
Euromoney	35,000	-	**35,000**
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust	20,000	-	**20,000**
Book Aid International	18,860	-	**18,860**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	13,485	-	**13,485**
The British & Foreign School Society	14,920	-	**14,920**
Smaller grants < £10,000	22,614	-	**22,614**
Total	436,832	-	**436,832**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

Prior period comparative

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2021 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Comic Relief	329,576	-	**329,576**
Vitol Foundation	113,220	-	**113,220**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	112,045	-	**112,045**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	53,940	-	**53,940**
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	24,218	-	**24,218**
Marr Munning Trust	23,893	-	**23,893**
Ashla Charitable Trust	-	10,000	**10,000**
Smaller grants < £10,000	18,413	-	**18,413**
Total	675,305	10,000	**685,305**

Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Jersey Overseas Aid Commission to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2022 was £18,485 (2021: £190,971). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the current or prior year.

5. Other trading income

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2022 Total £**	2021 Total £
Auction sales	-	12,560	**12,560**	-
Sales income	-	5,693	**5,693**	738
	-	18,253	**18,253**	738

All other trading income in the prior year was unrestricted.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2022 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	268,643	-	**268,643**
Staff costs (note 9)	64,395	242,944	34,553	**341,892**
Non-salaried personnel	-	4,618	2,463	**7,081**
Running costs	-	-	45,326	**45,326**
Fundraising and events	45,006	-	-	**45,006**
Governance	-	-	6,552	**6,552**
Programmes and operations	-	23,145	-	**23,145**
Sub-total	109,401	539,350	88,894	**737,645**
Allocation of support and governance costs	15,814	73,080	(88,894)	**-**
Total	125,215	612,430	-	**737,645**

Prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2021 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	509,032	-	**509,032**
Staff costs (note 9)	49,552	234,110	32,737	**316,399**
Non-salaried personnel	-	7,483	2,279	**9,762**
Running costs	-	-	39,449	**39,449**
Fundraising and events	20,053	-	-	**20,053**
Governance	-	-	5,585	**5,585**
Programmes and operations	-	9,433	-	**9,433**
Sub-total	69,605	760,058	80,050	**909,713**
Allocation of support and governance costs	13,456	66,594	(80,050)	**-**
Total	83,061	826,652	-	**909,713**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

7. Grants payable to institutions

Grants were paid to the following overseas partner organisations in pursuit of the charity's objects:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)	**68,737**	66,015
Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)	**17,225**	-
Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)	**66,229**	126,219
Child Support Tanzania (CST)	**36,145**	123,869
UWEZO Youth Empowerment	**2,822**	141,105
Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)	**77,485**	51,824
Total	**268,643**	509,032

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	**1,869**	5,316
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**Nil**	Nil
Auditors' remuneration:		
▪ Statutory audit	**5,220**	4,680
▪ Other services	**300**	300

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**303,511**	282,815
Social security costs	**25,699**	23,423
Pension costs	**11,292**	8,326
Other staff costs	**1,390**	1,835
Total	**341,892**	316,399

One employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2021: one).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel, including gross salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions were £69,909 (2021: £67,213).

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Average head count	**8.03**	9.08

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Computers, database and website £	Furniture and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	17,860	666	**18,526**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	15,991	666	**16,657**
Charge for the year	1,869	-	**1,869**
At 31 March 2022	17,860	666	**18,526**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	**-**	**-**	**-**
At 31 March 2021	1,869	-	1,869

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	**774**	-
Accrued income	**15,226**	5,532
Prepayments	**20,657**	27,769
Other debtors	**20**	6,750
Total	**36,677**	40,051

13. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	**90**	5,352
Accruals	**8,423**	4,980
Other taxation and social security	**7,827**	7,880
Total	**16,340**	18,212

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Current assets	245,473	17,764	197,958	**461,195**
Current liabilities	-	-	(16,340)	**(16,340)**
Net assets at 31 March 2022	**245,473**	**17,764**	**181,618**	**444,855**

Prior period comparative

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,869	**1,869**
Current assets	182,714	85,000	242,358	**510,072**
Current liabilities	-	-	(18,212)	**(18,212)**
Net assets at 31 March 2021	**182,714**	**85,000**	**226,015**	**493,729**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	3,365	-	-	-	**3,365**
Aletheia Foundation	306	-	(306)	-	**-**
The British and Foreign School Society	2,565	14,920	(17,485)	-	**-**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go	40,423	74,108	(76,643)	-	**37,888**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School	(2,153)	9,768	-	-	**7,615**
Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education	6,882	(2,327)	(4,555)	-	**-**
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME!	66,647	102,444	(84,295)	-	**84,796**
The Commonwealth Foundation	67	996	(1,063)	-	**-**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	-	**60**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	(5,001)	5,001	-	-	**-**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding	(2,537)	-	(139)	2,676	**-**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	(3,330)	13,485	(5,965)	-	**4,190**
Laureus Foundation	756	4,528	(5,284)	-	**-**
The Marr-Munning Trust	23,893	-	(15,387)	-	**8,506**
Network for Social Change	3,136	-	(3,136)	-	**-**
The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	**-**
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	47,635	104,878	(99,049)	-	**53,464**
James Tudor Foundation	-	3,940	(1,894)	-	**2,046**
Euromoney	-	35,000	(1,458)	-	**33,542**
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	-	20,000	(17,062)	-	**2,938**
Book Aid International	-	18,860	(8,797)	-	**10,063**
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	-	23,081	(23,081)	-	**-**
The Souter Charitable Trust	-	-	(3,000)	-	**(3,000)**
Other Restricted - FEDOMA	-	5,650	(5,650)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	182,714	436,832	(376,749)	2,676	**245,473**

15. Movements in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy	85,000	-	(67,236)	-	**17,764**
General funds	226,015	251,939	(293,660)	(2,676)	**181,618**
Total unrestricted funds	311,015	251,939	(360,896)	(2,676)	**199,382**
Total funds	493,729	688,771	(737,645)	-	**444,855**

15. Movements in funds: prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	47,567	24,218	(68,420)	-	**3,365**
Aletheia Foundation	3,676	-	(3,370)	-	**306**
The British and Foreign Schools Society	5,852	3,247	(6,534)	-	**2,565**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go	23,662	74,807	(58,046)	-	**40,423**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School	49,434	43,955	(95,542)	-	**(2,153)**
Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education	33,067	78,076	(104,261)	-	**6,882**
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME!	-	132,737	(66,090)	-	**66,647**
The Commonwealth Foundation	14,664	9,217	(23,814)	-	**67**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	950	(950)	-	**60**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	1,240	55,644	(61,885)	-	**(5,001)**
Sub-total of restricted funds	179,222	422,851	(488,912)	-	**113,161**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued): prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	**At 31 March 2021 £**
Restricted funds (continued)					
Sub-total of restricted funds from prior page	179,222	422,851	(488,912)	-	**113,161**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding	6,779	11,405	(20,721)	-	**(2,537)**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Covid-19 Rapid Responses	-	44,996	(44,996)	-	**-**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	19,356	53,940	(76,626)	-	**(3,330)**
Laureus Foundation	1,323	-	(567)	-	**756**
The Marr-Munning Trust	-	23,893	-	-	**23,893**
Network for Social Change	11,746	-	(8,610)	-	**3,136**
UWEZO - Other restricted	2,473	5,000	(7,473)	-	**-**
Vitol Foundation	-	113,220	(65,585)	-	**47,635**
Total restricted funds	220,899	675,305	(713,490)	-	**182,714**
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy	-	85,000	-	-	**85,000**
General funds	225,113	197,125	(196,223)	-	**226,015**
Total unrestricted funds	225,113	282,125	(196,223)	-	**311,015**
Total funds	446,012	957,430	(909,713)	-	**493,729**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation

This 3-year grant supports the second phase, larger development of CST's purpose-built, fully inclusive school site including architectural design, construction and school equipment. Capacity building support is also provided to CST in terms of strategic and business planning, training and capacity building as needed to transition to a larger profile, purpose-built school.

Aletheia Foundation

This 1-year project by the Alethia Foundation and funded by Comic Relief project supported up to 8 young people living in Ayilo and Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement in Uganda to access education. The support was part of a grant from Comic Relief to the Aletheia Foundation who remained the grant holder and was responsible for the grant.

The British and Foreign School Society

This 1-year pilot funded by the British and Foreign School Society will improve the access and quality of inclusive education in 3 primary schools by implementing a new early screening tool for children with disabilities who are either out of school or failing to achieve in school. The tool will implement the Washington Group Questions; thought to be a more practical and effective method to identify multiple disability types.

Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go

This 3-year grant supported by Comic Relief and implemented by our Kenyan partner, ANDY, seeks to improve access to quality inclusive ECE for children with disabilities aged 4-6 in Nairobi, Kenya. This project will develop effective early identification systems, build the capacity of key ECD duty-bearers, and design an innovative Inclusive Play Programme to sustainably and holistically address barriers to their inclusion.

Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School

This 4-year grant funded by Comic Relief scales up two Inclusive Education projects currently delivered with our partner Child Support Tanzania within Mbeya, South West Tanzania. Working in a consortium with two other international disability organisations funded under the same grants stream, the project seeks to increase the access, quantity and quality of inclusive education. The project utilises the Child-to-Child methodology developed with our partner USDC to ensure activities are participatory and determined by children.

Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education

This 5-year grant funded by Comic Relief supports a project implemented by our Ugandan partner, USDC. The project scales up a highly successful FCDO funded project, using an innovative Child-to-Child approach to identify, enroll and educate children with disabilities into 27 primary schools in Northern Uganda. The project also includes teacher training, community sensitisations, national advocacy and educational access & learning provisions to both the children and their schools.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME!

This 3-year project funded by Comic Relief will improve the primary school readiness of children with and without disabilities aged 3-6 years in Uganda through the development of a community-led inclusive early childhood education (IECE) model with caregivers, capacity building of key ECE duty-bearers and communities and a focused government advocacy campaign. This IECE model will be delivered through 18 community learning centres (CLCs) with activities delivered alongside local government schools to aid inclusion and break down barriers.

The Commonwealth Foundation

This 3-year grant funded by Commonwealth facilitates a Coalition of 15 child-focused Civil Society Organisation and 20 Disabled Persons Organisations to jointly advocate for the rights of children with disabilities to raise the voice of civil society. Alongside training of officials and biannual Coalition strategy meetings, a public campaign led by the Coalition will raise awareness and encourage widespread advocacy to collectively push for the rights of children with disabilities to be fully recognised in policy development and implementation within the Kenyan Government.

Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the The Leggatt Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our inclusive education programme in Tanzania and ensured children with disabilities received medical assessments during the project lifecycle.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

This 3-year project funded through the UK Aid Direct Community Partnerships stream contributed to the SDG aspiration to ‘leave no one behind’ in Rwanda by empowering children and young people with disabilities to demand inclusion in the SDGs. This project used a tested and new youth-led model whereby young people with disabilities were trained to mentor children with disabilities and then became the main drivers for inclusion at community and government level. The project was successful in finding youth-led solutions for meaningful inclusion and creating mechanisms where young people with disabilities could communicate evidence of best practice to policy makers.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding

This 1-year project supported by the FCDO Safeguarding Hub led to the development and design of the Disability-inclusive Safeguarding Guidelines for development practitioners. The guidelines were developed in consultation with young people with disabilities in Rwanda and in consultation with the wider sector. Following launch of the guidelines, a series of three webinars were delivered for Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) across Africa to upskill them on inclusive safeguarding.

Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

This 3-year project funded by Jersey Oversees Aid contributed to the government’s commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ through the advocacy for disability inclusive WASH policies and programmes for girls with disabilities in education. This multifaceted and youth-led project identified out of schoolgirls with disabilities and trained female youth with disability (YwD) mentors to design and implement a two-fold peer to peer mentoring programme using child-friendly resources.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Laureus Foundation

This 1-year pilot funded by the Laureus Foundation piloted a disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights sports programme in two schools for 60 girls with disabilities to learn about relationships, consent and safeguarding in a non-judgemental and interactive space. Support networks and governments were engaged through disability inclusive support groups and child-led advocacy campaigns. Learnings were shared with existing health and education actors to inform potential scale up for the promotion of disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls with disabilities.

The Marr-Munning Trust

This 3-year project with our implementing partner USDC, expands on our prior Marr Munning Trust funded programme to directly support the early childhood education (ECE) of 60 children with disabilities across 6 schools in Northern Uganda (Lira & Nebbi). It will support the government's need to scale-up the Individualised Learning Plan (ILP) by adapting our ILP and disability screening tool for an Early Childhood Education context and delivering a focused multi-year government advocacy campaign. The campaign will target a network of district- and national-level government officials; supporting them to make the 'business case' for adopting the tools at all government schools.

Network for Social Change

This 1-year project supported by the Network for Social Change allowed us to expand and deepen our reach in inclusive WASH programming for children with disabilities and enabled us to better build the capacity of our partners in this area. The grant supports the development of training packages and resources that focus on the empowerment of girls with disabilities through inclusive sexual and reproductive health and WASH.

The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation

This grant from The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation provided top-up funding to support our WASH project and specifically provided funds for additional training on mentoring and developing youth-led and accessible child-friendly resources on WASH.

Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA

This 3-year project aims to improve children with disabilities' (3-5yrs) access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the introduction of innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes & the capacity building of actors responsible for children with disabilities early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents & children with disabilities themselves. Through their increased cooperation that ensures long-term systemic change, these actors will holistically break down barriers to ECD inclusion.

James Tudor Foundation

This grant by The James Tudor Charitable Trust supports our project "ECD 4 Me Tool!" implemented through our partner, FEDOMA. This project aims to improve children with disabilities' (3-5yrs) access to ECD through the provision of medical screenings, assessments and provision of assistive devices which will support them to better access education services.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Euromoney

This two to three-year grant is in support of the project “I Matter Too: Making Rwandan child protection systems disability-inclusive for children with disabilities”. The project will adopt a community-based inclusive development approach to target child protection systems in Gasabo, Rwanda to ensure that children with disabilities, as the children most at risk of neglect and abuse, are able to equitably access child protection systems.

The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust

This grant from Allan & Nesta is providing support to our project “ECD For Me Too”. It is implemented through our partner FEDOMA and is aimed at improving access to ECD services for children with disabilities through quality community-based inclusive early childhood interventions. This will be done by introducing innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes and building capacity of actors responsible for children with disabilities’ early years development to ensure a long-term systemic change and holistically breaking down barriers to ECD inclusion.

Book Aid International

This one-year grant is for the project “Quality School Libraries for All”. This project will set up three inclusive libraries across three schools. This will include the donation of 9,000 books to the three schools (3,000 books each), once of which be CST’s inclusive school. The project will also provide funding to enable the schools to make inclusive adaptations to the library rooms to make them accessible for all children and will train teachers and school librarians on inclusive education techniques to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the new libraries.

Vitol Foundation – ZAPCD

This five-month project supported by Vitol is called ‘IECE Zambia': Conducting a national review of the inclusiveness of Early Childhood Education (ECE) for children with disabilities in Zambia’. It aims to deepen our understanding of the multifaceted barriers children with disabilities face when accessing Early Childhood Education (ECE) services in Zambia through a national review of existing ECE provision. The aims are to deepen understanding of ECE for children with disabilities in Zambia, and to build momentum with key changemakers to advocate for improved inclusive ECE in Zambia.

Souter Charitable Trust

This grant was in support of project ‘ECD For Me Too’ Improving ECD access for children with disabilities through inclusive community-based support and play specifically for conducting trainings for staff on child-to-child approach, disability inclusion, child protection, and the use of Individual Education Plans as well as training them to deliver a bi-weekly inclusive play scheme for children with and without disabilities.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued)
Purposes of restricted funds

Other Restricted - FEDOMA
Consisted of the following two grants:

- Heb Ffin
- Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
These grants were made in support of "ECD 4 Me Too!". The project aims to improve children with disabilities' (3-5yrs) access to Early Childhood Development through the provision of medical screenings, assessments and provision of assistive devices which will support them to better access education services. These grants were specifically made for conducting trainings for staff on child-to-child approach, disability inclusion, child protection, and the use of Individual Education Plans as well as training them to deliver a bi-weekly inclusive play scheme for children with and without disabilities.

Purpose of designated fund
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy
The legacy funding will facilitate the third phase of CST's purpose-built, fully inclusive school site including architectural design, construction and school equipment. Specifically, the funds will realise the construction of an additional fully accessible classroom and physiotherapy unit.

Transfers between funds
The transfer between funds represents an overspend on a prior year project that has been topped up by unrestricted reserves.

Funds in deficit
Funds in deficit represent recoverable overspends in the current year, to be recovered via further restricted income in 2022/23.

16. Operating lease commitments
The charity had operating leases at the year end with total future minimum lease payments as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amount falling due:		
Within 1 year	**-**	15,750
Within 1 - 5 years	**-**	-
	-	15,750

17. Related party transactions
During the year, 6 Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £3,955 (2021: £10,802 from 5 Trustees).

Protect. Educate. Empower.

able child AFRICA

+44 (0) 20 7733 6006
info@ablechildafrica.org.uk
ablechildafrica.org

Unit 6 Madeira Tower, 34 Ponton Road
Nine Elms, London, SW11 7BA

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

disability confident EMPLOYER

MINDFUL EMPLOYER

Able Child Africa is a registered charity No. 326859 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 1861434 registered at the above address. Designed by iirth.co

Able Child Africa

England & Wales - Charity number 326859

Accounts

able child AFRICA

Company no. 1861434
Charity no. 326859

2021
Annual Report and Audited Accounts

Celebrating **37 years** of changing lives



Protect. Educate. Empower.

We are Able Child Africa

The leading UK charity working solely to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities in Africa.

For over 37 years, we've been making lasting change for children with disabilities in Africa, operating across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia.

We break down the barriers to inclusion for children with disabilities and empower them to fight for their rights. We create change on a national scale by influencing governments and other agencies.

We are a small charity making a big impact. We are uncompromising in our mission. We are experts in what we do and are passionate about the approach we take. We are bold and agile, with the courage to innovate and take disciplined risks.



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Welcome from our Chair



Jim Sellars
Chair

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our 2021 Annual Report.

Undoubtedly, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to be extremely challenging for ourselves, our partners, and, most pertinently, for the children we work with. But I am incredibly proud of the organisation and our partners who have continued their vital work to protect, educate, and empower children with disabilities during a most difficult period.

We work side-by-side with our six partners and their commitment, vision, and knowledge drive the success of Able Child Africa, without whom none of our work would be possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for everything they have done this year and throughout our many years of successful partnership.

We have had some significant successes this year. As well as working with our existing partners in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, we had the first full year of partnership with FEDOMA (Malawi) and ZAPCD (Zambia) and I am delighted to report an excellent start to these partnerships. In May 2021, we also launched the first Disability-inclusive Safeguarding Guidelines, in partnership with Save the Children. The guidelines and training will impact many children, including those beyond the reach of our existing partners.

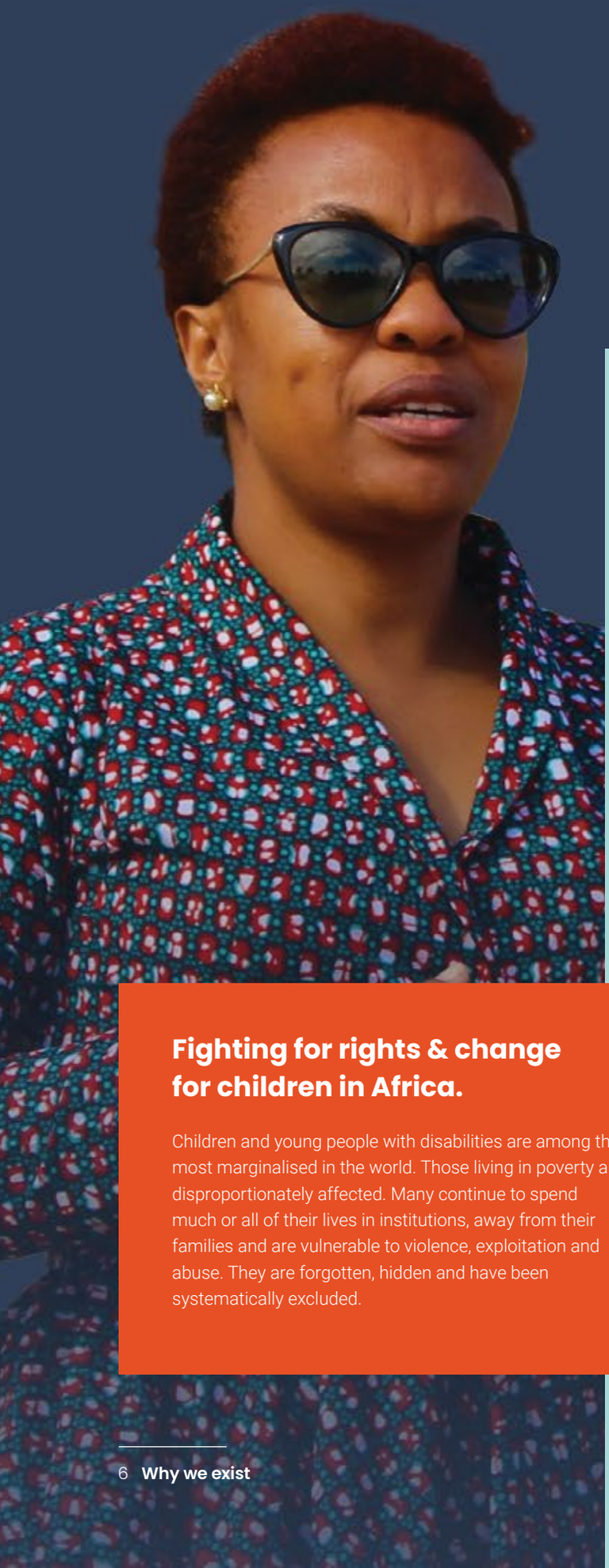
Looking forward, 2022 marks the start of our next five-year strategy cycle. In preparation, we have launched a strategic review of Able Child Africa in conjunction with our partners and wider stakeholders. The new strategy aims to ensure that the organisation will support the children we work with in the best way possible over the long term and we look forward to sharing our new strategy in next year's Annual Report.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the entire Able Child Africa team. Karl, our CEO, provides both inspirational leadership to the whole organisation and drives the long-term vision of Able Child Africa; and never have we been more aware of the calibre and dedication of the team as during this challenging period. We are also indebted to the Board of Trustees, whose diverse skillsets and experiences have been crucial in navigating the challenges of the last 18 months.

Despite the organisation's continued growth, the external fundraising environment remains challenging. We do not underestimate the challenge ahead, and my final thanks are reserved for all our donors, whether individual, corporate or institutional, small and large. Your generosity is the lifeblood of the organisation, and we remain indebted to your continued support. This has enabled Able Child Africa to deliver all the work described in the following pages and to continue our vital mission to improve the lives of children with disabilities and enable them to fulfil their potential.

While this has been a challenging 18-month period, the organisation remains well placed to flourish and ultimately support many more children who need our support. I am tremendously excited about the future and sincerely hope you will continue to feel moved to support us in our vital work.

Best wishes,
Jim Sellars



Fighting for rights & change for children in Africa.

Children and young people with disabilities are among the most marginalised in the world. Those living in poverty are disproportionately affected. Many continue to spend much or all of their lives in institutions, away from their families and are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. They are forgotten, hidden and have been systematically excluded.

60 million

people with disabilities live in Africa, the vast majority of which are children.

Only 1 in 10 attend school



This impact is worsened for girls with disabilities.

Children with disabilities are **4 times** more likely to suffer abuse or violence



Why we exist

Up to 80% of children with disabilities from low-income countries will not live to be 5 years old. The children that do are four times more likely to suffer abuse and eight times less likely to go to school.

Our vision is a world in which all children with disabilities are fully included as equal members of society.

Only half of the children who begin go on to complete their primary education. Most drop out after a few months due to feelings of exclusion, isolation or stigma.

Every day, these children are facing barriers such as stigma and discrimination just for being who they are. They are some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

Local disability-focused organisations are severely underfunded and under-resourced, so Able Child Africa plays a key role in supporting local partners to protect, educate and empower children with disabilities so they are able to fulfil their potential.



Denying children with disabilities their equal rights has a lifelong impact. **It leads to a life of poverty, abuse, dependence and discrimination.** We believe every child is able: able to learn, able to contribute to society and able to shape their own future.



What we do

We work with local partners to **protect, educate and empower** children with disabilities so they are able to fulfil their potential. We do this by...

Delivering high quality programmes

We deliver high-quality programmes alongside local partners that break down the barriers to inclusion for children with disabilities.

Strengthening local organisations

We strengthen local organisations on the ground which ensures they can deliver lasting change in the countries where we work.

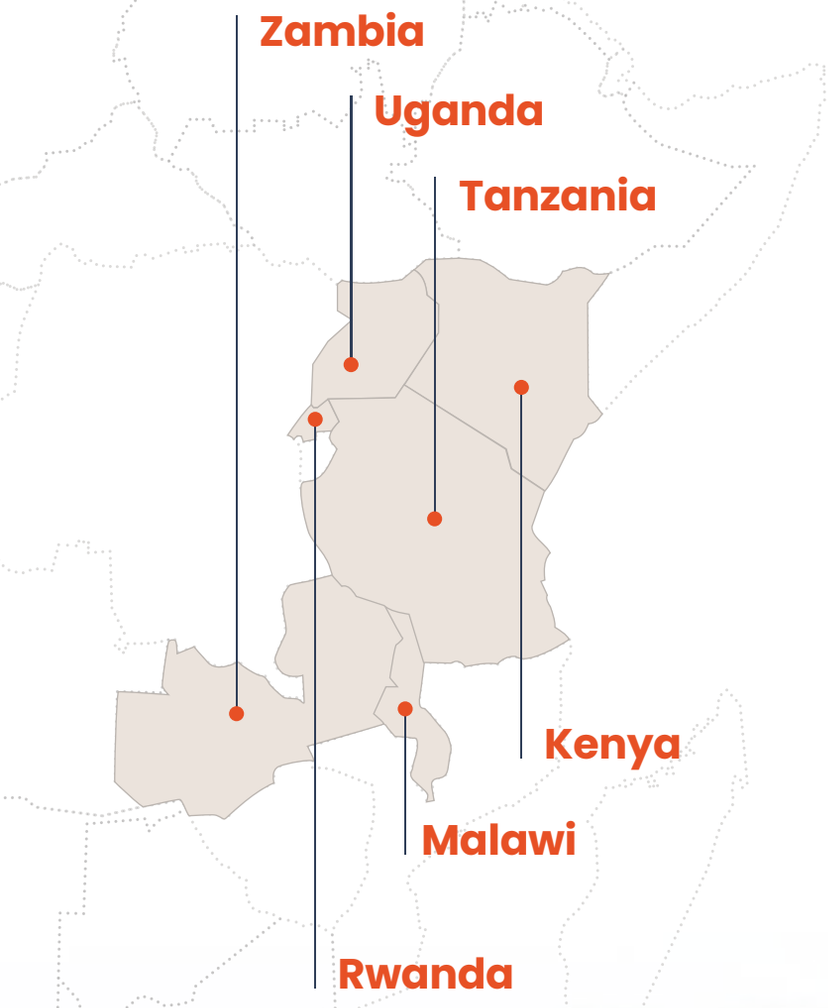
Fighting for rights & creating change

We fight for the rights of children with disabilities, creating change on a national scale by influencing governments and agencies.



> **Able Child Africa has benefited our work in so many areas, providing us with a valuable network where we have been able to learn from other organisations doing similar work.**

Beneficiary of our work in Tanzania



We have over **37 years'** experience working with local organisations across Africa to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

Our **mission** is to promote the realisation of equal rights for children and young people with disabilities in Africa and to facilitate their meaningful inclusion in all aspects of life.



Protect.



Ensuring the protection of children with disabilities in Africa.

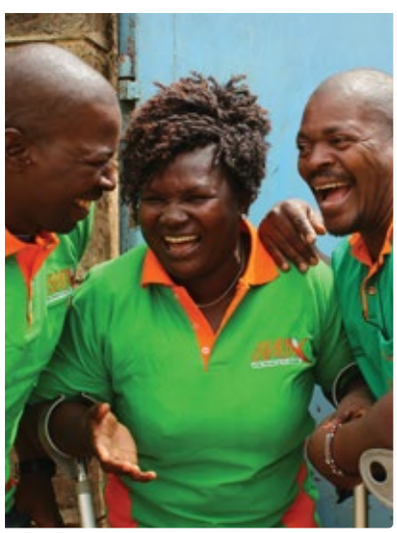
Children with disabilities are at a higher risk of violence, abuse or exploitation due to the multiple barriers that prevent them from protecting themselves or reporting incidents of abuse. We work with all our partners to improve and support local safeguarding practices and ensure the protection of children in the areas where we work.

By supporting local families and organisations to break down the stigma and discrimination around disability, we ensure the **protection** and inclusion of children with disabilities within their communities. We have been working to do this in Kenya...

Improving Child Safeguarding in Kenya

We worked with our partner **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY) in Kenya to build their capacity to safeguard children with disabilities. Much of ANDY's early work had focused on supporting young people, however, they were increasingly looking for ways to work with younger children with disabilities, as they identified large numbers of children who were out of school. ANDY sought Able Child Africa's support to include children with disabilities in their five-year strategy, and together we developed a new child protection and safeguarding policy for the organisation.

The full involvement of both ANDY and Able Child Africa in this process ensured that both national and international standards were considered. Crucially, we have been able to apply our extensive experience and knowledge of the considerations needed for inclusive safeguarding, specifically for children with disabilities.



Educate.



Changing the lives of children with disabilities through education.

Across the world, over 90% of children with disabilities do not attend formal school. To tackle this problem we have developed inclusive **education** projects that support children with disabilities to access mainstream education alongside their peers, improving their educational outcomes and ensuring they are able to fulfil their potential.

We have been working in Uganda to change the lives of children with disabilities through education...

Child to Child Inclusive Education in Uganda

We teamed up with our partners **Uganda Society for Disabled Children** (USDC), to implement an Inclusive Education Project using an innovative Child to Child approach. Together with teachers, they identify barriers to exclusion and work with schools and communities to ensure that children with disabilities are in education, and importantly stay in school.

Using the Child to Child approach, children already attending school are encouraged to identify and engage with out-of-school children with disabilities in their communities. Together with teachers, they identify barriers to exclusion, and work with schools and communities to ensure that children with disabilities are in education, and importantly stay in school.

We worked with 27 schools across three districts (Lira, Adjumani and Nebbi) over 5 years, enabling us and USDC to get over 1,500 children with disabilities into school.



Empower.



Empowering children with disabilities in Africa to fight for their rights.

For too long children with disabilities have been forgotten, hidden and systematically excluded. A key reason is that the children and their parents have been unaware of their rights and are disempowered in the fight for justice. By **empowering** children and young people with disabilities with knowledge of their rights, they are able to break down the barriers to their inclusion for themselves and their peers.

Raising Aspirations in Rwanda

With funding from the UK Government, we joined the fight to 'leave no one behind' in Rwanda, partnering with UWEZO Youth Empowerment to empower children and young people with disabilities to demand inclusion within the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Alongside UWEZO, we developed and implemented a youth-led model, where we trained young people with disabilities to mentor and work with younger children with disabilities. Through this approach, we provided a platform to develop youth-led solutions for meaningful inclusion, where young people themselves become the key advocates for inclusion at the community and government level.

This has created new mechanisms and networks, where young people with disabilities are empowered to campaign for their inclusion across society.



Our impact

Objective 1: **Support African-led organisations to help children with disabilities and their families realise their full potential**

In 2020/21, we have been working with **six partners** across **six countries** in Africa to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

We directly supported children and young people with disabilities through enrolling out-of-school children into schools, providing disability aids, making school premises more accessible, establishing mentoring networks and activities to break down damaging myths about disability.

Children we directly supported

Uganda: **461** children & young people supported

Kenya: **180** children & young people supported

Rwanda: **623** children & young people supported

Tanzania: **370** children & young people supported

Malawi: **50** children & young people supported

Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **1,684**



We trained teachers in inclusive teaching methods, providing the necessary training and tools to help teachers support all children in the classroom and ensuring children with disabilities can participate in lessons alongside their peers.



Teachers we trained

Uganda: **484** teachers trained
Kenya: **0** teachers trained
Rwanda: **24** teachers trained
Tanzania: **282** teachers trained
Malawi: **37** teachers trained
Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **827**

We supported parents of children with disabilities through parent support groups or community events, giving parents the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face, support each other and work together to advocate for their children's inclusion.



Parents we supported

Uganda: **853** parents supported
Kenya: **199** parents supported
Rwanda: **477** parents supported
Tanzania: **248** parents supported
Malawi: **150** parents supported
Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **1,927**

We worked with government officials and ministers advocating for improvements in disability inclusion at a local and national level in key government services in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.



Government officials we worked with

Uganda: **47** government officials we worked with
Kenya: **14** government officials we worked with
Rwanda: **43** government officials we worked with
Tanzania: **24** government officials we worked with
Malawi: **27** government officials we worked with
Zambia: **no stats available as yet**

Total **155**

Uganda

We have been working in Uganda **since 1984** alongside our partner **USDC,** supporting children with disabilities and their families to break down the barriers to inclusion.



Many people living with disabilities in Uganda continue to face **stigma** and **discrimination**. In northern Uganda, where we work, 80% of people with disabilities have been identified as living in chronic poverty. Despite significant progress at a policy level in Uganda, there is an implementation gap. With a policy of Universal Primary Education, school enrolment has reached 90%. However, this is not the case for children with disabilities, where only 2% are graduating to secondary level.

What we're proud of

We are very proud of our collaboration with **Literacy and Adult Basic Education (LABE) in Uganda**. Together with inclusive education academics from Kyambogo University we are adapting LABE's home-based Early Childhood Development curriculum to make it disability inclusive. Once this adaptation is completed, we will have an inclusive curriculum that can be used to give children with disabilities in pre-primary education (ages 3 - 6 years) an equal start in life with their peers. We intend to use this adapted curriculum to open 18 Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in Northern Uganda that will provide free, inclusive early childhood education to children with and without disabilities, an opportunity that is currently denied most children due to poverty and stigma around disability.

Able Child Africa's support to my team and ongoing sharing of ideas has helped us come up with new ideas we would not have thought possible.

Dolorence Were, Director USDC

Child to Child Inclusive Education in Uganda

In 2016 we teamed up with our partners Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC), to implement an inclusive education programme using an innovative Child to Child approach. In 2021 the first phase of this programme came to a successful end, having enrolled 1,716 children with disabilities into mainstream primary schools over 5 years, and with over 2,000 home visits conducted in the final year alone. The community-based approach brought these children into a safe, inclusive learning environment. The project helped these children tackle environmental, institutional and attitudinal barriers through Child Rights Clubs, teacher trainings, school infrastructure modifications and government advocacy around disability-inclusive policy change. With learnings informing the next phase of work at Early Childhood Education level, we're excited to support even more children with disabilities to access inclusive education from an early age.



Through our current projects

We conducted **2,094** home visits

to vulnerable children with disabilities during the pandemic

We registered **853** parents

of children with disabilities into parent support groups

We trained **484** teachers

in Child-to-Child approaches for disability -inclusive learning



Advocating for Change in Uganda

Following on from our work with the government to **help improve the quality of inclusive education for children with disabilities**, we are now working on a new innovative pilot project with government. This new project looks at combining and piloting an individualised learning plan (ILP) and disability screening tool for use by teachers and education officials. The combined tool will help ensure children with disabilities get the support they need to learn and play on an equal basis with their peers. From the learnings collected from testing the new tool with our partner USDC, we will then work with government to build the evidence needed to take up the model more widely and ensure children with disabilities across Uganda have tailored support, helping to combat widening educational inequalities nationally.

> The ILP and disability screening tool will help **ensure** children with disabilities **get the support they need** to learn and play on an **equal basis with their peers**.

Kenya

We have worked in Kenya **since 2009** with our partners **ANDY** supporting children and young people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of their lives.



While Kenya has a system of free primary education, the curriculum requires basic skills that most children with disabilities do not have. Very few have accessed early education, meaning young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed, and more likely to be living in poverty. With limited access to education or health care, these young people continue to face injustice, stigma and sometimes abuse and violence. This is magnified in Kibera, Africa's largest slum where ANDY is based, and home to an estimated **100,000** people with disabilities.

What we're proud of

As part of our Comic Relief funded inclusive education programme with ANDY in Kenya, we're delighted about the development of an individualised education plan (IEP) guide and an inclusive play programme (IPP) guide for teachers. The IEP guide has been developed to help teachers provide bespoke educational support for individual children with disabilities to help them reach educational goals more easily than they would without this support. Recognising the importance of play for all children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development in their early years, the IPP sets out practical advice and guidance for teachers on how to deliver an inclusive play programme that equally benefits all children with disabilities. Teachers have received specialist trainings on both tools, and we're excited to monitor the effectiveness of these approaches, with these learnings informing adaptations later in the project.

I love being in school because I am learning to depend on myself. I am no longer isolated.

Beneficiary of our work in Kenya

Improving access to early years education for children with disabilities

Despite children being eligible to enrol in pre-primary education from the age of 3, assessments in Kenya are only conducted with children from the age of 5. This means that children who need additional support in their early years are missed at this crucial stage in their life, resulting in lower enrolment, retention and attainment numbers among children with disabilities. Together with our partner ANDY in Kenya, and with funding from the British & Foreign Schools Society, we have developed two 'Early Years Child Functioning Assessment Tools', one for children aged 2 to 4 years and the other for children aged 5 to 17 years. Adapted from the Washington Group on child functioning, the assessment tools have been developed for use by government education officials and teachers to assess different functional domains of individual children such as vision, hearing, mobility, learning, communication, dexterity and playing, and emotions. The full involvement of both ANDY and Able Child Africa in this process ensured that both national and international standards were considered, whilst a situational analysis with Ministry of Education officials, schools, children with and without disabilities and parents of children with disabilities has ensured its suitability. Crucially, we have been able to apply our extensive experience and knowledge of the considerations needed for inclusive education, specifically for children with disabilities at pre-primary level.



Through our current projects

We educated **38,814** community members

on the importance of early childhood development for children with disabilities

We trained **199** 'parent champions'

of children with disabilities into parent support groups

We advocated for the rights of children with disabilities with

14 government officials

The effect of Covid-19 on Alfred and his family

The effect of Covid-19 was felt by Alfred's family in a big way, especially the loss of income for his parents. It was difficult for Alfred's mother, Ruth, to provide the basic needs for the Alfred and his siblings. Alfred's parents noticed a regression in his progress. Before schools closed, Alfred was able to communicate well with others and complete simple school activities such as colouring. He had acclimatised to a regular schedule, going to school during the week and church on the weekends. But this routine was greatly disrupted because of Covid-19. It has been difficult for Ruth to explain to Alfred why schools were closed, why children were staying at home, and why he could not play with other children. It has been especially challenging to explain the importance of social distancing and why and how to wash your hands effectively and regularly.

Ruth was part of the home-based care training that we set up in November 2020. The training outlined how to support the early childhood development of children with disabilities in their homes, with topics on early identification and interventions, nutrition and health, and inclusive learning. Ruth incorporated these teachings, preparing activities such as ball games, colouring and reading exercises, and cooking healthy and nutritious meals. Despite the challenges that Covid-19 brought, Ruth did her best to support Alfred and with schools now open again in Kenya, **Alfred has been enrolled in a day-care nursery and is back on track with his education at a nearby school**.

> Ruth incorporated these teachings, preparing activities such as **ball games**, **colouring** and **reading exercises**, and **cooking** healthy and nutritious meals.

Tanzania

We have been working in Tanzania **since 2007** alongside our partners **Child Support Tanzania** (CST) to change the lives of children and young people with disabilities through inclusive education.



Many children and families in Mbeya are living in poverty, often exacerbated by **disability**, HIV/AIDS and **high mortality rates**. Here, services for children with disabilities are severely lacking and poorly resourced. Although primary education is free in Tanzania, children with disabilities often do not develop the basic early learning skills needed to succeed in this environment and are continually left behind when it comes to accessing primary education.

What we're proud of

We are very excited that the second phase of building CST's brand new **inclusive Early Childhood Education centre** is drawing to a close after experiencing delays due to Covid-19 and other factors, and that the **next phase of work is now underway**. To date, CST's new school has two fully accessible classrooms, an accessible toilet block and a multi-functional assembly hall. The next phase of work will realise the construction of another accessible classroom and a physiotherapy room to ensure children with disabilities have access to the necessary support they need to stay in school. CST's school currently hosts just under 200 children with and without disabilities, and we're extremely proud that this fully accessible early learning centre has been commended by the Tanzanian government as a beacon for inclusive education.

My daughter has brought great changes in her community. She has taught us to see that children with disabilities can achieve great things.

Mother of a beneficiary of our work

Take All My Friends To School

This year we brought our five-year inclusive education 'Take All My Friends To School' project to an end with our partner Child Support Tanzania (CST). This project was one of our largest to date and enabled us to work actively with government to increase the access, quality, and quantity of inclusive education provision in Tanzania through the project's work with 8 primary schools in Mbeya area.

This project supported 370 previously out-of-school children with disabilities to enrol into inclusive mainstream education, giving them the support they need to develop academically, socially and emotionally. Wrapped around this work within schools was a focused advocacy campaign with CST working in consortium with other civil society organisations to help government to adapt its policies to ensure quality inclusive education for children across Tanzania.



Through our current projects

367 children were educated

on their rights through Child Rights Clubs (CRCs) at their school

288 teacher home visits

to children with disabilities to help parents with early education and childhood development guidance

We trained **282** teachers

on Child-to-Child teaching practices

James' Story

James was one part of the first cohort of children with disabilities enrolled in one of the target primary schools back in 2017. His enrolment came about as the result of the work of the Parent Support Group (PSG) set up with the school. James acquired a disability following birth complications, making his parents worried about their son. Before joining the PSG, they were facing challenges supporting their child. When James first enrolled in school, he could not communicate through verbal or write methods easily. However, with the right support from his teacher, who had been trained in inclusive education teaching methods and disability rights and friends in his Child Rights Club (CRC), James has **been able to cope** and **break down disabling barriers** to education and social inclusion. James attends physiotherapy once a month and his mental and physical health is improving greatly. James is now one of the best pupils in his class, acting as a **trailblazer for children with disabilities** and showing his **undeniable talent and potential**.

Advocacy/ influencing in the country:

Our partner CST was selected by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MOEST) to be among the panel of drafting the new National Strategy of Inclusive Education (NSIE) 2022. This has demonstrated CST's developing role as a trusted advisor to government in the development and implementation of inclusive education policy. This involvement will build on CST's previous co-ordination of the national NGO Director's Forum, which helped lobby for the national implementation of the previous strategy.

Rwanda

We have been working in Rwanda **since 2016** alongside our partners **UWEZO** Youth Empowerment, empowering children and young people with disabilities to fight for their rights and access inclusive education.

Nearly half of all people with disabilities in Rwanda are under 35. Two-thirds are not in education or employment and over **90%** fall below the national poverty line. Children with disabilities comprise less than 1% of all primary school students, and this rate drops further at secondary level. As they grow older, these inequities remain; Rwandan youth with disabilities are far less likely to participate in the workforce, with less than 1% in employment. While Rwanda has a good track record of inclusive policies and has taken many strides towards better inclusion of its population, many children with disabilities are still unable to access basic services and face stigma and discrimination.

What we're proud of

This year saw the conclusion of two of our big projects in Rwanda. In our Raising Aspirations project, funded by the UK government, we empowered 80 young people with disabilities to become national advocates for disability inclusion and mentors for younger children with disabilities. This project targeted children with disabilities, their communities and Rwandan government to work together to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals were made a reality in Rwanda. We also saw the conclusion of our youth-led Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, in Musanze, northern Rwanda. A major challenge for young girls with disabilities attending school is having confidence in managing their own sanitation and hygiene. These fears mean girls with disabilities are often not in school, and when they are, they are not included in learning about hygiene, health and reproductive practices. We created a more accessible environment so that inaccessible facilities and information sharing are not the reasons why girls with disabilities are not in school. We trained teachers on



inclusive teaching methods and educated the girls about good hygiene and reproductive health practices. We also trained a group of 12 young women with disabilities to become peer mentors, providing individual support for those out of school and group mentoring for those who are in school.

Covid-19 Rapid Response

Acting early, Rwanda was one of the first countries in East Africa to impose a strict lockdown. While this helped them avoid the worst results of Covid-19, the impact of the lockdown had severe consequences for children with disabilities. We secured additional funding from the UK Government for a Covid-19 Rapid Response project, which aimed to keep children with disabilities safe, happy and clean during the pandemic. Working with our established Youth Disability Advocates from our existing projects, we developed a home mentoring package to support children isolated by the lockdown. The advocates were trained in mental health and wellbeing support techniques, in addition to their disability inclusive hygiene training. They undertook home mentoring visits to children with disabilities to help support their mental wellbeing during the pandemic and ensure they received the support they need. As part of this funding we also created inclusive child-friendly materials with vital Covid-19 hygiene information to be distributed to children with disabilities as part of the project.



Through our current projects

We provided **135** children with disabilities

with emergency hygiene supplies and psychosocial support during COVID-19

We registered **477** parents

of children with disabilities into parent support groups

We trained **24** teachers

in Child-to-Child approaches for disability -inclusive learning



Female Sanitation and Hygiene

Elizabeth is a 15-year-old girl with a physical impairment. She used to frequently miss classes in her lower primary years due to several health issues, which meant that she was often having to go into hospital for treatment. Because of this, Elizabeth did not start primary school until she was 11 years old, alongside classmates who were 6 or 7 years old. Despite her late start to education, Elizabeth's teachers frequently said she was one of the best-behaved students and she excelled in her studies. However, by the time Elizabeth was in Primary 3 class, she was already a teenager and dealing with her body changing, whereas most of her classmates were not, and she became increasingly isolated. After being identified to take part in our inclusive WASH project, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, Elizabeth began receiving group mentoring as part of the school health clubs. This provided Elizabeth with the opportunity to speak openly about her experiences among peers, and receive crucial information about water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and sexual reproductive health. All the information shared was done so in a disability inclusive way, meaning that for the first time the conversation was relevant and sensitive to Elizabeth's experiences.

The open and honest conversations around hygiene and sexual reproductive health have **increased her confidence** and **removed much of the stigma** that she previously felt. Furthermore, she was given materials as well as education on how to use them correctly, which has allowed her to manage her hygiene safely and effectively. In turn, this has all led to her **spending more time with her classmates** and feeling more included in her class. Elizabeth now visits other girls with disabilities who are currently out of school, helping them to understand the importance of good hygiene practices. She loves her role as a WASH 'hero', saying that she hopes every girl with disabilities can get a chance to access the training in the same way she has. She says, "I want to become a health worker when I grow up so that I get to teach other people about inclusive practices. I know this would also make my mother very proud of me."

Malawi

We began working in Malawi in 2020 with one of our **newest** partners, **Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi** (FEDOMA), following an extensive partnership call and partnership process, with FEDOMA chosen as a partner organisation who can help us further our collective mission and add value to each other's work.



Malawi has an extremely young population, with children under 18 accounting for more than 50% of the total population. 63% of these youth live in multidimensional poverty where education, nutrition and health are scarce. Affecting disability prevalence rates, Malawi also has one of the highest pre-term birth rates globally, with many of Malawi's large populace of young people living with disabilities. To support its young population, Malawi's government has taken significant strides forward in provision of Early Childhood Education, including a 20% allocation of the national budget to education and the innovative implementation of community-based early years' services. Despite these efforts, disability inclusion remains largely unconsidered in these service provisions, with the specific support considerations of young children with disabilities often left out of these plans.

We value the partnership with Able Child Africa as it goes beyond project implementation, to support organisational development and build our capacity

Chris, FEDOMA Project Manager

What we're proud of

We are proud to support FEDOMA in their national advocacy activities, with several activities targeting key government changemakers. This includes a meeting with the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare to lobby his support for the recognition of a link between disability and poverty. As a result, the Minister agreed to engage the Ministry of Health who took part in the World Health Assembly to deliver the message during the assembly including writing a letter to the WHO regional director and Malawi UN representative, stating the link between poverty and disability. This was a significant step in ensuring the government recognise the additional support that children with disabilities and their families need, especially during a pandemic. Furthermore, the national Malawian police service has pledged its support and dedication to work with FEDOMA to raise awareness on the protection and safeguarding of children with disabilities through joint media campaigns, an ongoing collaboration.



Through our current projects

We enrolled **50** young children with disabilities

into early childhood education

We enrolled **150** parents

of children with disabilities into parent support groups

We trained **37** teachers

(CBCC workers) in disability inclusive teaching methods

Improving access to early childhood development in Malawi

In September 2020, we launched a new and exciting project with our partner FEDOMA. Together, we are delivering a new three-year project to **improve access to early childhood development (ECD) services for young children with disabilities (aged 3-5 years old) through quality community-based inclusive early childhood interventions**.

In the project's first year we have worked with ten community childhood centres to ensure that the services they offer are inclusive of all children, including those with disabilities. We have made the centres more accessible, trained staff on disability inclusion, and have identified several children with disabilities who were out of school to be enrolled in the centres. We have also screened several children with disabilities to ensure that they receive any assistive devices that they need to ensure their equitable inclusion and continued attendance to school. We have also been working with a number of actors responsible for the early years' development of children with disabilities, including government, communities and parents of children with disabilities. Through targeting all these groups simultaneously, we have seen exciting cooperation and enthusiasm to achieve the project's aims and ensure long-term systemic change.

We are really proud of the success that we have already seen in the project's first year and are looking forward to continuing this.

Zambia

As one of our newest partners, we began working in Zambia with **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities** (ZAPCD) last year, with ZAPCD chosen as a partner organisation who can help us further our collective mission and add value to each other's work.



In Zambia, it is estimated that there are just over 1 million people with disabilities, which equates to 7.2% of the population. Lack of access to services are cited as one of the main barriers people with disabilities face. For children with disabilities, no inclusive education policy or statements that outline the need for inclusive education at any level exists in Zambia. As few as 22% of children with disabilities are in Early Childhood Education (ECE), 52% in primary education and only 12% are recorded as having completed secondary education. The needs of children with disabilities are not fully considered in government plans, with national data and evidence desperately needed to inform and influence the government to address the ECE needs of children with disabilities in Zambia. Recognising that education starts at pre-primary level, focusing on efforts to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of ECE for children with disabilities offers a real opportunity to give children the best start possible to progress through their educational journey.

With Able Child Africa's support we have been able to begin our national review of Early Childhood Education, with input from different stakeholders across the country.

Charity, ZAPCD

What we're proud of

Earlier this year, Able Child Africa and ZAPCD received funding from Vitol Foundation to begin delivery of our very first project together. We are currently conducting a national review of the availability and accessibility of Early Childhood Education (ECE) services for children with disabilities in Zambia. The review will identify barriers children with disabilities face, what successful approaches for inclusive early childhood education in Zambia already exist, and what are perceived to be the most sustainable solutions for furthering inclusive early childhood education in the current context. Through consultations with children with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, community leaders, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), government officials, teachers, and other education professionals, the review will help produce a detailed evidence paper and clear project outline for a multi-year inclusive ECE programme we hope to begin delivering together next year.



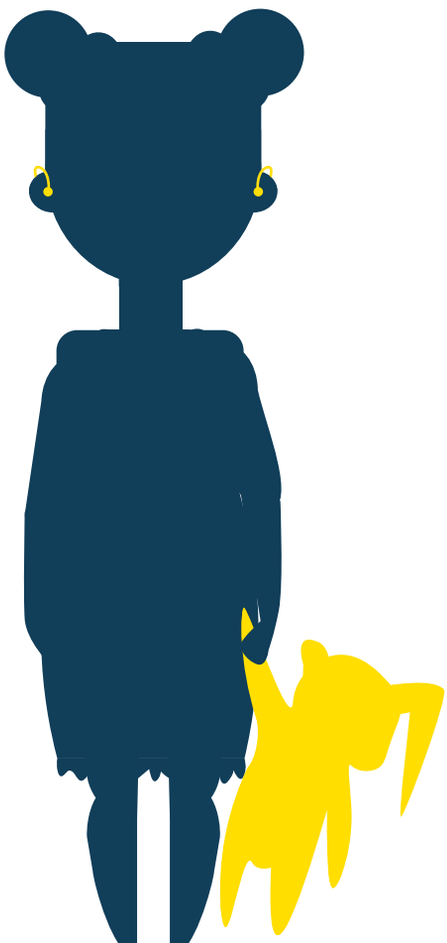


Challenge of Covid-19 on our partnerships

Our partner model is fundamental to the way we work, as we believe **the most effective way to support children with disabilities is to partner with organisations in the countries where we work**. We build long term partnerships that go beyond any funding relationship, as we invest in the long term growth of an organisation to ensure they remain able to support and fight for the rights of children with disabilities.

The Covid-19 pandemic however, has placed great challenges on our ability to maintain and manage our partnerships, particularly our new partnerships with ZAPCD in Zambia and FEDOMA in Malawi. We have been working hard to support both organisations remotely through this time and secure funding for their work. We have been identifying areas of organisational development where we can support to improve their capacity to do their work.

> **We are delighted** by the investment of both **ZAPCD** and **FEDOMA** into this process and look forward to be able to **visit them in person** over the next year to progress our partnerships.



In Focus:

Impact of Covid-19

The impact of Covid-19 on the countries where we work has been severe, even though the spread of the virus and the response in each country has differed. One thing that has been consistent across all countries, is the disproportionate impact on people and children with disabilities. Worryingly, over the last year it has become clear that children with disabilities have been routinely forgotten, ignored and abused, falling even further behind. Over the last year we have therefore adapted and redirected our programmatic delivery to ensure we have been flexible and responsive to these challenges, supporting children and their families as effectively as possible.

But we have also seen an increased demand on services from our partners, alongside a shortfall in funding and a lack of support for delivery. This has been a particular challenge for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) who work with children and young people with disabilities, as these organisations tend to be underfunded, smaller and therefore more fragile organisations. We recognise the vital role that OPDs play in supporting children with disabilities and have therefore provided one-off unrestricted grants to our partner organisations that have enabled them to pay staff and overheads and continue to provide the crucial support for children with disabilities.

In 2020 we collated evidence from across our partnership network in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia which identified five main ways in which children and young people with disabilities in Africa are specifically impacted by Covid-19.

Lack of disability and child-friendly resources and equipment

There has been an obvious lack of disability-inclusive and child friendly information on Covid-19, including health updates, hygiene advice and social distancing guidance. In addition, many of the hand-basins, sinks and communal water pumps people are expected to use for handwashing during the pandemic are inaccessible and only provided in adult sizes. We have worked with partners in Rwanda and Tanzania to advocate for the provision of disability and child-friendly hygiene facilities providing training and guidance to schools, communities and local government.

Children and young people with disabilities are unable to access vital healthcare

There have been several reports from our partners describing how many children and young people with disabilities with complex and life-threatening conditions have been unable to access the vital healthcare they need. We have worked with our partners in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi to train parents on Home Based Care (HBC), teaching parents to provide physiotherapy and occupational therapy, while working with local health providers to adapt services so that children with disabilities and their families can access them.

Increased financial pressure on families of children with disabilities.

Parents of children with disabilities are usually engaged in informal, unreliable employment. Continued restrictions on movement, and therefore paid work, has meant many families of children with disabilities are on the brink of starvation. In Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya we have provided emergency packages of essential food items and hygiene equipment for families of children with disabilities and have been working with local governments to ensure Covid-19 response funds are directed towards these families.

Inaccessible education for children and young people with disabilities

Global gains made in inclusive education have been cut short by the current pandemic. Global school closures have seen a rise in alternative education being used to support remote learning, most of which are not disability inclusive. Across our education portfolio we have been working with partners to train parents in home-based schooling and set up Covid-safe, low-cost community learning hubs. We have also been supporting partners to advocate to governments for accessible home-based education methodologies including radio broadcast and adaptations of education materials.

Increased safeguarding risks for children and young people with disabilities

The context of the current pandemic has put many children with disabilities at additional risk. The closures of schools and increased time spent at home has meant children with disabilities are more likely to experience physical or psychological abuse or sexual assault in their homes and are more likely to be abused by those who care for them.



Building Local Capacity



Building the capacity of our local partners is a core part of the work we deliver and **central to our impact strategy**.

It is a distinct objective in our strategy and outlines a commitment to provide focused and measured organisational development support to each of the organisations we work with. We only work with organisations where both parties feel they can add value to each other, and we ensure that a willingness to take part in this reciprocal capacity building is considered in the selection of new partners.

Objective 2: Build the capacity of a network of African-led disability organisations, both individually and collectively, to maximise the impact and sustainability of their work

This year marked a new partnership cycle for our overseas partners and ourselves. We signed new partnership agreements with all partners, who selected their top three capacity building priorities in areas where they would like to strengthen their organisational development. These priorities have been structured into delivery plans involving trainings, mentorship and workshops aimed at helping our partners sustainably develop their organisations over the next three years.

In **Uganda,** we supported USDC to develop a set of inclusive education tools aimed at supporting children with disabilities through early identification processes and supporting them to follow individualised learning plans (ILP). This innovative, combined tool is now going to be piloted by USDC in our new project to see if the model is suitable for scaling across Uganda's primary school system on a national level.

In **Kenya**, we worked with ANDY to develop a number of programmatic tools for use by teachers and education officials, including a new inclusive play programme guide, an individualised education plan guide, a child functioning assessment tool and a handbook for teachers on disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health for girls with disabilities. Collectively, these tools have strengthened our combined ability to create long-lasting change for children with disabilities in Kenya.

In **Tanzania,** we continued to support Child Support Tanzania (CST) to improve their financial management and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) capacity, supporting their finance team and Board of Trustees to operationalise their rolling set of management accounts to improve financial tracking. We also worked with CST to improve their MEL capacity and MEL culture within the organisation by supporting them to conduct their first external final evaluation following the conclusion of our four-year inclusive education project this year.

In **Rwanda**, we supported UWEZO to strengthen their capacity to deliver disability inclusive trainings, supporting them as they took over the delivery of multiple trainings on sanitation and hygiene, disability inclusion and advocacy to their youth with disabilities network, based on trainings we had previously held with UWEZO staff. We also worked with UWEZO to expand their MEL capacity by supporting them to conduct two final evaluations of our two major multiyear projects, which both concluded this year.

In **Malawi**, we worked with our new partner FEDOMA to strengthen their financial and governance systems, supporting them through an in-depth organisation policy audit, as well as writing a new constitution and new finance and governance policies. We supported FEDOMA to hold an extraordinary General Assembly to launch their new governance policies and are assisting them to recruit new Trustees. We also worked with project staff to build their capacity in financial management and MEL through a series of trainings, supporting them as they implemented their project baseline study.

In **Zambia**, we worked with our new partner ZAPCD to build their knowledge and capacity to design an initial theory of change for an inclusive early childhood education (ECE) project for children with disabilities. Through a series of workshops and meetings we worked with ZAPCD to develop problem statements, design outcomes and activities that respond to the barriers identified. ZAPCD are now testing this theory of change by conducting a national review of ECE provision in Zambia and consulting with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) across four provinces of Zambia.

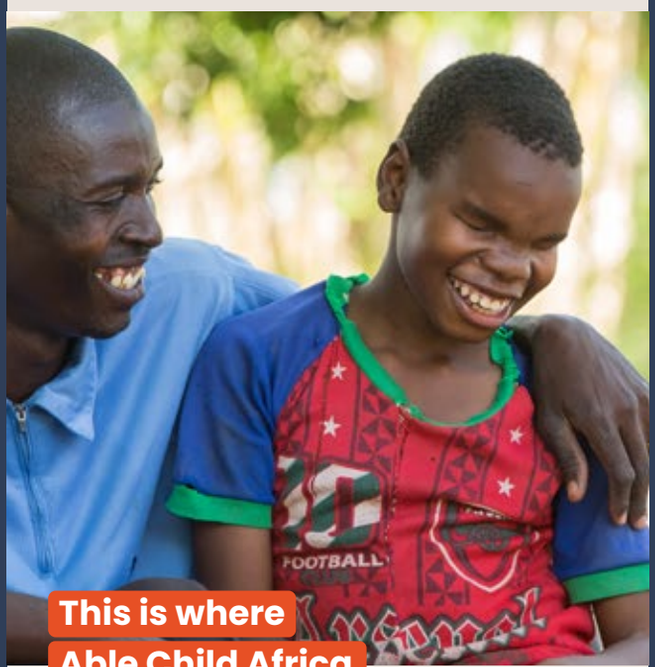

FOOTBALL
Arsenal

Luke's story

Luke was born blind, and for the first 5 years of his life **never left his mother's side**.

He was completely dependent and attached and couldn't develop any communication skills. He didn't even have the confidence to walk on his own. He was left isolated from other children his age and his parents didn't believe he would be able to have a positive future.





This is where Able Child Africa came in.

As soon as he was enrolled in school through our Child-to-Child Inclusive Education Project, however, Luke's prospects completely turned around. The teachers at Luke's school had been trained in inclusive education and worked hard with him to develop his communication skills. Fantastically he can now signal to his friends and teachers whenever he needs anything, and his social skills are growing daily.

The project has provided Luke with a white cane, meaning he is finally able to **enjoy independence, walk around and navigate his environment on his own**; and most importantly, **make friends**. Luke's parents are thrilled and amazed.

His parents' outlook has completely changed, and they now have **really positive hopes for Luke's future**. They have even joined the local parent's group, supporting other parents of children with disabilities in their community.

"We can't believe what **Luke can now do on his own**. We're so grateful for all the work the teachers have done with him.

– Grace

Advocating for Change

We are committed to raise awareness of the unique barriers that children with disabilities face and **actively advocate for recognition of their rights** and the **funding associated with their inclusion**.



We believe our partners are best placed to advocate locally and seek to strengthen their capacity to influence change. As such we work primarily through our partners to advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities in local policies, procedures and budgets. We stand alongside them to hold their Governments to account for their stated obligations and commitments as outlined in national charters, constitutions and international frameworks and ensure it is them, not Able Child Africa who are recognised for projects that deliver local advocacy. We also work with partners to deliver local community level campaigns and awareness raising strategies to ensure children with disabilities grow up in supportive unprejudiced environments.

Objective 3: Effect positive changes in the realisation of the rights of children with disabilities through strengthened policies, improved budgeting and expanded opportunities for child and youth participation.

This year

This year, our partners have we have had some significant success in influencing and strengthening national level policies.

In **Uganda**, as a result of strong relationships developed with government departments through our inclusive education programme, our partner USDC received special permissions to conduct activities during periods of lockdown to ensure children with disabilities continued to be supported despite schools remaining closed.

In **Kenya**, through engagement with government officials in newly established Community Based Rehabilitation groups we have seen a significant increase in the number of children with disabilities receiving individual support, such as access to bursaries and assistive devices to enable children to have improved access to primary and secondary education.

In **Tanzania**, CST continued advocacy to the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) to secure inclusive adaptations to school examinations that enable children with disabilities to be assessed on an equitable basis to their peers. This year CST secured modified examination concessions for 121 children with disabilities for examinations. This is a vital step in reducing educational inequalities and ensuring children with disabilities have the support they need to thrive in education.

In **Rwanda**, as our result of our work funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, there has been a notable improvement in the provision of disability-inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene support by the Rwandan government, including sustained provision of hygiene kits to girls with disabilities, and commitments to ensuring that future school structures are built to support children with disabilities in an inclusive and dignified way.

In **Malawi**, our project has enabled sustained engagement with local and national decisionmakers, including meetings with Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. These meetings have resulted in additional commitments from the government to promote disability inclusive ECD delivery such as a monthly stipend for caregivers. FEDOMA have also been working closely with the national police, who as a result have pledged to work with FEDOMA to raise awareness nationally on the protection and safeguarding of children with disabilities through joint media campaigns.

In **Zambia**, we have been able to capitalise on consultations with government officials as part of our national review, to secure buy-in for a multi-year inclusive Early Childhood Education programme for children with disabilities in Zambia that we hope to begin next year.

In the UK

In the UK, we work to advocate for children with disabilities by providing training and facilitating workshops for mainstream organisations and donors on child-led disability inclusion. We believe that by influencing larger mainstream organisations with a wider reach across their projects, we create a cost-effective and efficient way of reaching larger numbers of children and their families.



We have continued in our leadership role as a Co-Chair of the UK Bond Disability and Development Group and continue to sit on the Bond Child Rights Working Group Steering Group. This year we have focused on working with the UK INGO sector to oppose the UK Aid budget cuts from 0.7% GNI to 0.5% GNI and advocated for the continued need for the UK government to support children with disabilities. We have also used these platforms to promote the adoption of our disability-inclusive child safeguarding guidelines and continue to ensure that intersectionality of childhood and disability is represented in position papers and evidence given to policy makers on disability inclusive development.

Disability Inclusive Child Safeguarding - We have continued to lead the way this year in disability-inclusive child safeguarding. We have continued to co-coordinate an Inclusive Safeguarding Task Group in the International Development and Disability Consortium and have continued to act as an advisor to the FCDO Safeguarding Resources and Support Hub on issues relating to disability inclusive safeguarding. We have also developed and published the first Disability-inclusive Child Safeguarding Guidelines in partnership with Save the Children, with an accompanying Toolkit and practitioner video for organisations in the sector. We launched the guidelines and toolkit in May 2021 with over 500 attendees from 125 organisations. A podcast spotlighting the guidelines was also released in July by the FCDO Resource and Support Hub. The guidelines and the toolkit provide advice on how to plan for disability-inclusive child safeguarding, with tangible steps for organisations and practitioners working across the development and humanitarian sectors on how to include children with disabilities in each step of the process.

Momentum Panel Series - This year we launched a new series of public talks on different aspects of our work called 'Momentum.' The events provide a unique platform for the children and young people with disabilities to discuss the programmatic approaches that work for them. The panel series also bring together the experience of academics and practitioners on delivery approaches that are specifically designed for children and young people with disabilities. The events are free to attend and are intended to share learnings with the wider sector on some of the key approaches taken in our work. The first panel in March focused on the health and social protection impact of Covid-19 for children with disabilities, with the second panel conversation in July looking at disability inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene for girls with disabilities. The third panel, due later in the year will focus on inclusive sports and play for children with disabilities.

Training and Knowledge Sharing - This year we have provided several trainings and webinars for organisations across the sector. Working with organisations such as Plan International, Right to Play and CBM international, we have delivered sessions on disability-inclusive programming techniques for children with disability, as well as disability-inclusive child safeguarding training. We have also provided support for organisations reviewing their internal child safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure they are disability inclusive.

Recognising that Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) or grassroots civil society organisations that work with children are sometimes excluded from professional trainings due to cost, we also put on a series of three free webinars on disability-inclusive child safeguarding for OPDs. The sessions started in September this year and are based on the recent Disability-inclusive Child Safeguarding Guidelines and Toolkit published in partnership with Save the Children.



Financial Report

Overview

Able Child Africa's total income this year was £957,430 which represents a reduction of 3% from the previous financial year.
This is comprised of £675,305 in restricted funding (including grants) and £282,125 in unrestricted flexible funding.

Total expenditure this year was £909,713, which is a 21% growth from the previous financial year.

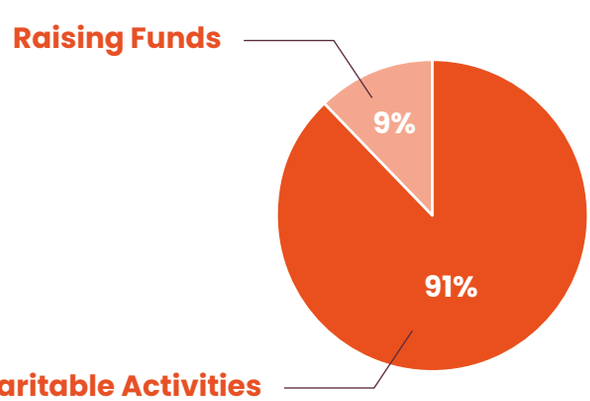
Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds**
Income	£282,125	£675,305	£957,430
Expenditure	£196,223	£713,490	£909,713
Net Income (Expenditure)	£85,902	-£38,185	£47,717

Spending on Charitable Activities

Expenditure Split	Charitable Activities	Raising Funds	**Total Expenditure**
Total	£826,652	£83,061	£909,713

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to **91p for every pound** raised and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs.



Reserves

We ended March 2021 with £311,015 of unrestricted reserves. This included £85,000 of designated funds, resulting in a net unrestricted reserves figure of £226,015, well above our target of £140,000. This strong level of unrestricted reserves has allowed us to navigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the last 18-months and left us in a strong position for 2021/22.

Our full report and accounts are available at the back of this document.

Celebrating You

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Lasting Legacies

This year we have been fortunate enough to receive an incredibly generous charitable legacy from the estate of Irma Skeeles. The legacy, which we are putting towards the inclusive school build in Tanzania, will make a huge improvement to the lives of children with disabilities in Tanzania and will be a lasting legacy to Irma's life.

Virtual Events

Covid-19 has placed an unprecedented challenge on our ability to bring money in, with the cancellation of many of our vital events. While we were not able to stage our in-person Gala, we were so humbled by all the support we received for our virtual gala in 2020. A big thank you to Theo and Gary from Kujenga for their in-kind donation of the digital platform and tech support that allowed us to put all the income we received towards our work. A big thank you also to Daliso Chaponda for hosting the event and to Chris McCausland for joining us for our virtual Who Wants to be a Millionaire game. We were also incredibly privileged to have two special performances on the night from our patron Emeli Sande and from Annie Lennox, who made the night extra special.

We were also very thankful to Damian Lewis for agreeing to put on an event for his new book launch and donate the proceeds of the event to our work. So a big thank you to Damian and to Kate Adie as well for chairing the successful and interesting event.

Our patrons

We are lucky to have some amazing patrons who continue to support our work. A big thank you to long standing patrons Anne Wafula-Strike and Keith Nethercot for all their support over many years. And to our new patrons, Emeli Sande and Ellie Robinson. We are very excited to have them on board and look forward to working together to further our work.

Corporate and individual supporters

We are very fortunate to have some amazing corporate partners, whose continued support during a challenging period have been so vital. To the Exile Group (formerly TXF), a big thank you for continuing to be friends of the charity and understanding the challenges we face. The Exile Group have also offered us a free office space from November 2021, which means more of our funds will be able to go towards our activities with children with disabilities, so a big thank you to Dan, Katy, Dom and all the team for their support.

To Azad Ayub Ltd for his sponsorship of our events, and generosity to the cause. To PenCarrie and Clare Persey both for their donation to our work and for their support of what we do.

To American Century and Paul Harrison for their regular donation and matched donations from the U and to Cargill and Juwon Sofola for their amazing donation each year.

We would also like to thank the Trusts and Foundations that supported us this year. To Vascroft Foundation for their continued support and to the Ashla Charitable Trust for their donation.

This year we also secured two new corporate donors, Hassell Inclusion and Dogemoon. We are delighted that they have come on board to support our work and are very grateful for their support. We look forward to a long and impactful partnership.

We would also like to thank Iirth for their continued support with our brand and design and We Are Penelope for their essential IT support during a very challenging time. And to Patricia Balogun for your amazing work with our finances. We think of you all as part of the team.

We would like to thank the following donors for their support in 2021

Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation

Aletheia Foundation

American Century Investments

Ashla Charitable Trust

Azad Ayub Ltd

Barclays Charitable Trust

Cargill

Comic Relief

Department for International Development (now FCDO)

Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC

Harold Benjamin Solicitors

Ineke Feitz-Stichting

Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation

Network for Social Change

PenCarrie Limited

The British and Foreign School Society

The Commonwealth Foundation

The Exile Group – TXF and Kujenga

The Marr-Munning Trust

Vascroft Foundation

Looking Forward



Karl Hankinson
Chief Executive Officer

The last 18-months has been somewhat of a perfect storm for our sector. While the impact of Covid-19 placed unprecedented challenges on all charities, the merger of the Department for International Development (DFID) with the FCO, along with the severe cuts to funding across the sector has left many organisations under threat. While we have been able to navigate the period in a strong position, we do not underestimate the challenges ahead, and understand that we may need to change to remain both sustainable and relevant.

However, it is not just organisations in the UK that have been affected. Cuts to UK aid budgets and programmes have had a significant impact on all of our partners across Africa, who have suddenly lost funding or found themselves unable to secure new funds. There is an existential threat to the survival of these organisations, who are essential if we are to maintain the fragile social structures that protect children and young people with disabilities across Africa and so we remain committed to support our partners, ensuring they are here to continue their vital work.

The true impact of Covid-19 on children with disabilities across the world is not yet known but we know from experience it is the most disadvantaged who suffer through any crisis. The likelihood of abuse and violence to vulnerable children increases, and yet the structures that protect children with disabilities barely exist in the communities where we work. Disability movements are young, and organisations that focus on children with disabilities are few and so the need for us to continue our work, in partnership with local organisations, is more important than ever.

But going forward, it is likely to be a changing role. As we enter a new strategic planning period, we are consulting with a wide range of stakeholders, including our partners to understand where we add most value. Through this process I believe we are brave enough to be self-critical and take the required decisions to ensure that Able Child Africa can thrive and continue to make a vital difference for children with disabilities in Africa.

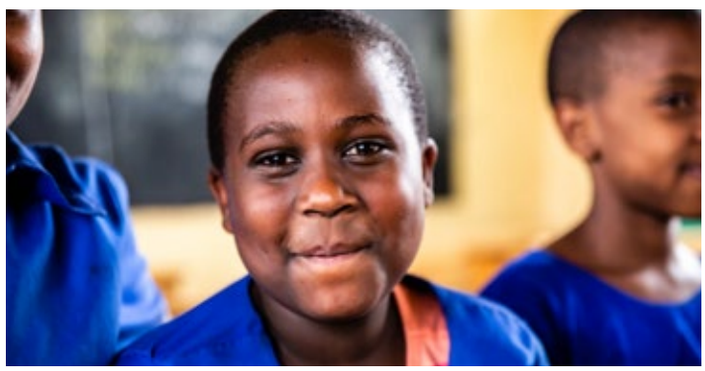
We need you all there with us, fighting for the rights of every child with a disability, to ensure that no child is left behind. So once again, I would like to thank everyone for continuing to support us this year and I look forward to what we can achieve together over the next year.

Many thanks

Karl Hankinson
Chief Executive Officer

Strategic Priorities

We have **four key strategic priorities** outlined over the next 12-months.



1. New strategy development

We are coming to the end of our latest strategic period, with our current strategy running to March 2022. After our two most successful years to date, our year-on-year growth that we have seen over the last seven years is expected to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the significant changes we are seeing within the sector. This process was evident prior to Covid-19, but it has been accelerated by the changes we have seen recently. With that firmly in mind, we had already begun a comprehensive review of the organisation, formulating ideas of how we might need to change over the next strategic period to remain impactful and resilient. Over the next year, this will be our focus as we undergo extensive consultation both internally and externally to plan out our next steps forward, with a new strategy expected in place by June 2022. This work is going on alongside a drive to improve diversity and representation from a governance perspective to ensure we remain fit for purpose and accountable to the people that we work with.

2. Impact through advocacy

During and following a global crisis it is inevitably the poorest and most marginalised who will suffer the most. So, our role in raising the voice of children with disabilities is as important as ever. It is vital that the needs of children with disability and the progress that has been made over the last 30 years is not lost through Covid-19. We will therefore continue to advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities in local policies, procedures and budgets both here in the UK and alongside our partners in Africa. We will take on a larger role in international networks ensuring that the rights of children with disabilities are considered in all decision making.

3. Disability-inclusive child safeguarding

We are looking to build on the expertise we have developed, particularly in the area of inclusive safeguarding, as we continue to position ourselves as experts in our field. We have already shown that we add value to large mainstream organisations, and we want to continue to show that we add value across the sector. We will continue our strategy to position ourselves as thought leaders on the issues surrounding children with disabilities, particularly around inclusive safeguarding and continue our work developing products and tools that assist other organisations to include children with disabilities in their work. This positioning will be vital if we are to be in a position to effectively advocate for the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities.

4. Diversifying income portfolios

The impact of Covid-19 and the widespread cuts across the sector will have a significant impact on our organisation that is expected to last for the next few years. While we expect most of our fundraising events to return to normal over the next 18-months, the need to diversify our income portfolios remains to make us more resilient to change. This is particularly true when we look at our historic grant-based funding. The last 12-months has seen a significant drop in large multi-year funding opportunities, meaning all organisations are having to consider how they continue to bring funds in. We are not immune to this and will be looking at how we maintain funding for projects with partners by building new relationships across different sectors.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with Able Child Africa's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



1. Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Legal Status

Able Child Africa is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, not having a share capital, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (company number 01861434). The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). Able Child Africa was previously known as the Uganda Society for Children with Disabilities.

1.2 Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Able Child Africa for the purposes of Company law) who held office during the financial year are set out in this document. They represent a diverse skill set with experience in finance, law, HR and the third sector, including programme delivery, safeguarding and advocacy. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair, James Sellars. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by the CEO, Karl Hankinson. The CEO also acts as Company Secretary. During the year two Trustees left the Board, and one new Trustee was appointed. This transition included a change to the Treasurer position, with Mitul Shah joining the Board in September 2020 and taking over as Treasurer from Chloe Chik in February 2021.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in Able Child Africa's Articles of Association, which allow for appointment at any time. New trustees are nominated by current members of the Board of Trustees, following an open and competitive recruitment process, and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, Trustees undergo a thorough induction process. Trustees do not receive any remuneration but may claim for incidental expenses, such as travel to board meetings.

The full Board meets on a quarterly basis. We also have one sub-committee, the Resources Sub-Committee that meets quarterly to oversee finance, unrestricted fundraising and give recommendations to the board. The Resources Sub-Committee has its own identified terms of reference, nominated chair and reports to the full board. The chair of the Resources Sub-committee is currently Martin Hill, appointed in March 2020.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for setting and maintaining the strategic direction of Able Child Africa, setting policies and managing resources, risk and staffing. Trustees ensure appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed, and they review the Articles of Association, last revised in 2017, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. They carefully monitor finances to ensure viability and sustainability of existing commitments and future plans; they oversee decisions relating to non-budgeted commitments in excess of £1,000; and budgeted commitments in excess of £5,000. Trustees also oversee and ensure compliance of statutory and legal requirements, both internally within Able Child Africa as well as to our beneficiaries and donors.

The Board oversees staff remuneration and sets the pay scales and any benefits package, currently limited only to pension payments, for the organisation. Salary scales are benchmarked using the Croner Charity Rewards Report, which provides the most comprehensive set of data on salary and benefit packages for the Charity Sector in the UK. The last pay scale review was completed in 2017 and amended in 2020.

1.3 Staffing

Able Child Africa maintains a small staff team in the UK. For most of the financial year we had nine staff members, which included the Chief Executive, a Head of Programmes, a Senior Programme Officer, two Programme Officers, a Finance & Operations Executive and Fundraising & Communications Officer. We also had one part-time Advocacy & Communications Assistant for the full year.

Able Child Africa is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equality of opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are also proud to be a registered 'disability confident' committed employer. In our recruitment processes we particularly encourage applications from people with disabilities and people with direct experience of living or working with children with disabilities; those meeting essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

1.4 Fundraising Performance

Able Child Africa has experienced consistent growth over the last few years, averaging 20% growth for each of the last five years up to this year. 2020/21 saw us maintain our fundraising performance from the year before at just under £1million, as we invested in our unrestricted fundraising team.

We have over £400,000 of multi-year grants secured for delivery over the next year and we are in a strong position to deliver against our strategic objectives. We do however, see challenges in securing continued large scale grant funding over the next three years following the Covid-19 pandemic and are therefore looking to strategically diversify our restricted fundraising going forward.

1.5 Public Benefit Statement

Able Child Africa works for the public benefit through its international development and advocacy work, in support of children with disabilities in Africa.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for this year and those contained in the next Strategic Plan.

Our charitable object as outlined in the Articles of Association is:

> To relieve charitable need, promote health, advance education and promote the social integration of disabled children for the public benefit, with a focus on (but without limitation) promoting such disabled children achieving their human, social, cultural and economic rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"), Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UNCRC, the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) by any means the Trustees in their absolute discretion choose and in particular by raising awareness as to the needs of disabled children and advocacy as to how those needs can best be met.

2. Financial Review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 91% of total expenditure. As a small bespoke charity, we recognise the value of every penny donated and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs in order to ensure that we maximise expenditure on charitable activities. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments in order to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and securing our own financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain external environment.

2.1 Income

Able Child Africa's total income this year was £957,430 which represents a reduction of 3% from the previous financial year. This is comprised of £675,305 in restricted funding (including grants) and £282,125 in unrestricted flexible funding.

The higher proportion of income (70%) for the financial year was restricted through grants from institutional donors and corporate partnerships. This year saw a 21% growth in restricted income levels, leading to our largest portfolio of funded work, with our largest institutional projects funded with thanks to Comic Relief, Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA), Department for International Development (DFID) - see note 4 for more details.

Unrestricted income amounted to 30% of total income. This included a £85,000 legacy from the Estate of Irma Skeeles, which is being held as designated funds to be spent in 2021/22. Additional income was raised from individual donors, through unrestricted corporate support from TXF, Cargill Financial Services Europe Ltd, American Century Investments and PenCarrie; and through our fundraising events including our annual gala fundraising event and the London Marathon.

2.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure this year was £909,713, which is a 21% growth from the previous financial year. Restricted expenditure totalled £713,490, which was spent delivering projects to benefit children with disabilities in Africa; these are detailed in note 6.

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to 91p for every pound raised, and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs. Our fundraising costs, 9p for every pound raised, are kept as low as possible whilst still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year cost of raising funds primarily includes fundraising staff time. Support costs, which cannot be solely attributed to either charitable or fundraising expenditure, are allocated in proportion to estimated staff time spent on each activity.

2.3 Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts.

The reserves policy, as defined in April 2020 states that the organisation should hold a minimum of 3-months of unrestricted expenditure at all times, with the aim to maintain reserves at a level above 6-months unrestricted expenditure. This decision is overseen by the Resources Sub-Committee.

Based on the 2020/2021 budget this indicated a target reserves of £140k. Having carried forward unrestricted reserves of £225,113 at the start of the year, we ended March 2021 with £311,015 of unrestricted reserves. This included £85,000 of designated funds, resulting in a net general unrestricted funds figure of £226,015, well above our target.

This strong level of unrestricted reserves has allowed us to navigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the last 18-months.

2.4 Going Concern

The Trustees reaffirm that Able Child Africa is a going concern, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next 12-months.

The current Covid-19 pandemic placed a significant strain on our ability to bring in funds to the organisation, particularly as a large amount of our unrestricted income was sourced from in-person events. By reducing expenditure and diversifying the way we brought money in, we were successful in navigating the worst period of the pandemic. We maintained a strong unrestricted reserves position throughout the year, and with the start-up of the London Marathon once again and the ability to deliver large scale events, we see a normalisation of our unrestricted income levels over the next two years.

Looking forward, the bigger concern is with grant-based funding. A drop in secured funding expected over the next two years as large donors have mostly paused or stopped funding through the pandemic. The impact of this is likely to mean a slight contraction in the size of the organisation and a need to diversify sources of grant-based funding to maintain levels of delivery.

2.5 Voluntary Help and Gifts in Kind

We would like to thank all our generous volunteers and supporters for their work this year. We would like to thank the Exile Group for their continued in-kind support, most notably providing us with the platform to deliver our first virtual Annual Gala. We would also like to thank Latham & Watkins for providing us with pro-bono legal support for GDPR compliance.

2.6 Investment Policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. At the present time we do not have any funds invested but may review this position in future should resources allow.

3. Risk Management Statement

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that Able Child Africa has the appropriate systems of control in place, financial and otherwise. Through the implementation of the Strategic Risk Register, the Trustees interrogate and proactively seek to reduce, eliminate or mitigate risks. The major risks to which Able Child Africa is exposed to are identified by the senior management team and nominated board members and reviewed by all Trustees at each quarterly board meeting.

The Trustees remain satisfied that current internal systems provide reasonable assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. At present the Trustees consider the two most significant risks are around financial sustainability and preventing child safeguarding incidents. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are summarised below.

Risk of insufficient funding and economic instability preventing us from delivering against our mission

In the current Covid-19 climate, risk to income, both restricted and unrestricted is high. At present we have a strong unrestricted reserves position, with over 6-months reserves at March 2021 and a stable unrestricted income portfolio. This has been helping manage us navigate the turbulent period over the last 18-months. However, while unrestricted income streams have been affected in the short term, in the more medium term, the focus is on the risk of reduced grant-based funding and other changes in the sector. While significant reductions in grant-based funding wouldn't affect our continued operations, it would affect our ability to make impact on scale. Changes in grant donor arrangements or preferences, particularly regarding our largest and most regular donors, will therefore have a significant impact on our output. At present we have approximately £300k of funding already secured for the next year but are working to identify new donors and diversify our funding streams. We are also planning for a new external environment and looking at how we future proof our organisation as the funding and donor landscape changes. All this is being done collaboratively and transparently with the Board of Trustees to ensure proper oversight and a strategic response to a changing situation. Financial oversight is provided by the Treasurer (monthly) and Resources Sub-Committee (quarterly) who review rolling cash flow projections and annual budgets. This regular monitoring ensures we regularly monitor performance against targets, as well as implement strategic shifts early when required.

Risk of compliance in the implementation of projects by our partners

Able Child Africa's strategy and theory of change both clearly lay out why we have chosen to work in partnership with African-led organisations. Principally, we believe quality, success and sustainability of our work depends on being grounded in the local context; we also believe this offers greater value for money to our donors. However, taking responsibility for the implementation of projects by our African partners, particularly where we are the primary grant holder, carries financial and reputational risk. We seek to mitigate this risk by developing collaborative, working relationships and transparent lines of communication with our partners; and having in place overarching Partnership Agreements and supplementary Funding Agreements in relation to each secured grant. We also conduct multiple in-person visits each year to check compliance of grants and improve systems. Our ability to do this has been affected by the current travel restrictions due to Covid-19, with UK staff not able to travel to Africa. This is expected to be resolved in the beginning of 2022. Even without these in-person checks, the controls and systems in place are robust and work to mitigate risk. The programmes team regularly review activity delivery and project expenditure by partners, interrogating the quality of delivery and spend against outcomes. Project specific risk registers are developed collaboratively with partners for each project; these inform Able Child Africa's overall risk register and are reviewed and updated on an annual basis with partners. We have also developed a bespoke Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, as well as a summary for our overseas partners, which is in compliance with the UK Bribery Act 2010.

Risk of safeguarding incident causing harm to one or more of the vulnerable people we work with

As an organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, Able Child Africa understands the importance of our role in their safeguarding. As a partner-led organisation we also understand the threat of an incident involving one of our or our partner's staff, volunteers, or Trustees. While we do everything in our power to minimise the risk involving a staff member, volunteer or Trustee, we accept that due to the nature of our work, there is an increased likelihood of the witnessing or reporting of abuse. We aim to deal with this risk in an honest and transparent way that puts the child or vulnerable adult at the centre of any action. This risk is increased during any crisis, like Covid-19.

We have a detailed and robust Inclusive Safeguarding Policy and Procedures that outlines the measures in place to reduce a Safeguarding incident that affects a child or vulnerable adult; and to appropriately act on any reported incident or suspicion of abuse. We have robust recruitment processes, with DBS checks on all staff, Trustees and volunteers upon appointment. All our staff are trained in safeguarding with regular team workshops where staff can discuss thoughts and facilitate learning and we have recruited a Safeguarding professional onto the board as the nominated lead. While our policies and procedures are strong, we are currently undergoing a full review and update of our systems to ensure they not only fit for purpose, but best practice.

Risk of loss of business continuity through unexpected sudden departure of key members of the team

The success of Able Child Africa's results and impact lies with its small and extremely dedicated staff team. The unplanned and sudden loss or departure of staff therefore places a risk to our ability to operate efficiently, particularly given the size of the team. To mitigate this, we have taken a number of steps both to improve staff retention and to ensure the loss of institutional knowledge is reduced. Over the course of the last 18-months, we have placed an emphasis on staff wellbeing and organisational culture to improve staff retention and provide an attractive and supportive environment for staff. To protect institutional knowledge, we have built processes into our new CRM system and have started to implement a change in culture to document the organisational knowledge away from individual staff members. We have revised and updated our Business Continuity Policy this year to improve our oversight of the risk, particularly in light of a global pandemic and are well-equipped to manage this risk.

Risk to Able Child Africa staff or volunteer safety during travel

Although Able Child Africa does not currently work in conflict areas, political instability, the social turbulence, violence and kidnapping risks associated with travel to our chosen countries cannot be completely eliminated. We take our duty of care to our staff and volunteers very seriously through robust travel policies and procedures to manage security risks and provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against any occurrence. Ahead of each trip the Head of Programmes undertakes an internal risk assessment, documents travel plans and movements, and provides a travel briefing. Staff and volunteers who travel have access to a security and emergency travel app on the smartphone they are provided for travel and this is available to download on personal devices. Our latest security procedure review and staff training was undertaken last year, with a new Travel Safety and Security Policy developed following an internal review. Due to the risks of Covid-19, staff are currently on a travel ban, with all work travel ceased from March 2020 until travel is deemed safe. This is expected to be reopened at the beginning of 2022. However, the wellbeing, health and safety of not just staff, but all of our partners and anyone we come in to contact with will be rigorously assessed to ensure that the resumption of travel is safe for everyone.

Risk of ineffective management of staff, volunteers, supporters' and/or beneficiaries' personal data

As a small organisation with limited resource to cover IT infrastructure, we understand the potential risks of ineffective IT systems or a cyber security attack that leads to a potential data breach. This risk is increased while we work remotely during the current extended period. As part of the GDPR regulations, Able Child Africa has improved its IT policies, systems and infrastructure to better ensure that individual's data held by Able Child Africa is consensual, relevant for its purpose and secure. We have revised Data Protection Policies to bring them up to date with GDPR and ensured their effective implementation across the organisation. We have developed new IT Usage and Security Policies and Procedures to provide effective guidelines to staff on using IT and people's data within the organisation. We have developed a data register outlining the data we collect, the purpose for collecting it and where it is stored. Staff have received Data Protection training pre- and post-GDPR implementation and we have updated our data retention policies and developed Privacy Notices for all stakeholders to the organisation, including staff and Trustees. All our Privacy Notices and practices underwent an external review by a specialist law firm to ensure we are fully GDPR compliant and to ensure more effective management of all our data. This was completed at the end of 2020.

4. Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2021 was seven. The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd were appointed as the charitable company's auditors in 2017 and have acted in that capacity for the last three years. They have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 04 December 2021:

James Sellars

James Sellars – Chair

Company no. 1861434
Charity no. 326859

Able Child Africa
Report and Audited Financial Statements
31 March 2021

Able Child Africa

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Company number	1861434
Charity number	326859
Registered office and operational address	Unit 6 Madeira Tower 34 Ponton Road Nine Elms London SW11 7BA
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Abubakar Askira	(resigned 24 April 2021)
Heather Barr	
Emily Bueno	
Catherine Carter	
Chloe Chik	(resigned on 24 February 2021)
Martin Hill	
Catherine Oldridge-Turner	
James Sellars	
Mitul Shah	(appointed 19 September 2020)

Company secretary and CEO	Karl Hankinson
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Solicitors	Bates Wells & Braithwaite 2-6 Cannon Street London EC4M 6YH
Auditors	Godfrey Wilson Limited 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Able Child Africa (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the Trustees' report, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

(1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.

(2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:

- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:

- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of

Able Child Africa

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alison Godfrey

Date: 8 December 2021

Alison Godfrey FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
GODFREY WILSON LIMITED
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Able Child Africa

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2021 Total £**	Restated 2020 Total £
Income from:					
Donations	3	-	271,220	**271,220**	410,648
Charitable activities	4	675,305	10,000	**685,305**	573,008
Other trading income	5	-	738	**738**	3,355
Investments		-	167	**167**	321
Total income		675,305	282,125	**957,430**	987,332
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	83,061	**83,061**	89,255
Charitable activities		713,490	113,162	**826,652**	660,216
Total expenditure	6	713,490	196,223	**909,713**	749,471
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	8	(38,185)	85,902	**47,717**	237,861
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		220,899	225,113	**446,012**	208,151
Total funds carried forward		182,714	311,015	**493,729**	446,012

The prior period comparatives have been restated as described in note 18 to the accounts.

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Able Child Africa

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	Restated 2020 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		**1,869**	7,185
Current assets				
Debtors	12	**40,051**		73,115
Cash at bank and in hand		**470,021**		382,603
		510,072		455,718
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	13	**(18,212)**		(16,891)
Net current assets			**491,860**	438,827
Net assets	14		**493,729**	446,012
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			**182,714**	220,899
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds			**85,000**	-
General funds			**226,015**	225,113
Total charity funds			**493,729**	446,012

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 4 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by

James Sellars

James Sellars - Chair

Able Child Africa

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	Restated 2020
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	**47,717**	237,861
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**5,316**	5,316
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**(167)**	(321)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**33,064**	1,271
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**1,321**	4,461
Net cash used in operating activities	**87,251**	248,588
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**167**	321
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**-**	(3,607)
Net cash provided by investing activities	**167**	(3,286)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**87,418**	245,302
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**382,603**	137,301
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**470,021**	382,603

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Able Child Africa meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic is having an impact on the charity's ability to both fundraise and, on its partners, to deliver in-country work. The Trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. The charity holds unrestricted, general reserves of £226,015 and a cash balance of £470,021. The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves and cash flow to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved. The Trustees are closely monitoring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the level of restricted funding available for future years following the crisis and have put in measures to protect the charity.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of earned income, sales, and consultancy is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Grants payable

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure on the earlier of a) when the charity has a present obligation to transfer resources; and b) when the charity ceases to control the resource (e.g. via transfering funds to the grant recipient).

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of staff numbers, as follows:

	2021	2020
Raising funds	**17%**	12%
Charitable activities	**83%**	88%

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computers, database and website	3 years straight line
Furniture and fittings	5 years straight line

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

q) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1(j).

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**Restated 2020 Total £**
Income from:			
Donations	1,506	409,142	**410,648**
Charitable activities	558,056	14,952	**573,008**
Other trading income	-	3,355	**3,355**
Investments	-	321	**321**
Total income	559,562	427,770	**987,332**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	89,255	**89,255**
Charitable activities	491,523	168,693	**660,216**
Total expenditure	491,523	257,948	**749,471**
Net income and net movement in funds	68,039	169,822	**237,861**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

3. Income from donations

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Sponsored challenge events	-	33,717	**33,717**
Fundraising events and community	-	15,303	**15,303**
Legacy income	-	85,031	**85,031**
Individual donors	-	54,005	**54,005**
Corporate donors	-	53,178	**53,178**
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	24,986	**24,986**
Gifts in kind	-	5,000	**5,000**
Total	-	271,220	**271,220**

Gifts in kind received during the year relate the provision of prizes for the gala dinner.

Prior period comparative

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Sponsored challenge events	-	64,798	**64,798**
Fundraising events and community	-	70,908	**70,908**
Legacy income	-	183,500	**183,500**
Individual donors	1,506	33,726	**35,232**
Corporate donors	-	48,030	**48,030**
Gifts in kind	-	8,180	**8,180**
Total	1,506	409,142	**410,648**

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Grants > £10,000:			
Comic Relief	329,576	-	**329,576**
Vitol Foundation	113,220	-	**113,220**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	112,045	-	**112,045**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	53,940	-	**53,940**
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	24,218	-	**24,218**
Marr Munning Trust	23,893	-	**23,893**
Ashla Charitable Trust	-	10,000	**10,000**
Smaller grants < £10,000	18,413	-	**18,413**
Total	675,305	10,000	**685,305**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

Prior period comparative

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2020 Total £**
Grants > £10,000:			
Comic Relief	253,606	-	**253,606**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	92,890	-	**92,890**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	65,305	-	**65,305**
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	55,292	-	**55,292**
The Commonwealth Foundation	26,761	-	**26,761**
The British & Foreign School Society	14,921	-	**14,921**
Network for Social Change	14,569	-	**14,569**
American Century Investments	-	13,952	**13,952**
Aletheia	11,450	-	**11,450**
Smaller grants < £10,000	23,262	1,000	**24,262**
Total	558,056	14,952	**573,008**

Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (previously DFID), Jersey Overseas Aid Commission and HMRC via the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2021 was £190,971 (2020: £158,195). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the current or prior year.

5. Other trading income

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2021 Total £**	2020 Total £
Sales income	-	738	**738**	3,355

All other trading income in the prior year was unrestricted.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**2021 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	509,032	-	**509,032**
Staff costs (note 9)	49,552	234,110	32,737	**316,399**
Non-salaried personnel	-	7,483	2,279	**9,762**
Running costs	-	-	39,449	**39,449**
Fundraising and events	20,053	-	-	**20,053**
Governance	-	-	5,585	**5,585**
Programmes and operations	-	9,433	-	**9,433**
Sub-total	69,605	760,058	80,050	**909,713**
Allocation of support and governance costs	13,456	66,594	(80,050)	**-**
Total	83,061	826,652	-	**909,713**

Prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	**Restated 2020 Total £**
Grants payable (note 7)	-	352,554	-	**352,554**
Staff costs (note 9)	36,887	202,537	33,779	**273,203**
Non-salaried personnel	-	1,211	4,492	**5,703**
Running costs	-	-	46,957	**46,957**
Fundraising and events	41,541	-	-	**41,541**
Governance	-	-	6,519	**6,519**
Programmes and operations	-	22,994	-	**22,994**
Sub-total	78,428	579,296	91,747	**749,471**
Allocation of support and governance costs	10,827	80,920	(91,747)	**-**
Total	89,255	660,216	-	**749,471**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. Grants payable to institutions

Grants were paid to the following overseas partner organisations in pursuit of the charity's objects:

	2021	Restated 2020
	£	£
Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)	**66,015**	43,274
Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)	**126,219**	96,219
Child Support Tanzania (CST)	**123,869**	111,409
UWEZO Youth Empowerment	**141,105**	95,014
Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)	**51,824**	-
Article 25	**-**	645
Little Rock Inclusive ECD Centre	**-**	5,993
Total	**509,032**	352,554

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation	**5,316**	5,316
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**Nil**	186
Auditors' remuneration:		
▪ Statutory audit	**4,680**	4,440
▪ Other services	**300**	300

No trustees received reimbursed expenses in the current year (2020: £186, one Trustee for travel to board meetings).

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**284,113**	243,444
Social security costs	**23,423**	20,265
Pension costs	**8,326**	7,669
Other staff costs	**1,835**	1,825
Total	**317,697**	273,203

No employees earned between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2020: one).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel, including gross salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions were £67,213 (2020: £73,463).

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Average head count	**9.08**	8.25

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Computers, database and website £	Furniture and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	17,860	666	**18,526**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	10,675	666	**11,341**
Charge for the year	5,316	-	**5,316**
At 31 March 2021	15,991	666	**16,657**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	**1,869**	**-**	**1,869**
At 31 March 2020	7,185	-	7,185

12. Debtors

	2021 £	Restated 2020 £
Accrued income	**5,532**	49,808
Prepayments	**27,769**	16,557
Other debtors	**6,750**	6,750
Total	**40,051**	73,115

13. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	**5,352**	3,478
Accruals	**4,980**	4,740
Other taxation and social security	**7,880**	7,375
Other creditors	**-**	1,298
Total	**18,212**	16,891

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,869	**1,869**
Current assets	182,714	85,000	242,358	**510,072**
Current liabilities	-	-	(18,212)	**(18,212)**
Net assets at 31 March 2021	**182,714**	**85,000**	**226,015**	**493,729**

Prior period comparative (restated)

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	7,185	**7,185**
Current assets	220,899	234,819	**455,718**
Current liabilities	-	(16,891)	**(16,891)**
Net assets at 31 March 2020	**220,899**	**225,113**	**446,012**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds

	Restated at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	**At 31 March 2021 £**
Restricted funds				
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	47,567	24,218	(68,420)	**3,365**
Aletheia Foundation	3,676	-	(3,370)	**306**
The British and Foreign Schools Society	5,852	3,247	(6,534)	**2,565**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go	23,662	74,807	(58,046)	**40,423**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School	49,434	43,955	(95,542)	**(2,153)**
Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education	33,067	78,076	(104,261)	**6,882**
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME!	-	132,737	(66,090)	**66,647**
The Commonwealth Foundation	14,664	9,217	(23,814)	**67**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	950	(950)	**60**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	1,240	55,644	(61,885)	**(5,001)**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding	6,779	11,405	(20,721)	**(2,537)**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Covid-19 Rapid Responses	-	44,996	(44,996)	**-**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	19,356	53,940	(76,626)	**(3,330)**
Laureus Foundation	1,323	-	(567)	**756**
The Marr-Munning Trust	-	23,893	-	**23,893**
Network for Social Change	11,746	-	(8,610)	**3,136**
UWEZO - Other restricted	2,473	5,000	(7,473)	**-**
Vitol Foundation	-	113,220	(65,585)	**47,635**
Total restricted funds	220,899	675,305	(713,490)	**182,714**
Unrestricted funds				
Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy	-	85,000	-	**85,000**
General funds	225,113	197,125	(196,223)	**226,015**
Total unrestricted funds	225,113	282,125	(196,223)	**311,015**
Total funds	446,012	957,430	(909,713)	**493,729**

The Department for International Development was replaced by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in the current period. The related restricted funds have therefore been renamed.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued): prior period comparative (restated)

	Restated at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	**Resated at 31 March 2020 £**
Restricted funds				
Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation	29,399	56,748	(38,580)	**47,567**
Aletheia Foundation	-	11,450	(7,774)	**3,676**
The British and Foreign Schools Society	-	14,921	(9,069)	**5,852**
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go	-	43,493	(19,831)	**23,662**
Comic Relief – Sports for Change	(4,552)	4,552	-	**-**
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School	60,035	102,750	(113,351)	**49,434**
Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education	29,605	102,811	(99,349)	**33,067**
The Commonwealth Foundation	16,902	26,761	(28,999)	**14,664**
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	10	5,643	(5,593)	**60**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	-	75,177	(73,937)	**1,240**
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding	-	17,713	(10,934)	**6,779**
Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC	450	-	(450)	**-**
Ineke Feitz	6,310	-	(6,310)	**-**
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	8,705	65,305	(54,654)	**19,356**
Laureus Foundation	-	6,672	(5,349)	**1,323**
Little Rock Inclusive ECD Centre – Other	-	6,000	(6,000)	**-**
The Marr-Munning Trust	7,549	-	(7,549)	**-**
Network for Social Change	-	14,569	(2,823)	**11,746**
UWEZO Youth Empowerment – Other	2,000	4,997	(4,524)	**2,473**
Other	(3,553)	-	3,553	**-**
Total restricted funds	152,860	559,562	(491,523)	**220,899**
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	55,291	427,770	(257,948)	**225,113**
Total unrestricted funds	55,291	427,770	(257,948)	**225,113**
Total funds	208,151	987,332	(749,471)	**446,012**

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation

This 3-year grant supports the second phase, larger development of CST's purpose-built, fully inclusive school site including architectural design, construction and school equipment. Capacity building support is also provided to CST in terms of strategic and business planning, training and capacity building as needed to transition to a larger profile, purpose-built school.

Aletheia Foundation

This 1-year project by the Alethia Foundation and funded by Comic Relief project will support up to 8 young people living in Ayilo and Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement in Uganda to access education. The support is part of a grant from Comic Relief to the Aletheia Foundation who will remain the grant holder and responsible for the grant, including the submission of monitoring reports and financial reports to Comic Relief.

The British and Foreign Schools Society

This 1-year pilot funded by the British Foreign School Society will improve the access and quality of inclusive education in 3 primary schools by implementing a new early screening tool for children with disabilities who are either out of school or failing to achieve in school. The tool will implement the Washington Group Questions; thought to be a more practical and effective method to identify multiple disability types.

Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go

This 3-year grant supported by Comic Relief and implemented by our Kenyan partner, ANDY, seeks to improve access to quality inclusive ECE for children with disabilities aged 4-6 in Nairobi, Kenya. This project will develop effective early identification systems, build the capacity of key ECD duty-bearers, and design an innovative Inclusive Play Programme to sustainably and holistically address barriers to their inclusion.

Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School

This 4-year grant funded by Comic Relief scales up two Inclusive Education projects currently delivered with our partner Child Support Tanzania within Mbeya, South West Tanzania. Working in a consortium with two other international disability organisations funded under the same grants stream, the project seeks to increase the access, quantity and quality of inclusive education. The project utilises the Child-to-Child methodology developed with our partner USDC to ensure activities are participatory and determined by children.

Comic Relief – Promoting Inclusive Education

This 5-year grant funded by Comic Relief supports a project implemented by our Ugandan partner, USDC. The project scales up a highly successful FCDO funded project, using an innovative Child-to-Child approach to identify, enroll and educate children with disabilities into 27 primary schools in Northern Uganda. The project also includes teacher training, community sensitisations, national advocacy and educational access & learning provisions to both the children and their schools.

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Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME!

This 3-year project funded by Comic Relief will improve the primary school readiness of children with and without disabilities aged 3-6 years in Uganda through the development of a community-led inclusive early childhood education (IECE) model with caregivers, capacity building of key ECE duty-bearers and communities and a focused government advocacy campaign. This IECE model will be delivered through 18 community learning centres (CLCs) with activities delivered alongside local government schools to aid inclusion and break down barriers.

The Commonwealth Foundation

This 3-year grant funded by Commonwealth facilitates a Coalition of 15 child-focused Civil Society Organisation and 20 Disabled Persons Organisations to jointly advocate for the rights of children with disabilities to raise the voice of civil society. Alongside training of officials and biannual Coalition strategy meetings, a public campaign led by the Coalition will raise awareness and encourage widespread advocacy to collectively push for the rights of children with disabilities to be fully recognised in policy development and implementation within the Kenyan Government.

Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the The Leggatt Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our inclusive education programme in Tanzania and ensured children with disabilities received medical assessments during the project lifecycle.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

This 3-year project funded through the UK Aid Direct Community Partnerships stream contributes to the SDG aspiration to 'leave no one behind' in Rwanda by empowering children and young people with disabilities to demand inclusion in the SDGs. This project will use a tested and new youth-led model whereby youth with disabilities are trained to mentor children with disabilities and are the main drivers for inclusion at community and government level. The project aims to find youth-led solutions for meaningful inclusion and creates mechanisms whereby youth with disabilities can communicate evidence of best practice to policy makers.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Safeguarding

This 1-year project supported by the FCDO Safeguarding Hub supports the development and design of disability inclusive safeguarding guidelines for development practitioners. The guidelines will be developed in consultation with youth with disabilities in Rwanda and in consultation with the wider sector. Funding included costs for sector-wide testing alongside the design and adaptation of the guidelines into accessible formats.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - Covid-19 Rapid Responses

This six-month project supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO, previously DFID) aims to keep children with disabilities in Rwanda clean, happy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities include the rapid provision of inclusive hygiene items, inclusive WASH and mental health support mentoring sessions, professional psychological support, and the set-up of a safeguarding reporting helpline.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

This 3-year project funded by Jersey Oversees Aid aims to contribute to the government's commitment to 'leave no one behind' through the advocacy for disability inclusive WASH policies and programmes for girls with disabilities in education. This multifaceted and youth-led project will identify out of schoolgirls with disabilities and train female youth with disability (YwD) mentors to design and implement a twofold peer to peer mentoring programme using child-friendly resources that they develop.

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation

This 1-year pilot funded by the Laureus Foundation will pilot a disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights sports programme in 2 schools for 60 girls with disabilities to learn about relationships, consent and safeguarding in a non-judgemental and interactive space. Support networks and governments will be engaged through disability inclusive support groups and child-led advocacy campaigns. Learnings will be shared with existing health and education actors to inform potential scale up for the promotion of disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls with disabilities.

The Marr-Munning Trust

This 3-year project elevates our prior Marr Munning Trust funded programme to directly support the early childhood education (ECE) of 60 children with disabilities across 6 schools in Northern Uganda (Lira & Nebbi). The aim of the project is to provide the evidence and support government officials need to scale-up the implementation of Individualised Learning Plans (ILP). The project will achieve this by deepening the evidence base, adapting & combining our ILP and disability screening tool for an ECE context, and delivering a focused multi-year government advocacy campaign.

Network for Social Change

This 1-year project supported by the Network for Social Change will allow Able Child Africa to expand and deepen our work and reach in inclusive WASH programming for children with disabilities and enable us to better build the capacity of our partners in this area. The grant supports the development of training packages and resources that focus on the empowerment of girls with disabilities through inclusive sexual and reproductive health and WASH.

Vitol Foundation

This 3-year project aims to improve children with disabilities' (3-5yrs) access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the introduction of innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes & the capacity building of actors responsible for children with disabilities early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents & children with disabilities themselves. Through their increased cooperation that ensures long-term systemic change, these actors will holistically break down barriers to ECD inclusion.

UWEZO - Other restricted

This consisted of a 1-year grants from the Souter Charitable Trust and the Tula Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our WASH project and specifically provided funds for additional government engagement and advocacy training for the female WASH mentors.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

UWEZO - Other restricted (Tula Trust)

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the Tula Trust. The grant also provided top-up funding to support our WASH project and also specifically provided funds for additional training on mentoring and inclusive WASH practices for the female WASH mentors.

Purpose of designated fund

Designated fund: Irma Skeeles Legacy

The legacy funding will facilitate the third phase of CST's purpose-built, fully inclusive school site including architectural design, construction and school equipment. Specifically, the funds will realise the construction of an additional fully accessible classroom, physiotherapy unit, accessible toilets and school administration block.

Funds in deficit

Funds in deficit represent recoverable overspends in the current year, to be recovered via further restricted income in 2021-22.

16. Operating lease commitments

The charity had operating leases at the year end with total future minimum lease payments as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amount falling due:		
Within 1 year	**15,750**	27,000
Within 1 - 5 years	**-**	18,000
	15,750	45,000

17. Related party transactions

During the year, 5 Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £10,802 (2020: £2,590 from 2 Trustees).

18. Prior period restatement

The prior period has been restated after a change in accounting policy was enacted in the year. This change of policy relates to the recognition of grants payable expenditure, which was previously held on the balance sheet as prepayments until partner organisations reported the funds as fully spent, after which it was recognised as expenditure.

The charity has changed this accounting policy to the one noted in note 1) h, whereby grant expenditure will be recognised on the earlier of a) a constructive obligation existing or b) transfer of funds to partners.

The prior period restatement has impacted restricted funds brought forward into the prior period, and expenditure and debtors in the prior period.

Able Child Africa

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

18. Prior period restatement (continued)

Transfers to partners' (prepayment debtor)

	2020 £
Total 'transfers to partners' prepayment debtor per original accounts:	**132,680**
Recognition of grants payable in periods prior to 2020:	**(158,146)**
Net effect on grants payable expenditure in 2020:	**25,466**
Total 'transfers to partners' prepayment debtor after restatement:	**-**

Restricted funds brought / carried forward

	2020 £	2019 £
Total restricted funds carried forward per original accounts:	**353,579**	311,006
Reversals of prepayments in periods prior to 2020:	**(158,146)**	(158,146)
Net effect of reversal of prepayments in 2020:	**25,466**	-
Total restricted funds carried forward after restatement:	**220,899**	152,860

Expenditure

	Grants payable 2020 £	**Total 2020 £**
Per signed accounts:	378,020	**774,937**
Net effect on grants payable expenditure in 2020:	(25,466)	**(25,466)**
Expenditure after restatement:	352,554	**749,471**

Protect. Educate. Empower.

able child AFRICA

+44 (0) 20 7733 6006
info@ablechildafrica.org.uk
ablechildafrica.org

Unit 6 Madeira Tower, 34 Ponton Road
Nine Elms, London, SW11 7BA

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